



PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington St.
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2
Canada

1 page via fax: 613-941-6900

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

On behalf of PETA and our more than 1.6 million international members and supporters, I am writing to express our outrage that you are allowing hunters to kill 270,000 seals during this year's commercial seal hunt—even though the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has acknowledged that 90 percent of the seal pups born this year could die because of devastating ice conditions in the southern gulf.

The hunt—which is the largest slaughter of marine mammals on Earth—should have been stopped decades ago. The situation is especially critical this year. Global warming is causing the ice floes to deteriorate, and pups are being forced into the ocean before they can swim. Thousands of seals pups—if not hundreds of thousands—are dying. It is disgraceful that the Canadian government is allowing hunters to shoot and club the survivors of this ecological disaster.

There has never been any doubt that the commercial seal hunt is cruel. During the hunt, sealers drag conscious seals across the ice floes with boat hooks and toss dead and dying animals into heaps, leaving their carcasses to rot. Many seals are killed when they are under 3 months old and have not yet learned how to swim or eaten their first solid meals. The baby seals are helpless and have no way to escape from the hunters' clubs. Now, as global warming threatens the seals' fragile habitat, there is no doubt that the hunt is unsustainable.

International outrage over this cruel and unnecessary spectacle is escalating, and it is time for the Canadian government to put an end to this shameful slaughter.

Sincerely,

Matt Rice
Senior Campaign Coordinator

AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS