



## COMPENDIUM OF CANADA'S ENGAGEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

### *Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS)*

**SUBJECT CATEGORY:**

Biodiversity / Ecosystems

**TYPE OF AGREEMENT / INSTRUMENT:**

Multilateral

**FORM:**

Legally-binding treaty

**STATUS:**

- Signed by Canada December 15, 1997
- Ratified by Canada on May 31, 1999
- Provisionally in force in Canada since June 1, 1999
- In force internationally

**LEAD & PARTNER DEPARTMENTS:**

**Lead:** Environment Canada

**Partners:** Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

**Web Links:**

[AIHTS](#), including link to text of the Agreement (Fur Institute of Canada website)

**Contacts:**

[EC Inquiry Centre](#)

**COMPENDIUM EDITION:**

January 2015

**REFERENCE #:**

M-BD-2/EN

**OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this agreement is to meet the EU regulations on humane trapping and thereby maintain access to the European wild fur market.

**KEY ELEMENTS**

The agreement requires standards for approval and certification of animal trapping devices.

**EXPECTED RESULTS**

Under this agreement the signatories agree not to impose trade restrictions on fur products from listed species from other signatory countries. In this way, Canada will maintain access to the European fur market.

Parties are Canada, European Union, Russian Federation.

**CANADA'S INVOLVEMENT**

The Government of Canada:

- Provides funding to the Fur Institute of Canada for trap research and testing to ensure traps used in Canada can be certified in compliance with the AIHTS;
- Acts as head of delegation to the Joint Management Committee.

This agreement is important to Canada because trappers and communities rely on the exporting of fur to the European market as a means of income.

Canada has a world-leading facility for testing and certification of traps in Vegreville, Alberta. Provinces and territories manage trapping and implementation of agreement provision. DFATD leads internationally and EC contributes financially.

**RESULTS / PROGRESS**

**Activities**

Testing facility located in Alberta. Support for the Fur Institute of Canada.

**Results**

Restraining Traps - The use, on land, of conventional steel-jaw leghold restraining traps is now prohibited for a number of species.

A trap certification process has been in place since 2002.