

Information

Summary: In March 2026, the New Brunswick government announced plans to eliminate provincial veterinary services in stages: equine services are set to end in December 2026, field services in March 2027, and the provincial lab over the following three years. This decision will have serious consequences for vulnerable animals, rural communities, sanctuaries, rescues, and others already facing limited access to large animal care. Lily's Place Animal Sanctuary is one of the organizations directly affected. These sample letters were created to help supporters contact Premier Susan Holt and Minister of Agriculture Pat Finnigan and urge the government to reverse course and protect these essential services.

- In the news: [CTV](#) | [CBC](#)
- [Articles & Posts](#) from Lily's Place.
- [Petition](#)

Who to write to

Sample letters are included on the following pages.

Susan Holt

 Susan.holt@gnb.ca

 506-259-5700

 570 Queen Street, Unit E104

Fredericton, NB E3B 6Z6

Minister of Agriculture – Pat Finnigan

 Pat.Finnigan@gnb.ca

 506-427-1706

 9235 Main Street, Unit 2

Richibucto, NB E4W 4B4

Link to the petition to sign.

https://www.change.org/p/protect-our-livestock-restore-funding-to-provincial-veterinary-services?source_location=psf_petitions

Sample Letter 1:

Community Compassion & What Public Funding Is For

Subject: Public funding should reflect the values we want to live by

Dear Premier Holt / Minister Finnigan,

I am writing to urge you to restore provincial veterinary services in New Brunswick.

This issue is about more than logistics and more than one organization. It is about what kind of province we are choosing to be.

Funding veterinary services is not the government “paying for personal pets.” It is the province choosing to be a funding partner in basic compassion. It is one of the ways a society says that preventable suffering matters, that rural communities matter, and that care should not depend entirely on who is nearby, who has money, or who can somehow manage alone.

That matters to New Brunswickers. It matters to Canadians. We want to live in a society where suffering is not ignored simply because it is inconvenient, rural, or out of public view. We want to know that when living beings are in pain, there is some shared public commitment to making care possible. That is part of what makes a community feel decent, trustworthy, and worth belonging to.

Lily’s Place Animal Sanctuary is part of that picture.

Lily’s Place is already doing deeply compassionate work that benefits the wider community. It takes in rescued farmed animals who have nowhere else to go. It provides lifelong care. It creates opportunities for learning, volunteering, and connection. It helps build the kind of province many people want to live in: one where kindness is not just a private feeling, but something visible and acted on.

But compassion needs structure behind it. It needs systems that allow humane care to actually happen.

When provincial veterinary services are withdrawn, the message is not only practical. It is cultural. It tells people that some suffering is acceptable if addressing it is

inconvenient enough. It tells rural caregivers, sanctuaries, and communities trying to do the right thing that they will be left with less support, not more. And over time, that erodes something important. It erodes trust that the public system still exists to protect what is vulnerable and to uphold basic standards of care.

That is not a small loss.

Public funding is always a statement of values. It shows what a government believes is worth protecting, worth sharing responsibility for, and worth standing behind together. Veterinary care for vulnerable animals is not an indulgence. It is part of the moral fabric of a humane society.

I am asking you to reconsider this decision and restore provincial veterinary services. New Brunswick should be a place where compassion is not treated as optional, and where the public system does not step back from humane care when it is needed most.

Please choose the kind of province people can still feel proud to belong to.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Community, NB]

Sample Letter 2:

Why This Matters Beyond One Sanctuary

Subject: Lily's Place matters far beyond its fence lines

Dear Premier Holt / Minister Finnigan,

I am writing to urge you to reconsider the loss of provincial veterinary services, and to do so with a fuller understanding of what is actually at stake.

This is not only about one sanctuary. It is about the wider web of care, responsibility, and public good that organizations like Lily's Place Animal Sanctuary help hold together in New Brunswick.

Lily's Place is not an isolated private interest asking for special treatment. It is part of the social and moral infrastructure of this province.

