



Paul Hollands, Chairman and CEO
A&W Food Services of Canada Inc.
Via email to: phollands@aw.ca

Feb 1, 2016

Dear Mr. Hollands,

As we're sure you're aware, Tim Hortons and Burger King have announced they will switch to 100% cage-free eggs. And many other North American food companies – McDonald's, Wendy's, Starbucks, Denny's, Subway and others – are doing the same. We respectfully ask that A&W Food Services of Canada also transition to cage-free eggs.

Some of us have had the opportunity to engage directly with A&W and have spoken with Trish Sahlstrom at your company. Trish has been a solid emissary for the company, though she has also informed us of the company's position supporting "enriched" cage confinement for birds. The best available science consistently shows that these cages don't offer acceptable welfare. Even enriched cages severely restrict important natural behaviours, like running, flying and wing-flapping, and don't permit unrestrained perching or dustbathing. Dr. Ian Duncan, a respected poultry scientist at the University of Guelph, has said as much in [this](#) online video.

In fact, the egg industry and major companies even created their own group to study the difference between enriched cages, barn cages and cage-free housing systems. In the wake of that group's study, some of its biggest and most prominent members, including McDonald's, General Mills and Bob Evans Farms, have all announced 100% cage-free buying policies. Even Michael Foods, one of the world's largest egg producers and a prominent part of the group [has since said](#) that "cage-free is emerging as the likely future of the egg industry," adding, "We are actively working with our customers and suppliers to transition to cage-free."

Conversely, *no member* of that industry group has since initiated an enriched cage buying policy.

The food industry and egg industry stakeholders alike have recognized that consumers simply don't support confining animals in cages for their entire lives. The Canadian public recognizes that a cage is a cage and the science is clear on that as well. With dozens of major food companies now transitioning to

cage-free in their supply chains, A&W has a great opportunity before it to do the same; we hope it's an opportunity the company will take.

Thank you for your consideration, and we hope to hear from you soon.

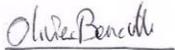
Sincerely,



Anna Pippus, Director of Farmed Animal Advocacy
Animal Justice Canada



Stephanie Brown, Founding Director
Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals



Olivier Berreville, Scientific Advisor
Canadians for Ethical Treatment of Farmed Animals



Rebecca Aldworth, Executive Director
Humane Society International/Canada



Krista Hiddema, Managing Director
Mercy For Animals, Canada



Debra Probert, Executive Director
Vancouver Humane Society