TOWNSHIP OF FRONTENAC ISLANDS

P.O. Box 130, WOLFE ISLAND, Ont., K0H 2Y0

Closing of Prison Farms in New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta

WHEREAS the Federal Government, through Correction Services of Canada, has announced the closing of six prison farms across Canada.

AND WHEREAS the Public Safety Minister, Peter Van Loan, has listened to feedback from the public and we are appreciative of the recent announcement that the abattoir located at the Pittsburgh Institution, near Kingston, will remain in operation.

AND WHEREAS it is felt that there are many benefits in keeping all prison farms open. While it is acknowledged that not many prisoners will end up with a job on a farm, their experience working on the prison farms provide them with a host of transferable skills and teaches them the need for punctuality, discipline, responsibility, good work ethic, and the importance of teamwork.

AND WHEREAS there is evidence that the way people treat nature (animals and the environment) reflects in the way that they treat people, and vice versa. Many prisoners have grown up in abusive situations and ended up abusive themselves; by working on the prison farms they get a new appreciation for the importance of respecting their surroundings, which in turn helps in teaching them to grasp the need for personal restorative behaviour. By working on the farms and seeing first hand that a respective relationship with animals and nature is important, they learn that there is another and a better way.

AND WHEREAS it is felt that the costs of running these farms are offset by savings derived from these locally grown foods. That is there are side benefits that are hard to put a dollar value on, such as reducing CO2 in the environment with reduced transportation, and building of the inmates self worth and self-esteem which will help them reintegrate into society, and thus prevent them from returning to prison.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Frontenac Islands requests the Honourable Peter Van Loan, and Correction Services Canada, to keep the six prison farms in question opened.

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Rob Nicholson, Federal Justice Minister, and Peter Milliken, MP for Kingston and the Islands, and all municipalities in Ontario for their support.