OTTAWA, 25 October 2005

Dear Mayor/Reeve and Members of Council:

RE: Heritage Hunting and Fishing Protection Act

Government programs have eroded the rights of Canadians to hunt and fish. Responding to this, I have tabled a Private Member’s Bill to protect recreational hunting and fishing rights for all Canadians.

Hunting and fishing is a right given to aboriginals for sustenance. History shows that our first non-aboriginal pioneers and settlers also depended on these activities for sustenance.

These activities contribute billions to our national economy. It is time to protect hunting and fishing as a part of Canadian heritage so that all Canadians can take part in these two activities without fear that they will be legislated out of existence in the future.

My Private Member’s Bill called the Heritage Hunting and Fishing Protection Act will ensure that the rights of present and future Canadians to enjoy these activities are protected in law. Canadians deserve to have their heritage protected.

I am writing to ask for your support in this initiative. Enclosed is a sample resolution for council’s consideration and a petition form to collect signatures supporting this legislation. Please return these as soon as possible along with your comments or suggestions, postage free to: Inky Mark, MP, House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6.

We must protect our traditional right to hunt and fish. With your help, this will be possible.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Inky Mark, M.P.
Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette
ATT.
SAMPLE RESOLUTION

Subject: Heritage Hunting and Fishing Protection Act, Bill C-391

WHEREAS legislation governing inland fisheries is within the jurisdiction of the federal government;

AND WHEREAS aboriginal people have long relied on hunting and fishing to satisfy their food needs, and have certain rights to hunt and fish that are protected by the Constitution of Canada;

AND WHEREAS non-aboriginal settlers and pioneers in Canada also depended on hunting and fishing for food;

AND WHEREAS hunting and fishing are part of Canada’s national heritage;

AND WHEREAS millions of Canadians participate in and enjoy hunting and fishing;

AND WHEREAS hunting and fishing contribute significantly to the national economy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the request that the Government of Canada enact Private Members Bill C391, the Heritage Hunting and Fishing Protection Act to protect in Canada the right to hunt and fish. No law of Canada shall be construed or applied so as to deprive a person of this right and the Minister of Canadian Heritage shall enter into discussions with the provinces with a view to securing on behalf of all Canadians their continued right to hunt and fish, subject only to any reasonable limits as may be established by law.
HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA

BILL C-391

An Act to recognize and protect Canada’s hunting and fishing heritage

First reading, May 13, 2005

CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES DU CANADA

PROJET DE LOI C-391

Loi reconnaissant et protégeant le patrimoine canadien en matière de chasse et de pêche

Première lecture le 13 mai 2005
SUMMARY

The purpose of this enactment is to protect Canada's hunting and fishing heritage for all Canadians.

All parliamentary publications are available on the Parliamentary Internet Parlementaire at the following address:

http://www.parl.gc.ca

Toutes les publications parlementaires sont disponibles sur le réseau électronique « Parlementary Internet Parlementaire » à l'adresse suivante :

http://www.parl.gc.ca
BILL C-391

An Act to recognize and protect Canada's hunting and fishing heritage

Preamble

WHEREAS legislation governing inland fisheries is within the jurisdiction of the federal government;
WHEREAS aboriginal people have long relied on hunting and fishing to satisfy their food needs, and have certain rights to hunt and fish that are protected by the Constitution of Canada;
WHEREAS non-aboriginal settlers and pioneers in Canada also depended on hunting and fishing for food;
WHEREAS hunting and fishing are part of Canada's national heritage;
WHEREAS millions of Canadians participate in and enjoy hunting and fishing;
AND WHEREAS hunting and fishing contribute significantly to the national economy;
NOW, THEREFORE, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and 20 House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the Heritage Hunting and Fishing Protection Act.

2. (1) It is declared that there exists and shall continue to exist in Canada the right to fish, subject only to any reasonable limits as may be established by law.

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PROJET DE LOI C-391

Loi reconnaissant et protégeant le patrimoine canadien en matière de chasse et de pêche

Prélèvement

Attendu :
que les lois régissant la pêche intérieure relèvent de la compétence du gouvernement fédéral;
que les peuples autochtones ont recours depuis longtemps à la chasse et à la pêche pour satisfaire leurs besoins alimentaires et qu’ils possèdent certains droits de chasse et de pêche protégés par la Constitution du Canada;
que les colons et pionniers non autochtones du Canada dépendaient également de la chasse et de la pêche pour se nourrir;
que la chasse et la pêche font partie du patrimoine national du Canada;
que des millions de Canadiens s'adonnent à la chasse et à la pêche avec agrément;
que la chasse et la pêche apportent une contribution appréciable à l'économie canadienne;
Sa Majesté, sur l'avis et avec le consentement du Sénat et de la Chambre des communes du Canada, édicté :

1. Titre abrégé : Loi sur la protection de la chasse et la pêche patrimoniales.

2. (1) Il est déclaré que le droit de pêcher existe et continuera d’exister au Canada, sous réserve seulement des limites raisonnables établies par la loi.
(2) No law of Canada shall be construed or applied so as to deprive a person of the right declared in subsection (1).

3. The Minister of Canadian Heritage shall enter into discussions with the provinces with a view to securing on behalf of all Canadians their continued right to hunt, subject only to any reasonable limits as may be established by law.

(2) Aucune loi du Canada ne peut avoir pour effet de priver une personne du droit visé au paragraphe (1).

3. Le ministre du Patrimoine canadien doit engager des discussions avec les provinces en vue d’assurer à tous les Canadiens le maintien de leur droit de chasse, sous réserve seulement des limites raisonnables établies par la loi.
WE, THE UNDERSIGNED CITIZENS OF CANADA, draw the attention of the House to the following:

WHEREAS, Canada's Aboriginal peoples and non-aboriginal settlers and pioneers depended on hunting and fishing for food.

WHEREAS, hunting and fishing is part of Canada's national heritage;

WHEREAS, millions of Canadians participate in and enjoy hunting and fishing;

AND WHEREAS, hunting and fishing contribute significantly to the national economy;

NOW THEREFORE, your petitioners call upon the House of Commons to enact Bill C-391, an Act to recognize and protect Canada's hunting and fishing heritage to ensure the rights of present and future Canadians to enjoy these activities are protected in law:

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<th>SIGNATURES</th>
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<td>(Original signatures do not hurt)</td>
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Please return signed petition to: Inky Mark, MP, Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette, House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6 (postage is free on mail to Ottawa). Please return petition by November 15, 2005 or a.s.a.p. Please make more copies as needed or telephone (613) 992-3176.