



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E6

OCT 6 2006

Mr. Michael O'Sullivan
Chairman and Executive Director
Humane Society of Canada
347 Bay Street, Suite 806
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2R7

OCT 16 2006

Dear Mr. O'Sullivan:

I am in receipt of your letter of March 24, 2006, forwarded to me by the office of the Prime Minister, which expresses your concerns regarding the Atlantic Canada seal hunt. I regret the delay in responding.

I appreciate the Humane Society of Canada's input on this issue, however, the federal government does not intend to buy back sealing licences in an effort to end the seal hunt.

The seal hunt is a time-honoured tradition in Atlantic Canada that allows individuals to provide for their families through hard work and knowledge of the sea. Canadians place a high value on humane hunting practices and DFO upholds this value as well as ensures that the seal hunt is conducted in accordance with all proper regulations. DFO continuously works with the industry and veterinarians to improve hunting methods.

I must note that DFO supports ecotourism sites in Atlantic Canada. Should you wish to offer support to these ecotourism projects, I would suggest that you contact Parks Canada and Environment Canada. I am certain that your constructive input will be welcome.

Thank you for taking the time to make your views heard. I understand that the office of the Prime Minister will be returning your cheque shortly.

Sincerely,

Loyola Hearn, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Right Honourable Stephen Harper

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