

# Politics, Science and the Environment

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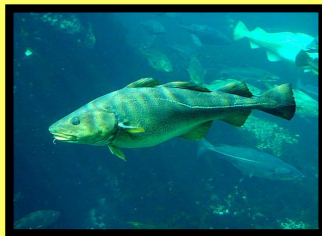
## Seminar Description:

This seminar is done in small groups, and lets us engage with fellow students in a student led atmosphere. We are given a series of cases that require everyone to do research and critically analyse the situation to come to a group conclusion. Each and every person is critical to the group because everyone does their part to bring information to the group and help each other solve the case.



## Example Case:

As a representative of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, we have been selected to examine a case involving the current state of Atlantic Cod and Harp seals off the coast of Newfoundland. On one side of the case is the Canadian Marine Environment Protection Society is asking for a Royal Commission on the yearly harp seal kill. The other side is the Newfoundland Fisheries associations which are pressing to increase the seal cull quota to protect the dwindling Atlantic Cod stocks. We are being tasked to address the minister on this topic to advise whether or not a royal commission is necessary, and what should be done to find a solution to this issue.



## How We Learn:

- Enquiry-based learning
- Incorporating different aspects of our backgrounds into each case
- Building of ideas through discussion
- Working through problems
- Considering what we know/don't know/need to find out to structure our research
- Individual research topics through learning issues
- Presentation of different learning issues through different methods

### Seal Hunt Case Learning Issues

- Royal Commissions
- State of the seal + cod populations
- Geography of cod + seal migration
- Government + non-government organizations
- Statistics on the seal + cod populations
- Technology of the seal hunt
- Economic Impact of Seal cull
- Policy on the seal hunt (1970-present)

## What We Gained:

- Finding credible resources
- Giving and taking critical feedback
- New methods to approach research topics
- Research skills that can apply to our university careers
- Interdisciplinary collaboration
- Critical thinking



## Who We Are:

Our section includes eight students, each with differing academic and social backgrounds. Such diversity allows for a wealth of knowledge to be brought to each class and instills discussions that provides a great learning experience for all. It is truly a convergence of diverse individuals that work together to see all perspectives of the centralized goals of our cases.



**Politics, Science and the Environment** goes in-depth into environmental issues impacting our world. This seminar evokes many questions about the use of national and international policies. The diversity and the way society chooses to respond to global challenge will be critically analyzed with research and communication skills.