

Bill # 50

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From: Jessika Grant <jecki82@shaw.ca>
To: <hebbgd@gov.ns.ca>
Date: 01 November 2009 01:59 PM
Subject: Wilderness Areas Protection Act - Leave it BE!!!

Nov 1, 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.

This is disgusting and outrageous. It baffles me how horrible someone

can be without any guilt. Feel the guilt. Really think about what you are actually approving!! Don't kid yourselves into believing that you aren't being monsters by lifting this act.

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,

Jessika Grant
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