

HUMANE SOCIETY of CANADA

Protecting Animals and the Earth

4th September 2006

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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)



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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 13th 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 black ink that reads "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