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Air Canada needs to bring trophy hunt message home

Tens of thousands of animals killed in trophy hunts within Canada every year

VANCOUVER – A national wildlife protection organization is calling on Air Canada to bring their message against trophy hunting home by banning the transportation of trophies of Canadian animals on their flights.

The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (The Fur-Bearers) was pleased with the announcement that the airline would prohibit the transportation of trophies from Africa following the social outcry over the killing of Cecil, a protected lion. But a bigger difference for animals can be made by Air Canada officials at home.

"Each year tens of thousands – if not hundreds of thousands – of wild animals are killed in trophy hunts right here in Canada," says The Fur-Bearers' Executive Director Lesley Fox. "Many of these beautiful creatures, whom most Canadians revere as part of our natural landscape, are slaughtered and their parts transported as trophies. If Air Canada wants to make a difference, they can implement a policy right here and have a bigger impact in the lives of wild animals and true conservation."

In British Columbia, 80 per cent of residents oppose trophy hunts (Insights West poll) – nearly double the number of residents who gave a majority government to Premier Christy Clark.

"It is very rare to find so many people so aligned in a belief when it comes to politics, wildlife, or the environment," notes Fox. "But the people of British Columbia – and the world – have said that they oppose trophy hunting. Now it's up to our corporate citizens like Air Canada to act."

The Fur-Bearers have started a petition calling on Air Canada to prohibit the transportation of trophies taken from the killing of wild animals within the country, which can be found at www.FurBearerDefenders.com.

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