



PRESS RELEASE

Seal Day

Grindstone, January 31st 2012 – The Magdalen Islands Sealers Association is delighted to learn about the creation, by the Government of Canada, of the Seal Day. This event will be celebrated February 2nd in Ottawa as part of the *Northern Lights* event.

With this initiative, the Canadian government underlines its support to the seal industry. This type of industry complies perfectly with the principles of sustainable development by using natural and abundant resources. As we all know, this type of activity remains vital in the development of coastal communities everywhere across Canada.

Although this is a day for celebration, we should not forget that animal right activists' campaigns affect greatly the international markets upon which this industry depends. Happily, in Canada, a 2010 opinion poll (TNS Canadian Facts) clearly showed that 82 % of the Canadians know the facts and support a well managed seal hunt. Industry counts on this support as well as on that of political authorities to gain back those markets and build a solid market base at home.

A recent study from the Bedford Oceanographic Institute has just confirmed what fishermen and logic itself have proclaimed for decades: no cod recovery will be possible without controlling the seal populations. Therefore, a healthy seal industry would have the double advantage of creating jobs in regions depending on the use of their natural resources and contribute to keep the equilibrium between these same means used by the fishery sector to support the economy of these regions. Unquestionably, we are here talking about a winning / winning situation for all Canadians.

Today, we join our voice to the Canadian Government and Inuit hunters and brothers to celebrate the Seal Day and show the whole world that the seal hunt is more than a simple tradition. It's a way of live and a necessity for our big country.

- 30 -

Source : Gil Thériault, director
418.937.9222