



N.L. beauty queen fights back after seal hunt opponents deface photo

BY DAVE BARTLETT , ST. JOHN'S TELEGRAM JANUARY 8, 2010 5:03 PM



A beater harp seal rests on ice floes during the annual seal hunt in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Photograph by: S. Cook, Reuters, Canwest News Service; Ottawa Citizen

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. — When the annual seal hunt begins this year, Miss Newfoundland and Labrador plans to hit the ice with relatives who go sealing every year.

Sara Green made the decision after an animal-rights group doctored a photo of her taken at the recent Santa Claus parade in St. John's.

The altered picture has her covered in blood with a hakapik in her hand, surrounded by bloody seal carcasses.

"When I saw it, of course, my jaw dropped, I couldn't believe it," Green told The St. John's Telegram.

"But you know what? It made me so motivated to raise the support for the Canadian seal hunt and get out there and get more people educated on it."

Green said the altered image didn't discourage her, but inspired her instead.

"You hear the saying, you get lemons, make lemonade," she said.

The photo was posted on a Facebook group titled: "F— Off Newfoundland — Leave our Seals Alone!"

The website states, "I've decided on behalf of Canada, and Canadians, to put Newfoundland up for sale. We are tired of having our good-natured country smeared by these club-swinging hobos. Put an end to this massacre! Newfoundland For Sale!"

It was created by a group called Fight Club.

But Green said she'll be the one fighting back.

"It's time for people to stand up for what they believe in and keep this tradition alive, and that's exactly what I'm going to do," she said.

"I have a firearms licence, I have a game licence. Every year, I've wanted to go (sealing) and something's always happened," Green continued. "(But) I will be out there this year."

Green's stand is attracting attention at home and abroad.

"In the last 24 hours, I've gotten tremendous support from fellow Newfoundlanders and Labradorians," she said.

"I've never been so proud to be a Newfoundlander."

Green said she's fine with the story going international and hopes it will drum up support for the seal hunt.

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