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HIGHLIGHTS

30 november 2012

Eye on the Arctic – Inuit appeal EU Seal Ban



*Levon Sevunts
Inuit hunter Elijah Palituk looks
for a seal breathing hole in the
sea ice off the northeast coast of
Baffin Island.*

Earlier this month, several organizations, including Canada's national Inuit organization Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, went to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg to appeal the EU seal ban.

The European Parliament passed a bill to ban the importation of seal products in 2009 after a campaign by animal welfare activists against the commercial seal hunt. The ban carries an exemption for products produced from Inuit subsistence hunts.

But despite the exemption, Inuit say the effect of the ban has been devastating as it has killed the market for

seal skin products.

"Without additional income from by-products such as seal skins or any fur, it makes it very difficult for Inuit to live in a global economy," said David Akeeagok Deputy Minister Ministry of Environment in Canada's eastern Arctic territory of Nunavut. "In a global world, you need cash, you need machines you need (to buy) hunting equipment."

He says the ban was based on moral issues around the commercial seal hunt rather than the realities of the traditional Inuit in the world's Arctic regions.

"Inuit are the first and foremost ones concerned about the conservation and the preservation of seals and when somebody from the outside brings down a ban saying that it's not morally right to harvest an animal an animal that has provided the Inuit survival, that becomes very difficult for Inuit to accept."

Related Link:

[Seal Ban: The Inuit Impact](#), Eye on the Arctic

To find out more about how the EU ban has been affecting Inuit in Canada, Eye on the Arctic's Ellis Quinn spoke with David Akeeagok, Nunavut's deputy environment minister:

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07 December 2012 - 01:13

Funny we both posted about Inuit art at about same time on Twitter. The seocnd pic reminds me of an Elk or Caribou all of them are interesting. I think you have a point about their art I believe they used it to reflect or understand their world. Today the artist thinks his job is to lecture or preach about morals or politics. I think generally speaking you would be hard pressed to find a less qualified group of people to lecture about morals than the artists. Sent by Hugo Hugo, dHNgCtZEqDOzfSHMjm, GFLsfRHCu

1

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