

Centre for
Animal-Aligned AI

Building Animal Welfare into a Fragmented AI Policy Landscape

Presented by:
Bianca Del Bois
Co-Founder & Executive Director



My Name is Bianca Del Bois

Animal welfare advocate working across policy, communications, science, and technology.

- Co-Founder, Executive Director Centre for Animal-Aligned AI
- Director, Animal Alliance of Canada
- Mentor, Sentient Futures
- Founder & Executive Director, Urban Tails Animal Support Network

Presenting from Toronto, on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples, covered by Treaty 13. My work is carried out across Canada, on the lands of many Indigenous nations.

The Centre for Animal-Aligned AI is a Canadian non-profit, founded in April 2026.

We work to better understand how AI systems impact animals and to ensure artificial intelligence is developed, governed, and used in ways that protect and promote the welfare of animals.

Research → Policy Development → Cross Sector Collaboration & Education



Canada’s AI Policy Landscape

Artificial Intelligence & Data Act (AIDA) Introduced

AIDA was introduced in Bill C-27 in 2022 to address AI regulations.

Prorogation

In January 2025, AIDA died when Parliament was prorogued, halting progress.

AI for All

The national AI for All strategy launched in June 2026. Over 5 years, the strategy intends to “build trust, create economic opportunities, and reinforce national digital sovereignty.”

Bill C-36

June 2026 saw Bill C-36 revive privacy reform, excluding AI provisions.

Considerations for non-human animals do not appear ***in any of these pieces.***

Numerous pathways for *advocacy* emerge.

Openings in Canada:

- **Federal consultations:** The Centre submitted recommendations on animal inclusion in Canada's AI tansparency framework
- **AI literacy and education:** the National AI Literacy Initiative, led by Amii, aims to train 1 million Canadians. The Centre has engaged with Amii about incorporating AI's impact on animals to the curriculum
- **Standards and certification:** National AI standards (Standards Council of Canada) and a planned Trusted AI Certification program
- **Privacy and data:** Bill C-36, the new federal privacy bill, which carries no AI-specific provisions
- **Sector funding:** agriculture is a priority sector in the national strategy's $700M AI program. $50M went to agri-food automation and intelligence
- **Provincial policy:** AI governed through provincial rules and public-sector frameworks

Our Approach

Track
Monitor policy developments as each piece moves

Build relationships
Engage policymakers and key institutions early

Consult
Take part when windows open

Research and tools
A gap analysis report of Canada's AI governance (coming soon), plus tools in development with input from AI labs, including the Animal Welfare Impact Assessment (AWIA), a proposed framework to help AI developers, deployers and policymakers identify, assess and mitigate AI's impacts on animals

Working ***together.***

Any governance framework that defines harm only in human terms is an incomplete framework. That changes only if we make it.

Collaborating across jurisdictions lets us share what we learn and amplify our collective voice for animals in AI.

bianca@animalalignedai.org · **animalalignedai.org**