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New legislation for victims and livestock industry passed
Fall sitting of the provincial legislature wraps up

Edmonton - The fall sitting of the legislature closed November 29 following the passage of new bills to improve the compensation process for victims of crime, and to ensure the sustainability of Alberta's livestock industry while protecting the health of Albertans and the environment.

Passed on November 28, the *Victims Restitution and Compensation Payment Act* provides a streamlined and low-cost process for Albertans to regain their property or obtain restitution for losses suffered as a result of illegal activities.

"The Alberta government recognizes the important role victims play in our justice system," said Dave Hancock, Minister of Justice and Government House Leader. "This legislation will use gains from illegal activities to repair the harm done to people who have suffered property or economic losses, all while ensuring that they are not victimized again by the compensation process."

The *Agricultural Operation Amendment Practices Act* passed third reading on November 27 and gives the province responsibility for siting, monitoring and enforcing new and expanding Confined Feeding Operations (CFOs), previously referred to as Intensive Livestock Operations. Under the legislation, the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB) will broaden its mandate to provide a one-window approach for new and expanding CFOs effective January 1, 2002.

Shirley McClellan, Deputy Premier and Minister of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, said the livestock industry is one of Alberta's primary economic drivers. "Agriculture industry expansion is critical to the provincial economy, but it will not occur at the expense of our air, water and soil," she said.

A total of 13 bills were passed during the three-week fall session including the *School Amendment Act*, *Health Professions Amendment Act* and the *Electronic Transactions Act*, which were carried over from the spring session.

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