

Concerning: Upcoming visit Brion island and hunting of seals

Ministry of Sustainable Development,
Environment and the Fight against Climate Change
The Honorable Minister of Sustainable Development, the Environment and the Fight Against
Climate Change, D. Heurtel
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Canada

Dear Minister D. Heurtel,

It was brought to my attention that it is planned that your Associate Deputy Minister of the Environment, Patrick Beauchesne, will visit the Magdalen islands over the coming weeks in order to meet with stakeholders to discuss developments regarding Brion island.

According to press officer Émilie Simard, the goal is a concerted effort by the various regional partners. It was also stated that the government does not want to change the status of ecological reserve or change its boundaries since it protects representative habitats and exceptional species throughout Quebec.

These statements are indeed encouraging. However, I would like to reiterate the importance of maintaining this nature area as an ecological reserve, and allowing any (limited) hunt to take place in such an area should not be allowed. Hunting seals in an ecological reserve can be compared to granting permits to kill animals in a zoo. This is outright unethical and unacceptable.

I sincerely hope that government authorities in Canada will not succumb to the pressure of so-called economic interests of hunters and fishermen who are more than willing to blame seals for the depletion of fish stocks or damages to fishing equipment. An ecological reserve can only function as such, if and when real protection is granted to the inhabiting seals.

I count on your experience and expertise to defend what is ethically correct and environmentally sustainable. Please end the slaughter and mistreatment of seals once and for all and do not issue a hunting quota.

My sincere gratitude in advance.

Yours sincerely,