



March 22, 2010

The Honourable Céline Hervieux-Payette, P.C.
Senator
Senate of Canada
Centre Block – Room 585-S
Ottawa ON K1A 0A4

Dear Senator Hervieux-Payette:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, members of the Fur Institute of Canada and our Seals and Sealing Network, I am pleased to offer this letter of support for *The Universal Declaration on the Ethical Harvest of Seals*.

For too long, international protests against seal harvesting have been creating negative public stigmas and eliciting politically expedient responses against this legitimate form of animal use. Legislation such as the European Union's recent trade ban has only served to undermine the principles of animal welfare and the value of renewable, natural resources, while doing harm to the livelihoods of many sealers who do not deserve such treatment.

Like Canada's 60,000 trappers who have embraced international trapping standards, sealers support and promote a conservation and welfare ethic in earning their livelihood from the sea.

Initiatives like "We Care" will help to give a voice to a growing movement to further promote these values. The process will be sure to help gain due recognition for attitudes that encourage a respectful balance between people and the environment.

For further information about the Fur Institute of Canada and our Seals and Sealing Network, please visit our websites www.fur.ca and www.sealsandsealing.net.

I look forward to working together in helping to demonstrate the value of this important *Declaration*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Cahill', is positioned above the printed name.

Robert B. Cahill
Executive Director