

Bill # 50

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From: Heather Tallent <htallent@yahoo.com>
To: <hebbgd@gov.ns.ca>
Date: 30 October 2009 05:56 PM
Subject: Please act now to safeguard Nova Scotia's Wilderness Areas Protection Act

Oct 30, 2009

Gordon Hebb
NS

Dear Hebb,

I am appalled to see that the Nova Scotia government is attempting to revise the provincial Wilderness Areas Protection Act to allow the commercial slaughter of baby seals on Hay Island. Humane Society International/Canada documented the cruel clubbing of baby seals for their fur on Hay Island in 2008. Hunters herded seal pups, mothers and newborn seals into groups, clubbed the moulted pups with wooden bats, and then used box cutters to slice open the seals. The shocking images were broadcast around the world, sparking a flood of angry letters of protest. Just as shocking as the cruelty of this slaughter is the reckless manner in which it is being pursued. Grey seals have been subjected to extreme overhunting in the past two centuries and by 1949 were thought to have been wiped out (extirpated) in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. While the population has slowly begun to recover, fishing-industry lobby groups have repeatedly pressured for a cull of grey seals -- despite any evidence to suggest such a move is necessary.

Clearly, the Nova Scotia government is now attempting to pander to the fishing industry by rewriting the law. This unscrupulous move will severely damage the reputation of your province and your country.

A boycott of Canadian seafood products -- that will continue until the seal hunt is ended in Canada -- has already attracted the support of 5,500 establishments and 650,000 individuals. With the Nova Scotia government apparently sanctioning the indiscriminate slaughter of baby seals in a provincial park, I suspect many companies will specifically choose to avoid Nova Scotia seafood. Moreover, one can only wonder how many fewer tourists will choose to visit Cape Breton once they have learned about the cruelty happening on Hay Island each February. For the sake of the seals and for Nova Scotia, please act now to safeguard the Wilderness Areas Protection Act and ensure that grey seals on Hay Island are protected from commercial seal hunting as they legally should be.

Sincerely,

Heather Tallent
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