

# HUMANE SOCIETY of CANADA

Protecting Animals and the Earth

4<sup>th</sup> September 2006

408 - 185 - 911 Yates St.  
Victoria, B.C. V8V 4Y9

Box 216  
280 Nelson St.  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2E2

Box 407  
100, 1039 - 17th Ave. SW  
Calgary, Alberta T2T 0B2

Box 363  
11215 Jasper Ave.  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 0L5

Box 151  
162 - 2025 Corydon Ave.  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3P 0N5

Box 460  
4246 Albert St.  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 3R9

347 Bay St.  
Suite 806  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2R7

1673 Richmond St.  
Box 315  
London, Ontario N6G 2N5

Box 421  
800 Lasalle Blvd.  
Sudbury, Ontario P3A 4V4

3539 St. Charles  
Suite 408  
Kirkland, Québec  
H9H 3C4

4-100-331 Elmwood Dr.  
Moncton, N.B. E1A 1X6

Box 319  
38 Pearson St.  
St. John's, N.F. A1A 3R1

1096 Queen St.  
Box 181  
Halifax, N.S. B3H 2R9

Box 101  
393 University Ave.  
Charlottetown, PEI C1A 4N4

1 - 800 - 641 - KIND  
fax. 416 - 368 - 1948  
e - mail [info@humanesociety.com](mailto:info@humanesociety.com)  
web site [www.humanesociety.ca](http://www.humanesociety.ca)

Josep Borrell Fontelles  
President of the European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz  
B-1047 Brussels  
Belgium

**Re: Ban on the Import of Seal Products**

Dear President,

We are writing on behalf of the millions of Canadians who share our views about the protection of animals and the environment to lend the full weight of our support for the European Parliament's Declaration to ban the import of seal products to be announced later this week in Strasbourg.

Having worked in the past at the European Parliament with MEPs, the European Commission, Eurogroup for Animal Welfare and animal protection organizations in Europe, we have high regard for their professional approach in dealing with issues like the longstanding cruelty associated with Canada's annual seal hunt.

On the eve of a massive global protest that continues to harm Canada's economy and reputation, The Humane Society of Canada urged both our Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Premier Danny Williams of Newfoundland & Labrador to implement a program to buy back licences to end the seal hunt and promote ecotourism. To underscore our commitment in this regard, we are the only animal protection organization in the world that sent the Prime Minister a cheque in the amount of \$ 10,000 to be used for the creation of a federal fund for this purpose (copies attached).

We proposed the creation of an intergovernmental taskforce to create the framework and mechanisms to establish and manage a federal fund to buyback sealing licences and launch new initiatives to promote ecotourism and we offered to lend our expertise to such a process.

Humane Society of Canada for  
the Protection of Animals and the  
Environment is a Registered  
Canadian Charitable Organization  
(BN 13730 3343 RR0001)



Josep Borrell Fontelles  
President of the European Parliament  
4<sup>th</sup> September 2006  
Page 2

The Humane Society of Canada also promised to enlist the goodwill of Canadians and other members of the global community to match dollar for dollar the amount of money pledged by the federal government to buy back licences from sealers and to stimulate ecotourism.

The Humane Society of Canada's proposal is built on the Canadian model which provides subsidies to industries in transition, crop shortfalls, and to those who find themselves out of work and subject to other economic disparities. For example, during 2005-2006 alone, the people of Newfoundland & Labrador will receive more than \$1.5 billion in tax dollars from the rest of Canada to help them.

Our efforts for a "made in Canada" solution have fallen on deaf ears. Despite repeated telephone calls to their offices where their staff acknowledged receipt of our information and offer, Prime Minister Harper and Premier Williams of Newfoundland & Labrador never responded.

However, on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2006, after the slaughter of nearly 335,000 seals, Prime Minister Stephen Harper returned our cheque for \$ 10,000 with a note saying that his office could not accept financial contributions (copy attached).

We stand firm in our resolve to bring an end to the largest slaughter of marine mammals anywhere in the world, and know that you have our unwavering support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Michael O'Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael O'Sullivan  
Chairman & CEO

Cc Sonja Van Tichelen, Director, Eurogroup for Animal Welfare