

**The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada**

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**The Honourable Loyola Hearn**

**HOUSE OF COMMONS, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans**

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**Canadian Embassy in the United States**

Ambassador Michael Wilson

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**CANADIAN EMBASSIES OTHER COUNTRIES:** [www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/world/embassies/cra-en.asp](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/world/embassies/cra-en.asp)

Prime Minister Harper, Minister Hearn and Canadian Ambassador:

Canada's Fisheries and Oceans Department website urges me to "form opinions based on the facts" regarding the Canadian seal hunt. I have determined there is no ecological, financial or ethical defense for the hunt. Therefore, I have pledged to boycott Canadian seafood and tourism until it ends. I strongly encourage you to heed international opinion and permanently cancel the hunt.

**Reality:** The annual slaughter of over 300,000 seals off Canada's East Coast is the world's largest marine wildlife hunt. In three years, sealers killed almost one million seals for their fur. The 2007 kill quota is 270,000 even though treacherous ice conditions have already claimed 90% of newborn seals.

**Reality:** Scientists worldwide renounce Canada's hunt policy as reckless, citing insufficient proof to link harp seals with depleted fish stocks. Roughly 3% of the harp seal's food intake includes commercially caught cod. Harp seals actually consume other species, such as squid, that prey on cod. Eliminating harp seals could provoke a rise in cod predators. In fact, scientists worry killing seals may hinder the recovery of ground fish stocks.

**Reality:** Wholly 95% of seals butchered in the last five years were less than three months old, most unable to eat solid foods or swim independently. Considered "adults," pups who have shed their white fur are ambushed on the ice.

**Reality:** Documentation in 2005 and 2006 shows whitecoat pups gunned down, pounded in the skull, kicked in the face and trashed with hakapiks. Video footage depicts sealers hauling alert animals over the ice with boathooks. In 2001 a team of impartial veterinarians determined 42% of the seals they examined did not suffer sufficient cranial injury to render them unconscious. They concluded the seals were likely cognizant when skinned.

**Reality:** Despite the hunt's enormous scope, it has little financial relevance. In Newfoundland, where 90% of sealers reside, seal-related income constitutes less than one-tenth of 1% of the province's economy. Sealers fish the rest of the year. Sealing generates barely one-twentieth of their livelihoods.

As you know, seal commodities are banned in the United States. Polls indicate nearly 80% of Americans and Europeans disapprove of Canada's seal hunt (Penn, Schoen & Berland, 2002 and MORI, 2002), with a growing contingent devoted to a Canadian seafood boycott. Convulsing animals in rivers of blood disgraces Canada. Please do everything possible to halt this indefensible hunt now.

Sincerely,

**David L. Emerson, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics**

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**David L. Emerson, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics**

2010 Olympic & Paralympic Winter Games Federal Secretariat

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David Emerson, Minister of International Trade:

There is no credible defense for the annual slaughter of over 300,000 seals off Canada's East Coast. I have pledged to boycott Canadian seafood until the world's largest marine wildlife hunt ends.

The Canadian seal hunt continues to disgrace Canada and initiate global boycotts of seafood and tourism. I strongly encourage you to advocate an end to Canada's brutal massacre of seals.

A hunt with little financial relevance shouldn't be allowed to damage Canada's economy. In Newfoundland, where 90% of sealers reside, seal-related income constitutes less than one-tenth of 1% of the economy. Sealers fish year-round. Sealing generates barely one-twentieth of their livelihoods.

Yet in three years sealers killed almost one million seals for their fur. The 2007 kill quota is 270,000 even though this year's treacherous ice conditions have already claimed 90% of newborn seals.

Scientists worldwide renounce Canada's hunt policy as reckless, citing insufficient proof to link harp seals with depleted fish stocks. Roughly 3% of the harp seal's food intake includes commercially caught cod. Harp seals actually consume other species, such as squid, that prey on cod. Eliminating harp seals could provoke a rise in cod predators. In fact, scientists worry killing seals may hinder the recovery of ground fish stocks.

Wholly 95% of seals butchered in the last five years were less than three months old, most unable to eat solid foods or swim independently. Documentation in 2005 and 2006 shows whitecoat pups gunned down, pounded in the skull, kicked in the face and trashed with hakapiks. Video footage depicts sealers hauling alert animals over the ice with boathooks. In 2001 a team of impartial veterinarians determined 42% of the seals they examined did not suffer sufficient cranial injury to render them unconscious. They concluded the seals were likely cognizant when skinned.

As you know, seal commodities are banned in the United States. Polls indicate nearly 80% of Americans and Europeans disapprove of Canada's seal hunt (Penn, Schoen & Berland, 2002 and MORI, 2002), with a growing contingent devoted to a Canadian seafood boycott. Please do everything possible to halt this non-sustainable and ethically indefensible hunt now.

Sincerely,

**Pajar**

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*Pajar makes/sells sealskin boots.*

**Annika Heinadottir**

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**The Odette Leblanc Collection**

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**CONTACT INFO SOURCE:**

[http://www.hsus.org/marine\\_mammals/protect\\_seals/designers\\_who\\_use\\_seal\\_fur.html](http://www.hsus.org/marine_mammals/protect_seals/designers_who_use_seal_fur.html)  
<http://www.canadiansealhunt.com/profitng.html>  
<http://www.harpseals.org/hunt/pelts.html>

Dear Sir/Madam:

As a design house that incorporates seal fur/skin in its collection, you offer commercial incentive for the world's largest slaughter of marine wildlife. I respectfully ask you stop using seal fur/skin.

The Canadian seal hunt continues to disgrace Canada — along with your label by association. There is simply no ecological, financial or ethical defense for the annual slaughter of over 300,000 seals off Canada's East Coast. Every year, the official kill count belies the true death toll. For roughly every seal landed, another wounded seal slides beneath the ice to die slowly. I have pledged to boycott Canadian seafood and tourism, as well as your products, until the brutal massacre ends.

As you know, seal commodities are banned in the United States. Polls indicate nearly 80% of Americans and Europeans disapprove of Canada's seal hunt (Penn, Schoen & Berland, 2002 and MORI, 2002), with a growing contingent devoted to boycotting companies that sustain the hunt.

In three years, sealers killed almost one million seals for their fur, many just 12 days old. Scientists worldwide renounce Canada's seal hunt policy as reckless, citing insufficient proof to link harp seals with depleted fish stocks. Harp seals actually consume other species, such as squid, that prey on cod. In fact, scientists worry killing seals may hinder the recovery of ground fish stocks.

Wholly 95% of seals butchered in the last five years were less than three months old, most unable to eat solid foods or swim independently. Video footage depicts sealers hauling alert animals over the ice with boathooks. Documentation in 2005 and 2006 shows whitecoat pups gunned down, pounded in the skull, kicked in the face and trashed with hakapiks. In 2001 a team of impartial veterinarians determined 42% of the seals they examined did not suffer sufficient cranial injury to render them unconscious. They concluded the seals were likely cognizant when skinned.

Despite the hunt's enormous scope, it has little financial relevance. In Newfoundland, where 90% of sealers reside, seal-related income constitutes less than one-tenth of 1% of the province's economy. Sealers fish the rest of the year. Sealing generates barely one-twentieth of their livelihoods.

Seal-derived goods are the byproduct of suffering. You can package them as couture, but you cannot erase their wretched origin. Please remove all seal fur and skin from your lines. Thank you for your responsible action in this matter of international concern.

Sincerely,