

## **News Release**

## **GN** disheartened by EU court decision on seal products

**IQALUIT, Nunavut** (November 1, 2010) – The Honourable Eva Aariak, Premier of Nunavut, together with the Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Minister of Environment, expressed profound disappointment over the recent European Union court ruling that cancels the temporary suspension of the seal product ban.

In a decision last week, the President of the European Union (EU) Court rejected the "Request for Interim Measures" brought forward by a 16 plaintiff consortium. Had it been approved, it would have protected Inuit access to European sealskin markets during the ongoing court proceedings in the larger case against the ban on seal products.

"On behalf of Nunavummiut, I am shocked and outraged by this ruling," said Premier Eva Aariak. "The EU seal ban is an attack on Inuit cultural identity and way of life and has already resulted in significant economic losses for Nunavummiut – for whom economic opportunities are already limited."

The Government of Nunavut supports the lead organizations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) and the Fur Institute of Canada (FIC), in appealing the EU decision to reinstate the ban during proceedings. The Premier expressed her ongoing commitment to supporting individuals and organizations that are promoting Nunavut's unique sealing culture and industry, and who are fighting to dispel myths and misinformation at the root of the EU ban.

The Government of Canada's separate complaint against the World Trade Organization (WTO) stating that the EU ban goes against WTO Regulations continues. However, the only way to fully dismantle the EU ban on seal products is the Application for Annulment case, led by ITK and FIC. This case is currently before the EU court, however, it is unknown when a final ruling will be made.

"I remain hopeful that reason and good judgment, on the part of the EU courts, will prevail and put an end to this grievous attack on sealing in Nunavut," said Minister Shewchuk. "In the meantime, the Government of Nunavut will continue its efforts to support and promote the sealing industry, including market development and support for sealers."

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