

Canadian riles N. Zealand over 'eskimo'

by UPI

VANCOUVER, British Columbia -- A Canadian Inuit woman has sparked controversy in New Zealand with her complaints of racism over a candy called an "Eskimo Lolly."

Seeka Lee Veevee Parsons, 21, has been in New Zealand for two months on a working holiday near Rotorua. She sparked a media firestorm when she denounced the name of the popular marshmallow confection, the Toronto Star's western bureau in Vancouver reported Thursday.

"Calling someone an Eskimo is no longer responsible," Parsons told the Star. "Is it right that people go around eating shapes of people of another culture?"

Among hundreds of hostile reactions posted in local media was one that criticized Parsons' alleged political correctness.

"I eat jelly babies. It doesn't mean that I like to bite small children," the writer said.

Parsons told the Star she hadn't been aware there is a Canadian Football League team called the Edmonton Eskimos until her family mentioned it was her grandfather's favorite team.

Daniel Ellis, spokesman for Cadbury/Pascall, the candy maker, said the company has no intention of changing the name, the report said.

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