

Five Nation Iroquois Confederacy

'Ka-nin-ke-a-ha - People of Flint'



Monday March 23, 2009

CANADIAN TAX DOLLARS FUND MASS SLAUGHTER OF MARINE MAMMALS

For over thirty years the Government of Canada has funded and endorsed the largest mass slaughter of marine mammals in the world. The annual Seal "hunt" taking place off the Atlantic coast is a cruel and unjustifiable abuse of Canadian tax dollars. The Government of Canada is unwilling to admit their incompetency in providing safe and sustainable forms of employment for people living in these provinces. As a result, the atrocious acts against the seals continue in the form of "democrapitalism". Canada hides behind a democratic process adding to the misconception that Canadian citizens are in support of the barbaric "hunt" while the true culprit is capitalism protected by democracy. This is causing all humanity to sink to the subhuman behavior which is destroying the Earth and the necessary life forms that live upon her.

Many countries have recognized the cruelty of the hunt. Belgium, Netherlands, Italy, Austria, Croatia, Slovenia, Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Mexico, Panama, Russia, Ireland and the United States have all either banned seal products or made moves to do so, adding to Canada's shame on a global level.

Native people of Turtle Island have also become a scapegoat for the greed driven massacre. The Inuit of the far North have hunted and praised the seals for many generations. However, they take only what they need to uphold their customs, beliefs and traditions. Their way of life is now being used and compromised by the Canadian Government as propaganda to benefit a capitalist agenda, despite the fact that the Inuit do not participate in the commercial seal "hunt".

As Mohawk people and world citizens we condemn these acts of horror being committed against the seals as it furthers the destruction of our Mother Earth adding to the global ecological crisis. As stated by Prince Charles of Wales on March 13, 2009, *"the threat of catastrophic climate change calls into question humanity's continued survival on the planet."* Canada chooses to invest in the war on the planet putting pressure on an already fragile eco-system.

Canada has many policies and practices that are deplorable to the environment subsequently. In accordance with the Silver Covenant Chain under the Two Row Wampum, we advise that a first step in correcting this is to pass Senator Mac Harb's bill to end the commercial seal "hunt" permanently. The proposed bill calls for an end to commercial seal hunting while respecting treaty obligations and protecting the Rights of Native people. With this in mind we urge you to support the end of the commercial seal "hunt" and stand together in defense of our Mother Earth for the benefit of current and future generations.

In Peace and Friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart Myiow", is written over a horizontal line.

Secretary, Stuart Myiow
Mohawk Traditional Council
Box 531 Kahnawake
Mohawk Territory
J0L 1B0