

I come here today, not representing any group, but representing the 69% of Nova Scotians who want to see more of our land protected. When I say '**our** land' I mean 'land that belongs to **ALL** Nova Scotians and not just a select special interest group such as fishermen and hunters or any other commercial industry.

We have little intact wilderness left and Nova Scotians have fought hard and long to get the government to protect the Scaterie Islands. It is heartbreaking to see the government undo all this hard work in order to legalize their own crimes and pave the way to allow a commercial hunt on these lands and possibly others.

One of the primary objectives of the Act is to 'maintain and restore the integrity of natural processes and biodiversity'.

Biodiversity is everything that lives in an ecosystem forming part of the web of life. Each species of vegetation and each creature has a place on the earth and plays a vital role in the circle of life. Plant, animal, and insect species interact and depend upon one another for what each offers, such as food, shelter, oxygen, and soil enrichment.

There is nothing natural about man interfering with the ecosystem by decimating any flora or fauna in their thousands for the purpose of a commercial industry. Period. Therefore the proposed amendment to legalize the cull of grey seals on Hay Island is preposterous. We have 92% of Nova Scotia to exploit. Must we also exploit the remaining 8% too? To do so is sheer avarice. There is no other word for it and we should be ashamed to allow such greed. Fishermen already have other areas where they indulge in their seal slaughtering and it is totally unnecessary and incomprehensible that the government allow them to conduct their commercial activity on land which has been set aside to protect its biodiversity. How **dare** a select group deprive **ALL** Nova Scotians from a protected area of land for their own self interest and how **dare** our government who are voted in by **the majority** turn their backs on **us** in order to cater to **them**. Mr. Belliveau needs to be reminded that he represents **all** Nova Scotians in his roles, albeit conflicting, as Minister of the Environment and Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture and not **JUST** fishermen.

It was illegal for the government to have allowed commercial sealing on Hay Island in the past. In a normal civilized western society, when one breaks the law, one pays the penalty and with any luck will avoid making the same mistake in the future. One does **NOT** change the law in order to indulge one's own self interest regardless of how it adversely affects the majority. By adopting the proposed amendment to the wilderness protection act to legalize a commercial

slaughter is like a criminal stealing something that doesn't belong to him or her and changing the law to legalize his theft. This is wrong on so many levels.

On behalf of and in the best interest of the **majority** of Nova Scotians I ask that the government NOT allow any commercial industry on Hay Island or in ANY area protected by this Act EVER.