When animals are neglected, abandoned, surrendered, or otherwise left without safe options, sanctuaries like Lily's Place step in. When the public needs education about farmed animals, humane care, and responsible stewardship, Lily's Place helps provide it. When people want to do good in their community, it creates a place for volunteering, learning, giving, and meaningful connections. When gaps exist in the system, Lily's Place absorbs pressure that would otherwise go nowhere.

That matters.

It matters to animal welfare. It matters to rural communities. It matters to public education. It matters to the people who support a more compassionate province and who rely on organizations like Lily's Place to carry work that the government does not carry on its own.

And yet, despite doing all of this, Lily's Place still depends on access to veterinary care. No sanctuary can replace a veterinarian. No amount of volunteer labour, compassion, or determination can make up for the loss of essential medical services.

Removing provincial veterinary services does not just create a problem for Lily's Place internally. It weakens an organization that is already helping hold together broader community needs. It places additional strain on a sanctuary that is already taking in the consequences of other system failures. It makes it harder for the people doing the most difficult and least glamorous work to continue doing it well.

That is a loss not just for Lily's Place, but for New Brunswick.

A province should recognize and protect the organizations that help catch what would otherwise be dropped. It should not make their work harder by withdrawing essential support from an already-fragile landscape of care.

I am asking you to reverse this decision and restore meaningful access to veterinary services. Lily's Place is part of something larger than itself, and decisions like this affect far more than one organization alone.

Please govern with that broader reality in mind.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Community, NB]

Sample Letter 3:

Broader Community Impact & Public Good

Subject: Please restore provincial veterinary services in New Brunswick

Dear Premier Holt / Minister Finnigan,

I am writing as someone who cares deeply about animal welfare in New Brunswick and who is extremely concerned about the loss of provincial veterinary services.

This decision does not remove a minor convenience. It removes essential care from animals and from the people and organizations already doing difficult, under-supported work to protect them.

Lily's Place Animal Sanctuary is one of those organizations.

Lily's Place is already filling a gap that the government is not filling. They take in animals who have nowhere else to go. They provide lifelong care to rescued farmed animals. They educate the public. They shoulder responsibility that would otherwise fall through the cracks entirely. And they do it with limited resources, in a province where large animal veterinary access is already fragile.

Instead of supporting that work, this decision makes it harder.

When a sanctuary like Lily's Place loses access to provincial veterinary services, the impact is immediate and serious. This is not theoretical. It affects whether sick or injured animals can be seen in time. It affects whether humane care is available at all. It affects whether already-stretched caregivers are left scrambling to solve a problem they cannot solve alone.

The idea that the private system will simply absorb this loss does not reflect reality on the ground. Large animal veterinary care is already difficult to access in many parts of the province. Capacity is limited. Travel is a factor. Field calls are not always available. Not every clinic sees every species. Not every animal owner, rescue, or sanctuary has realistic alternatives. Removing public support from an already-thin system does not create efficiency. It creates suffering, delay, and risk.

What makes this especially hard to accept is that Lily's Place is not asking the government to do everything. They are already doing their part, and more than their

part. They are stepping in where systems have failed. They are carrying animals the wider world has overlooked. The least this province can do is ensure that essential veterinary care remains within reach.

A government is measured, in part, by what it is willing to protect when that protection is not glamorous, easy, or politically convenient. Farmed animals still feel pain. Rural communities still matter. Sanctuaries and rescues should not be punished for stepping up where others have not.

I am asking you to reconsider this decision and restore provincial veterinary services. At a minimum, I am asking you to ensure that the organizations and communities affected are not left without viable access to essential large animal care.

Please do not abandon the animals, caregivers, and rural organizations already carrying more than their share.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Community, NB]

Sample Letter 4:

Public Responsibility & Policy Failure

Subject: New Brunswick cannot afford to abandon animal care

Dear Premier Holt / Minister Finnigan,

I am writing because the loss of provincial veterinary services is a serious failure of public responsibility, and the consequences will fall on animals, rural communities, and organizations like Lily's Place Animal Sanctuary.

