

Nunavut wary of anti-sealing campaign - Solutions

1. Who was calling for the ban on the commercial seal hunt in March of 2005? How is this different from the ban in the 1970's?

- *The Humane Society and Greenpeace called for the ban. In the 1970's the ban was called for by International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW).*
- *The ban in the 1970's focused on the baby seals, whereas this ban focuses on any form of the seal hunt in Canada.*

2. Why is Olavuk Okesuk (Environment Minister for Nunavut) concerned?

- *It will hurt the hunters of Nunavut, just like the ban in the 1970's did.*
- *He wants to educate the people in the south who oppose the seal industry.*
- *Hunters in Nunavut hunt 8 000 -10 000 seals per year in order to sustain their way of life. If there is a ban, what will they do?*

3. Describe the perspective of hunter Louie Kamookak from Gjoa Haven in your own words.

- *Louie wants the protesters to recognize the difference between hunting for sustainability in the north versus the commercial seal hunt.*
- *The whole seal is used, nothing gets wasted. The animal is very well respected.*
- *The seal is their source of food for the winter months when they can no longer hunt geese or caribou.*

4. At the beginning of the article, Jesse Mike says "We were shocked to see some people were so ignorant". Give examples of what you think people are ignorant about? Why do you think this is the case? What can be done to prevent this ignorance?

- *In the article, ignorant comments were made to Jesse Mike such as 'what do you find more amusing, killing the seal or eating it?' People are ignorant about the fact that the seal hunt is a way of life for northern Canadians and is a part of their culture. All parts of the seal are used – the fat, the meat, the bones, the skin. The way the seal are hunted and used is not consistent across Canada. Many people don't realize that the*

ban not only affects the East coast seal hunters, but it will affect an economy that sustains a way of life for many northern Canadians.

- *Many people living in urban cities are not aware of or educated on the way of life of northern Canadians. This is not part of the urban curriculum, nor is it often covered by the media. Unfortunately, the campaign to stop the seal hunt receives much more coverage, which only reveals one side of the story. Propaganda has been successfully used to make the campaign that much stronger.*
- *Ways to prevent this: educate teachers and students in the southern schools, increased interest in northern Canada by urban media, protests, giving northern Canadians a stronger voice and more opportunities to be heard.*