



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
Newfoundland and Labrador

JIM BENNETT, M.H.A.
District of St. Barbe

BH-69026
Tabled by the
Minister of Fisheries
& Aquaculture
2013-11-27
Ben

P.O. Box 528, Rocky Harbour, Newfoundland A0K 4N0
Office: (709) 458-3257 or 458-3258 Fax: (709) 458-3259 Email: JimBennett@gov.nl.ca

January 29, 2013

Honourable Derrick Daley, Minister
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Dear Minister Daley:

The 2013 Sealing Industry season will get underway in our province in a few short months.

As minister responsible for Fisheries, I am certain your department is preparing for a successful season despite the many challenges that this industry faces.

I write to inquire about the status of the Sealing industry at the present time, including:

- How the sealing industry issue figures into the negotiations around the CETA agreement?
- What is the Provincial Government's Plan for the 2013 season?
- What role the Federal Government is playing, individually or collaboratively, with the province to address sealing challenges, both nationally and globally?
- Whether there is a Comprehensive Sealing Strategy in the works to guide the industry in the years ahead?
- What supports the industry is seeking this season; and if government is prepared to assist?
- Whether an assessment has been undertaken to determine if we are being effective with our objective to counter the myths and propaganda put forth by anti-sealing groups?
- The status of the case before the World Trade Organization concerning the proposed EU ban; and
- Information on any other aspect of the sealing industry that government is currently working on.

Thank you for your time and attention to my request on this very important industry to our Province.

Sincerely,

Jim Bennett

Jim Bennett, MHA

| Fisheries and Aquaculture Critic



*Tabled by the
Minister of Fisheries
& Aquaculture 2013-11-27*
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
(Office of the Minister)

GL-69059

FEB 27 2013

Mr. Jim Bennett, MHA
District of St. Barbe
P.O. Box 528
Rocky Harbour, NL A0K 4N0

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Thank you for your correspondence dated January 29, 2013, requesting information about the status of the sealing industry in preparation for the 2013 seal harvest.

As you are aware, approximately 70,000 seals were harvested by approximately 680 sealers operating from 275 sealing enterprises during the 2012 seal harvest. Based on market conditions, industry representatives anticipate that the 2013 harvest will be in the order of 100,000 seals.

On April 5, 2012, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced that it would support the seal harvest through a repayable loan to Carino Processing Limited. The company utilized \$1,999,000 of the \$3,600,000 loan. The financing was used to secure raw material for processing. In turn, this provided income for hundreds of sealers and plant workers, as well as others who benefit from the industry, including individuals employed in the transportation and supply and service sectors. The loan has been fully repaid, with interest.

We have indicated to Carino Processing Limited that we would consider a proposal for the 2013 harvest as there are a number of challenges which continue to face the sealing industry.

Since 2006, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has committed funding of \$800,000 for sealing industry communications and advocacy work. The strategy is designed to inform national and international audiences of the facts about the province's sealing industry and to address anti-sealing propaganda. In doing so, this counters the misinformation and myths being disseminated by anti-hunting groups which are intent on abolishing all wild animal harvests, including humane, sustainable and economically important harvests such as the Canadian seal harvest. This work has been based on a partnership with the Canadian Sealers Association, the Fur Institute of Canada, the Fish Food and Allied Workers, the Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board, as well as federal, provincial and territorial governments throughout Canada.

The Government of Canada has taken action through the World Trade Organization (WTO) to overturn the European Union (EU) ban on seal products on the grounds that it is in violation of international trade agreements. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador supports these efforts by the Government of Canada. The establishment of a dispute settlement panel to address the EU ban will assess whether the EU has violated its trade obligations. Where a violation is found, the report will provide recommendations for the member to bring its laws and regulations into compliance. Canada's first submission was filed with the WTO on November 9, 2012. The first oral hearing took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from February 18-20, 2013.

To address your question about the relationship between the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and sealing issues, I understand that Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada has confirmed that both Canada and the EU do not link seal issues with the development of the agreement.

Our government assures you that we will continue to support this important industry and protect the interests of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Thank you for your inquiry.

Sincerely,



DERRICK DALLEY, MHA
The Isles of Notre Dame
Minister