

Bill # 50

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From: "Respect for Animals" <nn57@dial.pipex.com>
To: <smithhm@gov.ns.ca>
Date: 2009-11-03 9:11 AM
Subject: Bill 50 - revisions to the Wilderness Areas Protection Act

Dear Sir/Madam,

Bill 50 - revisions to the Wilderness Areas Protection Act

On behalf of our supporters in Nova Scotia and our many thousands of supporters in the UK and Europe, I am writing to urge the Government of Nova Scotia not to allow the slaughter of seals on areas covered by the Wilderness Areas Protection Act such as Hay Island.

To many people, the idea of wilderness and protected wilderness areas is wholly incompatible with the slaughter of seals on such an area.

Indeed, the very term 'wilderness' implies that the area is undisturbed by humans and natural – how more disturbed could it be should people be allowed to enter and wipe out many of the animals that live there.

As you will be aware, many tourists from the UK visit the east coast of Canada for holidays and to enjoy the wildlife and wild places. These visitors would be alarmed and horrified if they realized that the Wilderness Areas Protection Act was being used as a cover for the brutal slaughter of seal pups.

The grey seal – the target of the hunt being considered – is a species also found in the UK and familiar to everyone here. Seals are very popular and the clubbing to death of these animals is anathema to the vast majority of people here. The reputation of any government that allows such a practice, particularly in a wilderness area, would be seriously damaged around the world.

There is evidence that people considering visiting Canada are deterred from doing by the commercial seal hunt and this view is likely to increase should the current proposal be agreed.

I would be very grateful if you would present our views to the Committee and to let me know the outcome of the deliberations as we would wish to inform our supporters worldwide and as many people as possible as to the outcome.

Many thanks.

Yours faithfully
Nicki Brooks
Director, Respect for Animals

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Respect for Animals campaigns against the cruel and unnecessary international fur trade.

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