



Victoria Citizens Against Rodeo Events

July 16, 2014

City of Langford  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – 777 Goldstream Ave  
Langford BC V9B 2X8

**Attn:** **Lindy Kaercher – Deputy Clerk**

**Re:** Luxton Pro Rodeo

We are writing in response to your letter dated May 29<sup>th</sup> 2014. The Victoria Citizens Against Rodeo Events (VCARE) were pleased to see that the City of Langford (Langford) sought legal advice regarding what could be done about the inhumane treatment of animals at the annual Luxton Pro Rodeo held within its borders. We are encouraged to know the community's concerns are being taken seriously and solutions being sought.

Under a Freedom of Information request, VCARE received a copy of the legal opinion received by Langford regarding regulation of the Luxton Pro Rodeo. In order to understand the issue and position of the municipality more thoroughly it was provided to our legal representative, along with the letter to which we are responding, for consideration and comment.

During our legal investigation, VCARE has uncovered some pertinent information relevant to the issue of local governance of rodeo events that the Mayor and Council should consider on this matter. Attached please find the legal opinion provided to VCARE by Ms. Holly Vear with Woodward and Co. Lawyers LLP.

As detailed in the opinion, the items of significance and of utmost concern are:

- compelling evidence that rodeo is not a current permitted use under City of Langford P4 zoning
- liability concerns arising for both the City of Langford and Metchosin Farmers Institute as a result of permitting non-conforming uses
- clear legislative authority to restrict events involving animals, such as at a rodeo, within a municipality independent of a zoning bylaw

These items seem to have been an oversight in Langford's preliminary and basic legal opinion. It is crucial that the Mayor and Council along with Langford staff review the issue of animal treatment at the Luxton Pro Rodeo again, in light of these new details.

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VCARE would like to work with the City of Langford to find an amicable solution to meet all needs of the community while ensuring humane treatment of animals. This includes preventing deaths due to rodeo events, such as the death of a steer during the steer wrestling contest at the Calgary Stampede last week, and preventing harm to the contestants, such as Coleman Kohorst the performer gored by a steer at the 2014 Luxton Pro Rodeo.

We are available anytime to meet with city staff and/or Mayor and Council on this important community matter. Also as previously communicated, the BC SPCA and the Vancouver Humane Society have also offered their services to Langford regarding this concern, including assistance with drafting a bylaw.

We look forward to hearing from you upon the review of this new information.

Sincerely



Melissa de Meulles  
Founder and Organizer

**VCARE – Victoria Citizens Against Rodeo Events**

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cc BC SPCA ~ Geoff Urton  
Vancouver Humane Society ~ Peter Fricker

encl. Vear – Woodward & Co. legal opinion

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