



NUNATSIAQ ONLINE

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NEWS: Nunavut November 20, 2012 - 5:34 pm

Nunavut, Inuit orgs follow European General Court appeal on lifting EU seal ban

"We hope today's hearing will allow us to proceed with this application to cancel the EU seal ban"

NUNATSIAQ NEWS

(Updated Nov. 7, 9:00 a.m.)

The Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami issued a news release late Nov. 20 saying they are pleased with the progress of an appeal hearing in the European Court of Justice on their legal challenge to the European Union's 2010 seal product ban.

Officials representing the three organizations, along with other plaintiffs from Nunavut and Greenland, were in Luxembourg Nov. 20 to attend the hearing of an appeal against a September 2011 decision of the European General Court.



This image by Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory was widely circulated on Facebook today to encourage Inuit and other northern seal industry supporters to show their solidarity with the European General Court appeal to change their Facebook profile picture to an image supporting Nunavut sealing.

The court dismissed a bid by a group that includes Inuit to overturn the 2010 European Union prohibition on trade in seal products, which the European Parliament voted by a margin of 550 to 49 to impose in May 2009.

In the new regulation, the European Parliament created an exemption for seal products that result from "hunts traditionally conducted by Inuit and other indigenous communities and contribute to their subsistence."

That exemption loomed large in the Sept. 6, 2011 ruling that ITK and others challenged on court this week.

That's because the European court ruled the ITK legal appeal inadmissible, in part because the EU seal product import ban does not "directly concern" the Inuit claimants or the organizations representing them.

"Consequently, the contested regulation directly affects only the legal situation of those of the applicants who are active in the placing on the market of the European Union of seal products. That regulation does not in any way prohibit seal hunting, which indeed takes place outside the European Union market, or the use or consumption of seal products which are not marketed," the Sept. 6, 2011 ruling said

The European court also found that most of the Inuit applicants do not actually attempt to sell seal products in Europe.

"More specifically, first, one category of applicants, namely seal hunters and trappers of Inuit origin, and a second category of applicants, grouping together the organizations which represent their interests, cannot be regarded as active in the placing on the market of the European Union of seal products," the ruling said.

The ITK application was also deemed inadmissible for technical reasons: that, because the European parliament's 2010 decision is a "legislative act," it cannot be challenged except in narrow circumstances.

However, the rhetorical fury that Inuit and Nunavut leaders use to describe the 2010 remains undampened and they remain optimistic that they can use the European court to get the seal product rule annulled.

"The impact of the seal ban on Inuit was direct, swift and harsh. NTI is hopeful that this injustice will be recognized by the European Court of Justice on this appeal, and that ITK and the other applicants will be granted access to the EU courts to make the case on the merits," said NTI's acting president James Eetoolook.

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Department of Human Resources

Government Liaison Officer
Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs,
Gjoa Haven

Assistant Fire Marshal
Department of Community and Government Services,
Cape Dorset

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"The Government of Nunavut is and will remain a strong advocate for the sealing industry," said Nunavut's environment minister James Arreak.

"We hope today's hearing will allow us to proceed with this application to cancel the EU seal ban. Sealing in Nunavut is both humane and sustainable. Inuit throughout Canada continue to rely on seals for food and for income through participation in the international fur trade. We look forward to working with our international group of sealing nations and stakeholders to ensure that we are communicating our message to the world in a clear, efficient and effective way."

In Luxembourg, officials from the GN, NTI and ITK also took part in meetings with others involved in the sealing industry, including the Greenlandic Association of Fishermen and Hunters, the International Fur Trade Federation and the Fur Institute of Canada.

"The ban betrays the unchecked arrogance of the EU in seeking to cast judgment on centuries-old cultural traditions in the face of evidence that proves its actions to be unwarranted, unethical and offensive," said Terry Audla, president of ITK. "This hearing was one step in a much larger process and we are happy to have had the opportunity to represent Inuit on this matter and present our position."

It's not clear when the European Court of Justice will decide on the ITK appeal.

But if the ITK appeal fails, ITK and its allies could get stuck with having to pay court costs incurred by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, as well as their own costs.




Building Nunavut Together
Nunavut ilugattiginiq
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Government of Nunavut
Department of Community and Government Services

Chief Project Officer – Iqaluit International Airport Improvement Project

RFP 2012-95 Closing Date: February 15, 2013

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RECREATION DIRECTOR Municipality of Igloolik

Igloolik, one of the larger communities in Nunavut, is receiving resumes from qualified applicants for the Director of Recreation position. While in this position the successful candidate is responsible for the overall management of the department while reporting to the Senior Administrative Officer.

The Municipality of Igloolik offers a competitive salary and benefits. Accommodation may also be available. Inquiries about the position can be addressed to the Senior Administrative Officer by

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STRENGTHENING OUR TEAM IN IQALUIT

Stantec is currently seeking an Office Space based in Iqaluit and office in Rankin Inlet. With strong operational skills, the ideal candidate will ensure the efficient operation of the office. This position will also be responsible for proper management of the office space to the senior level and effectively operate the office. This is a great opportunity for a highly motivated individual to develop and enhance their skills in a dynamic, exciting environment.

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Additionally, an opportunity currently exists in our office in Rankin Inlet. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in project management, experience with general administration, and a proven knowledge of customer relations. The candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the office, including the management of office space, equipment, and a commitment to the community.

The ideal candidate will be proficient with MS Office and have excellent verbal and written communication skills. A minimum 2 years of experience is preferred.

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NUNAVUT SURFACE RIGHTS TRIBUNAL
KANGGANITONIK ANGGIKTITAJUITIT
LE TRIBUNAL DES DROITS DE SURFACE DU NUNAVUT

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Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal

[Click here to view the proposed Rules of Process and Procedure](#)

Tribunal des droits de surface du Nunavut

[Cliquer ici pour consulter la version préliminaire des Règles de pratique et de procédure](#)