

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE**

**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**10<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY, 3<sup>RD</sup> SESSION**

**TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 20-84(3)**

**TABLED ON NOVEMBER 7, 1984**

ROYAL COMMISSION ON SEALS AND THE  
SEALING INDUSTRY IN CANADA

LA COMMISSION ROYALE SUR LES PHOQUES ET  
L'INDUSTRIE DE LA CHASSE AU PHOQUE  
AU CANADA

Palais de Justice, Room 9.80, 1 Notre-Dame St. East  
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1B6  
(514) 283-4557

In accordance with the mandate received from the Government of Canada, this Commission will examine all the aspects of seals and sealing including the social, cultural, ethical, legal, scientific and economic implications, research management, and international comparisons.

The Commission intends to obtain the information necessary to fulfil its mandate by searching for existing material, carrying out research work, inviting the public to submit briefs, and finally by holding public hearings to examine briefs or hear oral testimony.

The initial hearings will take place in Montreal, commencing 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 22, 1985, in Room 5.15 at the above address. Further hearings, if necessary, will take place in Montreal, elsewhere in Canada and abroad.

Although the hearings are only scheduled to take place at the end of January, 1985, we would appreciate knowing, prior to November 20, 1984, whether it is your intention to submit a brief and appear before the Commission. Kindly communicate your decision to the Secretary of the Commission, Mrs. L.A. Monaghan, in order to receive the Statement of Policy and Procedure which sets out the procedure which the Commission will follow during the hearings and gives you all the information required for the preparation of your brief.

Your early response will enable us to decide when and where the hearings will take place and assist us in the overall planning of the work of the Commission.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Albert H. Malouf  
Chairman

N.B. The Commission will only occupy its permanent offices at the above address on November 12, 1984. Until that time, kindly address all correspondence to Room 17.25 at the same address and your calls to (514) 873-3927.

October 12, 1984

Texte français disponible sur demande

A Commission of Inquiry is being constituted under Part 1 of the Inquiries Act to investigate and make recommendations on all aspects of seal resource management and sealing in Canada, and especially on the economic viability of the seal industry and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Commission shall inquire into and report on:

- (a) the social and cultural impact and economic benefits and costs, including regulatory costs, of sealing in Canada;
- (b) the ethical considerations relevant to the harvesting of seals;
- (c) the status of Canadian seal stocks and measures currently in force in Canada to conserve, manage, protect and regulate the harvesting of seals, including the adequacy of such measures;
- (d) the interactions between seals and commercially exploited fish populations that may affect food supplies or contribute to parasite transmission;
- (e) the interaction between seal populations and commercial fisheries, including, inter alia, competition between seals and fishermen for fish stocks; interference in fishing activity by seals, including damage to fishing gear and catches; and the effects and related economic costs on the quality of fish catches caused by transmission of parasites by seals;
- (f) the principles necessary to manage seal stocks for conservation purposes, including appropriate cull levels, so as to ensure the continuing abundance and health of seal stocks and to minimize adverse interactions between seals and Canadian fishing resources and operations;
- (g) the methods for harvesting seals commercially and their suitability;
- (h) the domestic and international opportunities for and constraints on the processing and marketing of Canadian seal products;
- (i) the availability of alternative sources of income and opportunities for adjustment for individuals and communities currently dependent on the seal harvest;

- (j) the concerns of individuals and groups with a direct, indirect or declared interest in sealing in Canada, including an assessment of such interests;
- (k) the public awareness and attitudes in Canada and abroad on sealing policies and activities in Canada and the extent to which such attitudes could constrain future revitalization of commercial sealing, or adversely affect other commercial interests and activities, and recommend approaches for removing those constraints;
- (l) the international comparisons, as appropriate, for the preceding elements; and
- (m) the possible new international initiatives for managing Canada's seal resources, for harvesting seals and for related activities.





