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Media Advisory

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Anti-Seal Hunt Protesters Target Liberal Fundraiser **"No Dollars for Seal Slaughter," say activists!**

Montreal – A giant "seal" will join members of Global Action Network in protesting the seal hunt at a key liberal party fundraiser at which Prime Minister Jean Chretien will be the keynote speaker.

Date: **Wednesday, 14 May 2003**

Time: **5:45 pm**

Place: **Queen Elizabeth Hotel, 900 Rene Levesque W.**

"We want Liberal Party donors to know their contributions are financing the largest and most brutal slaughter of marine mammals anywhere in the world," said Andrew Plumbly, Director of Global Action Network.

In the wake of the recent closure of the Gulf cod fishery, the federal Liberal government has attempted to scapegoat seals. Despite overwhelming opposition and a lack of scientific evidence to support their actions, the Liberals recently authorized the slaughter of close to a million seals (the highest quota in history) and approved "seal exclusion zones" – areas where all seals will be culled.

"The Liberals are playing Russian Roulette with the species of the Northwest Atlantic," said Catherine Ferland-Blanchet, campaigner for Global Action Network. "Seals consume many predators of Atlantic Cod. Killing off seal populations puts the already fragile ecosystem of the Northwest Atlantic at risk."

Global Action Network will distribute new graphic video footage of the 2003 seal hunt, which clearly shows seals writhing in agony as they are being skinned, injured seals thrown across the ice, and wounded seals left to suffer.

"Thanks to the Liberals, our nation's image has been tarnished by these scenes of cruelty," concluded Plumbly, "Jean Chretien's legacy to Canada is drenched in blood."