Lily's Place is already doing work that should matter to this province. They rescue animals with nowhere else to go. They provide lifelong sanctuary. They educate the public. They absorb needs that would otherwise go unmet. They are already filling a gap.

This decision widens that gap.

It tells the people doing the hardest, least glamorous work that they are on their own. It tells sanctuaries and rural animal caregivers to somehow find solutions in a system that is already strained. It tells animals in need of care that their suffering is acceptable collateral.

That is not leadership.

There is a dangerous disconnect in the assumption that private clinics will simply pick up the slack. In many parts of New Brunswick, access to large animal veterinary care is already limited. Distance, capacity, field service, species restrictions, and cost are real barriers. Removing provincial services does not make those barriers disappear. It makes them worse.

And for sanctuaries like Lily's Place, the stakes are even higher. They are not operating for profit. They are caring for animals that other people have failed, discarded, or overlooked. They are taking responsibility where the system has not. The government should be making that work more possible, not less.

This decision does not eliminate the need. It only shifts the burden onto those least equipped to carry it and onto animals who cannot advocate for themselves.

I am asking you to reverse this decision and restore provincial veterinary services before more harm is done.

New Brunswick should not be a province where care disappears simply because the animals in need are outside the places where power tends to look.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Community, NB]

Thank you for adding your voice for the animals to this situation! If you're new to Lily's Place, see the following pages to learn more about us or visit lilysplace.ca



The problem we're here to solve, why it matters, and what happens if we're not here to help.

The problem

In Canada, there's no safety net for farmed animals who need help.

If a dog is abandoned or injured, there's a shelter to call. If a horse is neglected, an animal protection officer might intervene. But what about a goat, a duck, a sheep, or any of the other dozen or so farmed animal species? There's usually nowhere for them to go.

SPCAs and humane societies aren't set up to care for farmed animals. Most have no facilities to do so. Sanctuaries are rare—and most are full.

When a farmed animal becomes sick, old, injured, or simply no longer "useful," they're often euthanized, discarded, or sold. It's not *a/ways* because people are cruel. It's because they're out of options.

Why it matters

Farmed animals are sentient, social, intelligent individuals. But they've been left out of the systems of protection most animals benefit from.

And the need is growing. We receive a help request every 43 hours. Many are urgent. Some are heartbreaking. Most have nowhere else to turn.

Without places like Lily's Place, these animals slip through the cracks—unseen, unhelped, and unprotected.

What we do

At Lily's Place, we provide lifelong sanctuary to aging, injured, and displaced farmed animals who have no other options.

We offer shelter, safety, medical care, and a quiet, stable home where healing is possible. We help animals who are overlooked everywhere else—and we stick with them for life.

We also help the people who care about them: overwhelmed owners in crisis, children advocating for animals they've bonded with, and social workers responding to neglect cases with no placement options.

What happens if we don't exist

If sanctuaries like Lily's Place disappear, so do the options for animals like Beatrice, who arrived malnourished and terrified. Or like Milhouse, a young goat who kept escaping to find his family. Or like the hens we took in, who were “no longer productive” but still wanted to live.

Without sanctuary, their stories end differently. And without public awareness, their lives remain invisible.

What you can do

If you've been wondering how to help, here are some of the most impactful ways:

Action

 [Donate](#)

 [Sponsor](#)

 [Medical Fund](#)

Impact

Covers essentials: food, shelter, and medical care.

Supports one resident's ongoing care.

Give the gift of compassionate care.



[Volunteer](#)

Remote or on-site help keeps us running.



[Share This Doc](#)

Let other animal lovers know about us.

You don't have to do everything. But if something here speaks to you, we'd love to welcome you more deeply into this work. When you're ready, explore [more ways to help](#).

Reach Out

General hello@lilysplace.ca · Volunteer volunteer@lilysplace.ca