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To Randy Ambrosie, Commissioner, Canadian Football League

Montreal, September 29th, 2019,

I wish to express my dismay at the Canadian Football League's decision to hold a rodeo as part of the 2019 Grey Cup Festival in Calgary.

Given the widespread public outrage at the deaths of six horses at the 2019 Calgary Stampede and the Stampede's long history of controversy over animal deaths and cruelty, it is deeply disappointing that the CFL would associate itself with rodeo.

The bucking bulls and horses that are slated to appear at the Grey Cup rodeo will be deliberately subjected to fear and stress to make them perform. Flank straps will be cinched tight around their hindquarters to induce bucking as they are coerced into the arena with unwanted riders on their backs, using spurs to grip the animals' hides.

This amounts to tormenting animals for the sake of human amusement. It is unethical, uncivilized and un-Canadian. Polling shows the majority of Canadians (63%) are opposed to rodeos. (66% in B.C., 68% in Ontario and 70% in Quebec.) As the Grey Cup Festival is a national event, including a rodeo is clearly unrepresentative of Canadian values and interests.

Canadians want family-friendly, cruelty-free entertainment to be part of national celebrations, not out-dated spectacles of animal cruelty.

I urge you to reconsider your plans for the Grey Cup Festival and cancel the rodeo.

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