

Bill #50

20

**From:** Shannon Shepherd <shepshan@telus.net>  
**To:** <hebbgd@gov.ns.ca>  
**Date:** 30 October 2009 07:57 PM  
**Subject:** ARE WE STILL BARBARIANS!!!!!!

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. WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT - THE BLOOD OF ALL THE SEALS??? THIS SLAUGHTER MUST STOP - I AM ASHAMED TO BE CANADIAN

AND ASHAMED OF YOU FOR MAKING ME ASHAMED. EVERY ANIMAL IN THIS WORLD HAS THE RIGHT TO LIVE - WHO MAKES YOU GOD????

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 political party. BARBARIANISM IS ALIVE AND WELL AND IT MUST STOP!!

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. DO YOU NOT FEEL THE IMPACT OF THE BOYCOTT IN YOUR FISHERIES - I TOO WILL NOT BUY CANADIAN AND I AM A CANADIAN.

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,

Ms. Shannon Shepherd  
4018 Apsley Avenue  
Nanaimo, BC V9T2C6  
(250) 758-4871