

DIGITAL JOURNAL

Canadian MPs vote to promote seal hunt products at Winter Games

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In response to European ban, a motion to use the Games to promote seal products passed unanimously in the House of Commons yesterday.

Canadian MPs were responding to this week's vote by the European Parliament to ban the import of [seal products](#).

Bloc Québécois member Raynald Blais, who represents the Magdalen Islands where many residents participate in the hunt, put forward a motion which calls for seal skin to be part of the official uniforms worn by Canada's Olympians.

The Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) [reminded](#) MPs that the Olympics are not to be used as a platform for special causes.



Animalrescueblog

Seal hunting begins in Canada

Canada's official uniforms for the Olympics have already been designed, approved by the International Olympic Committee and are currently in production, their look and style a closely guarded secret.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) are pleased with the motion.

“We feel it's perfect because it shows how completely out of touch the Canadian government is with the rest of the world,” said PETA spokeswoman Kristie Phelps.

“It would be extremely appropriate for Canada's Olympic uniform to wear the country's heartlessness right on its sleeve.”

PETA has its own plans for spreading its message. They will protest the bloody harvest of seals at every stop along the cross-country Olympic torch relay.

“All eyes are on Canada as they prepare to host the Olympics, and we hope to use this extra attention to put an end to the slaughter,” Phelps said.

“Canada is not popular around the world because of it, and we are going to make the country and the Olympics a target.”

The Olympic Charter prohibits national committees from speaking out on such issues during the Olympics.

“If we agreed [to the motion], we would be in violation of that rule, and we won't be doing that,” COC boss Chris Rudge said.

“We will not be putting skin or other seal products on our uniforms.”

Fisheries Minister Gail Shea said she liked the idea of adding seal to Canada's Olympic outfits. “I think it would be a good statement for the Canadian sealing industry, and Canada's support of it.”

When a reporter suggested athletes might not like being forced to wear animal pelts to make a political statement, Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe pointed to his shoes and said “They're not made out of plastic. They're not made out of straw. They come from an animal.”