

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister Of Canada  
LANGEVIN BUILDING 80 WELLINGTON STREET  
OTTAWA ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

**Anti Seal Campaign**

We are becoming increasingly alarmed at the renewed interest of various groups to pursue a ban on imports of seal products into the European Union (EU). These efforts call into question not only the integrity of Canadians engaged in the seal industry but also Canada's commitment to regulate, manage and conserve Canada's natural resources. Efforts of this nature could also very easily expand to include all fur products that would have a devastating impact on the fur industry not only in the Northwest Territories (NWT) but across Canada. The fur industry in both Canada and the NWT is just starting to re-emerge from the campaigns aimed at its destruction back in the 1980's. The fur industry, today, provides direct benefit to 60,000-70,000 Canadian residents and has a direct positive impact on the lives of many residents here in the NWT.

It is quite surprising that any serious discussion or debate is occurring on the prospects of a ban on any legal Canadian good or service without some form of a reciprocal action being contemplated by the government of Canada. Allowing this type of discussion to take place and be taken seriously by some governments in the EU contravenes not only the spirit but also the intent of international trade negotiations/agreements that both Canada and the EU are a party to under the current Doha Round. Fur is a trading commodity and as such should enjoy the same treatment as all other goods and services engaged in trade.

The NWT, along with all other Provincial and Territorial jurisdictions, have invested heavily in adhering to the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards. This government has also invested considerable time, effort and investment in ensuring and in many cases leading the world in the employment of humane practices when it comes to the harvest of all natural resources.

I would therefore call upon you and your government to take a very firm stand on this matter and defend Canada's fur industry as you would all other industries engaged in international trade.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Handley

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