

340 RANCHER'S CO-OPERATIVE LTD.



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My Name is Earl Prime. I am the Manager of the 340 Co-op, and the President of the NS Mink Breeders Association. In this briefing, I would like to take you on a short travel though the 340 Co-op. We employ 170 or more people, with our payroll topping at approximately \$2,000,000 for 4 months of pelting and processing mink. We process 1.3 million out of the 1.7 million minks in NS. The value of these mink is estimated at around 100 million dollars. 95 % of the buyers come from Russia, China, Greece, Japan, and Korea. I would have to say that in reality, the value of these mink should be multiplied by 5, which brings it closer to 500 million. The money goes back into the communities by way of the car dealerships, gas stations, building supply stores, retail stores, etc. The fur industry does all this with very little financial help from the government.

There is one very important message that I'd like to point out. I have traveled the world and I Have spoken with many mink farmers in Denmark, Holland, and England. They have over-regulated their industry. That is why it is SO important to have an Act, and to work with the Government, but to not over regulate our industry so there is no profit left. This is why myself And many other well-known mink farmers have worked very closely with the government to put this Bill No. 53 Fur Industry Act together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Earl Prime', located below the second paragraph.

Earl Prime
Manager
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