

Bill # 50

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From: Kara Overy <uneak_freak@hotmail.com>
To: <hebbgd@gov.ns.ca>
Date: 31 October 2009 05:28 PM
Subject: I AM CANADIAN...AND I AM ASHAMED!

Oct 31, 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.

Why do human beings automatically take precedence over all other living things!? How arrogant of us! When will people realize that money isn't everything?! Stop putting the "almighty dollar" before all

else...it's really is a refreshing to way to be. Besides, it's that way of thinking that's got us into the state we're in today. If you were about to be clubbed to death, wouldn't you want someone to fight for you? I know this probably sounds like a childish argument, but I was always taught to walk a mile in someone else's shoes...but now I apply that way of thinking to all living things! And ya know what? It's not

hard! It's really a fair question to ask isn't it? If you were going to be attacked in some way, wouldn't you want someone to help you? Knock it off! Canada should be so much better than this! I am Canadian...and I am ashamed!

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,

Ms. Kara Overy
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