

Bill # 50

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From: Lisa Wilson <canadababy@mac.com>
To: <hebbgd@gov.ns.ca>
Date: 30 October 2009 11:24 PM
Subject: This is 2009 - I'm shocked you would even consider such a travesty! Please act now to safeguard the Wilderness Areas Protec...

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.

I am a mother, a wife, the CFO of a small visual effects firm in Vancouver which services the domestic and international film and television markets. I would like nothing better than to be a proud Canadian, and be able to represent this country in a positive light (I was also born in Toronto on the 1st of July in 1967, my parent's Centennial Project - how much more Canadian can I be? After what I've seen on the political front lately, I have seriously considered moving to a more "peaceful" country - one with politicians with some semblance of integrity and decency. What is being proposed here is a travesty. It's disgusting, it's archaic, and it's completely unnecessary. How can you people BEGIN to sleep with yourselves. And as far as your children, if you ARE blessed with them, how do you look them in the eye and tell them you do everything in your power to preserve the good and the righteous in this world. I've never been so ashamed to be Canadian than this year.

)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 political party.

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,

Mrs. Lisa Wilson
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