

Private member's bill targets sale and import of cat or dog fur products

BY JANET STEFFENHAGEN, VANCOUVER SUN FEBRUARY 10, 2011 12:02 PM



A British Columbia NDP MP has confirmed that he will not be seeking re-election. "It's been 25 years for me," said Bill Siksay, who was first elected to the federal government in 2004. "It just feels like time to make a change."

Photograph by: Handout, PNG Merlin Archive

The sale and import of products made from cat or dog fur would be prohibited under a private member's bill introduced today in the House of Commons by New Democrat Bill Siksay.

The bill would require labels on all animal skins identifying the types of fur fibers used so that consumers are aware of what they are buying and don't unwittingly contribute to the cat and dog fur trade, the Burnaby-Douglas MP says in a release.

"Currently, the sale and import of cat and dog fur is legal in Canada and there are products that use some quantity of undeclared dog or cat fur," he says. "The sale and import of dog and car fur in Canada must end."

Under existing law, labels may simply state "fur fiber" without listing every type of fur in the product. Siksay said his bill would require full disclosure, no matter how small the quantity.

"Prohibiting the dog and cat fur trade, and allowing for truth in labelling gives confidence to caring Canadian consumers who are looking to avoid real fur products," stated Lesley Fox, executive director of the Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals.