

ᐱᓗᑕᑦᑕᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᐅᐱᑦᑕᑦ ᑖᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦᑕᑦ
Tammaqtailinahuarniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

June 13th 2017

Drikus Gissing
Director of Wildlife,
Dept. of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Patrick Ballay
Acting Director of
Treaty Management East,
Indigenous and Northern
Affairs Canada

Paul Irrngaut
Wildlife Director,
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

Joe Ashevak
Chairperson of the Kitikmeot
Regional Wildlife Board

James Qillaq
Chairperson of the
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Stanley Adjuk
Chairperson of the
Kivalliq Wildlife Board

Samuel Iverson
Wildlife Management and
Regulatory Affairs
Canadian Wildlife Service

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Meeting/conference call to discuss next steps for adjourned Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Public Hearing concerning the revised *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan*

This letter is follow-up correspondence from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) to its June 2nd 2017 announcement to adjourn the June 6th to 8th 2017 public hearing concerning the draft *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan*.¹

The NWMB is of the view that it is essential for the hearing to be resumed at the earliest reasonable opportunity. Accordingly, the Board is inviting you to attend a proposed meeting/conference call on June 19th 2017, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, to be held in the NWMB's Boardroom. The purpose of the meeting/call is twofold:

- (a) to attempt to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to prevent similar hearing adjournments in the future; and
- (b) to attempt to reach a consensus on the conditions and timing for resumption of the hearing - ideally in the fall of 2017.

By way of brief summary, the primary reasons for the hearing adjournment are the following:

1. Because the NWMB has no legal obligation to fund travel and accommodation costs for parties attending its hearings, there is no funding designated – or otherwise available - in the Board’s annual operating budget to pay for intervenor or party attendance at NWMB hearings;

¹ Attached to this letter are the following seven background documents: April 13th 2017 NWMB hearing invitation letter, May 26th 2017 Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB) withdrawal letter, May 30th NWMB reply letter to QWB, June 1st QWB follow-up withdrawal letter, June 2nd Kivalliq Wildlife Board withdrawal letter, June 2nd NWMB adjournment letter, and June 5th NWMB adjournment Press Release.

2. The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB) and the Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB) believe that the NWMB – by not funding travel and accommodation costs for all affected Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) to participate in the hearing² - did not provide an equal opportunity for those HTOs to attend the hearing; and
3. QWB reports that no Qikiqtaaluk HTOs have any funding to attend NWMB hearings, and QWB does not have funding allocated to send HTO delegates to Board hearings.

The NWMB proposes that the agenda for the June 19th meeting/conference call be as follows:

- (a) Introductions and opening remarks;
- (b) Discussion regarding steps (including approximate timelines) required to ensure adequate funding is available for affected RWOs and HTOs to attend NWMB in-person hearings;
- (c) Discussion regarding conditions and timing for a prompt resumption of the *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan* hearing – including the consideration of resuming the hearing as a written hearing only; and
- (d) Closing remarks.

The NWMB requests that you confirm, by no later than Thursday, June 15th 2017 at 5:00 pm Iqaluit time, your attendance (or attendance by a suitable representative of your organization) - and whether you require a translator - at the June 19th meeting/conference call.

Best regards,



Daniel Shewchuk
Acting Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board



Attachments (7)

c.c. David Akeegok, Deputy Minister of Environment, Nunavut Department of Environment;
James Eetoook, Vice President, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Jason Mikki, Executive Director, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board;
Ema Qaggutaq, Regional Coordinator, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board;
Qovik Netser, Regional Coordinator, Kivalliq Wildlife Board;
Laura Gemmell, Acting Manager, Treaty Management East, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada;
Lisa Pirie, Acting Head of Eastern Arctic, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada;
Caroline Ladanowski, Director, Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada;
Jenna Boon, Nunavut Field Unit Superintendent, Parks Canada Agency;
Adamie Delisle Alaku, Executive Vice President, Makivik Corporation; and
Paul Crowley, Vice-President Arctic, World Wildlife Fund Canada
Annie Tattuinee, Executive Director, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat

² The NWMB was able – for this hearing - to re-profile from its 2017-2018 operating budget sufficient funding to provide travel and accommodation assistance for 18 Regional Wildlife Organization (RWO) and HTO representatives to attend the hearing (6 from each Region; note: the Qikiqtaaluk Region has 13 affected HTOs). The provision of such funding was not an NWMB obligation; rather, it was a necessarily limited, voluntary donation – similar to a number of other limited donations provided without incident to RWOs and HTOs since 2008.



Aᓕᑦᓂᓐ ᔨᓚᓐᓐ ᑖᓐᓂᑎᒃᓴ ᑖᑖᑏᑖᑖᑏᑏᑏ ᑖᑖᑖᑏ ᑖᑖᑖᑏᑖᑏᑏᑏ ᑖᑖᑖᑏ ᑖᑖᑖᑏᑏᑏᑏ ᑖᑖᑖᑏᑏᑏᑏ
Tammaqtailinahuarniriit annugutghat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

Box 1379
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
 (867) 975-7300
 (888) 421-9832

replacing the current *Polar Bear Memorandum of Understanding* as the guiding document for polar bear management in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

In June of 2015, the Department submitted a *Proposal for Decision* to the NWMB for approval of the original Plan. The Board held a written public hearing in the fall of 2015, and subsequently decided to adjourn that hearing in order to permit the Department to carefully review the submissions received, and to consider revisions to the original Plan based upon its review.

The Department subsequently reviewed those written submissions, undertook and completed a number of revisions, and then conducted further consultations with relevant Inuit organizations during October and November of 2016. The result of that process is the revised Plan, submitted to the NWMB on February 2nd 2017. At the Board's March 2017 quarterly meeting, the NWMB decided to resume the *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan* hearing process as an in-person public hearing.

3. Results of pre-hearing teleconferences

The NWMB has held two pre-hearing teleconferences concerning its planned resumption of the hearing process – one on February 15th, shortly after receiving the revised Plan, and the other on March 30th, following its quarterly meeting.

At the February 15th call, all participants¹ indicated that they would support whatever hearing format (written or in-person) the Board decided upon, and that they intended to participate in the hearing process.

At the March 30th call, attendees provided their views on a draft hearing agenda prepared by the NWMB.² Subject to proposed minor changes (since accepted by the Board), all participants agreed to the timelines and most other details set out in the hearing agenda, which is attached to this correspondence as Appendix A. The agreed-upon timelines for party submissions and resulting questions and answers during the three day hearing are as follows:

- ❖ Nunavut Department of Environment: 3 hours and 55 minutes;
- ❖ Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.: 2 hours;
- ❖ The Qikiqtaaluk Region (Regional Wildlife Organization and Hunters and Trappers Organizations): 3 hours and 15 minutes;

¹ In attendance were representatives of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, the Arviat Hunters and Trappers Association (on behalf of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board), the Department, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Parks Canada, and the World Wildlife Fund Canada.

² In attendance were representatives of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, the Department, Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Polar Bear Administrative Committee. The NWMB will soon be issuing to all participants – under separate cover - a summary record of the pre-hearing teleconference.

- ❖ The Kivalliq Region (Regional Wildlife Organization and Hunters and Trappers Organizations): 3 hours and 15 minutes;
- ❖ The Kitikmeot Region (Regional Wildlife Organization and Hunters and Trappers Organizations): 3 hours and 15 minutes;
- ❖ Qaujimaniliit: 2 hours;
- ❖ Makivik Corporation: 1 hour;
- ❖ World Wildlife Fund Canada: 1 hour;
- ❖ Environment and Climate Change Canada and Parks Canada: 1 hour and 30 minutes; and
- ❖ Members of the public: 45 minutes.

4. Dates and location of the hearing

The “*Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Public Hearing to Consider the Government of Nunavut’s Polar Bear Co-Management Plan*” will take place over three (3) days - June 6th, 7th and 8th 2017 - in Iqaluit at the Cadet Hall. Day 1 begins at 9:00 am. The rest of the daily schedules are set out in the attached hearing agenda. Please note that the NWMB reserves the right to modify details of the agenda, including the daily schedules.

5. NWMB funding for attendance by representatives of Inuit harvesters

The Board is prepared to pay travel and accommodation costs for attendance by up to six (6) representatives from each region (consisting of Distinguished Elders/Qaujimaniliit and representatives of the Regional Wildlife Organization and/or Hunters and Trappers Organizations) – for a total of eighteen (18) participants in total. Selection of those representatives will be decided by the Regional Wildlife Organizations. Unfortunately, the NWMB has no further funding assistance available.

6. Best available information and NWMB Hearing Rules

Copies of the Department’s *Proposal for Decision* (Appendix B) and the NWMB Hearing Rules (Appendix C) are attached to this letter. These - and a number of additional documents comprising the best available information to date – including the revised Plan are also available for download from the NWMB’s online hearing registry (found at www.nwmb.com), or by contacting the Board at the following address:

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
 1106 Ikaluktuutiak Road, Allavvik Bldg., 3rd Floor
 P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0
 Phone: (867) 975-7300
 Fax: (888) 421-9832
 E-Mail: tsataa@nwmb.com

7. Invitation and instructions to provide written submissions

Through this letter, the NWMB is extending an invitation to your department or organization to provide written submissions and supporting documentation³ in response to the Department's *Proposal for Decision*. **All written materials must be filed with the NWMB – in English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun – by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit Time) on May 19th 2017.** The requirement for translation does not apply to supporting documentation over ten (10) pages in length, as long as each supporting document that is not translated is accompanied by a concise, translated summary (English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun) at least two (2) pages in length.

In addition, the Board is extending an invitation to your department or organization to attend the hearing as a party entitled to make oral submissions, and to ask and answer questions of the other parties. **In order to help ensure a fair and efficient hearing, the NWMB requires that a qualified representative of your department or organization confirm in writing – by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit Time) on May 19th 2017 – attendance by your department or organization as a party at the public hearing.**

Subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy concerns, all submissions and supporting documentation will be placed on the NWMB's website/hearing registry, and will be available for download shortly after they are filed with the Board.

Please take careful note that, unless persuasive written and translated reasons are provided to the NWMB for late filing, the Board will not consider materials for this hearing that are not filed on time.

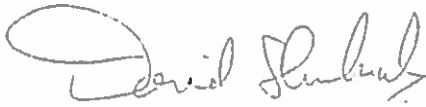
Materials may be filed with the Board in person, by courier or by mail. They must be clearly marked as pertaining to the *NWMB Public Hearing on the Polar Bear Co-Management Plan*. Delivery of the materials may also be made through fax or electronic transmission, but only if your department or organization confirms by phone with the NWMB – **by no later than the filing deadline** – that a complete and legible copy of the transmission has been received by the Board. Materials are deemed to have been filed on the actual day of receipt by the NWMB.

Please keep in mind that the more thorough, reliable and persuasive supporting evidence and justifications are for your submissions, the more weight they will be given by the NWMB in the *Nunavut Agreement* decision-making process.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to visit the NWMB website or to contact the Board directly.

³ "Supporting documentation" refers to one or more studies, articles, opinions or other documents separate from a person's or organization's written submission, filed as additional evidence and/or argument in support of that person's or organization's submission.

Yours sincerely,



**Dan Shewchuk
A/Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board**

Attachments (3)

- c.c. Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Department of Environment;
Paul Irrgaut, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Jason Mikki, Executive Director, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board;
Ema Qaggutaq, Regional Coordinator, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board;
Qovik Netser, Regional Coordinator, Kivalliq Wildlife Board;
Adamie Delisle Alaku, Executive Vice President, Makivik Corporation;
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Acting Head of Eastern Arctic, Canadian Wildlife Service,
Environment and Climate Change Canada;
Caroline Ladanowski, Director, Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs
Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada;
Jenna Boon, Nunavut Field Unit Superintendent, Parks Canada Agency; and
Paul Crowley, Vice-President Arctic, World Wildlife Fund Canada;**



We do not recognize the proposed Hearing as being fair or valid under the spirit of the Nunavut Agreement.

Therefore, the QWB cannot participate in the public Hearing during June 6-8, 2017.


2. Through this letter, I notify the NWMB that the QWB rejects the revised Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan. It is unacceptable in its current form.

Further, the QWB officially withdraws its May 19 Written Submission regarding the revised Plan. We do this because we will be unable to discuss and explain fully our Submission, with the support and additional information that could be offered by all our HTOs if a full and fair Hearing was to be convened.

I regret that the QWB had to make these decisions, but we will not participate in the unfair treatment of the HTOs that we represent as the NWMB has asked us to do. We must stand up for basic principles of co-management, and the spirit of the Nunavut Agreement.

We trust that in future, the NWMB will enable the QWB and all its HTOs to represent their members fully, equally and in-person with respect to this Plan, which will be so important to the Inuit across Nunavut and in every community.

Sincerely,



Joshua Kango
Vice-Chairperson
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

cc. 13 Hunters and Trappers Organizations, Qikiqtaaluk region
James Eetoolook, Vice-President, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Joe Ashevak, Chairperson, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board
Stanley Adjuk, Chairperson, Kivalliq Wildlife Board
Drikkus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Government of Nunavut

May 30th 2017

James Qillaq
Chairperson of the
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Dear James:

Re: Withdrawal of the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board from the Public Hearing of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board concerning the revised *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan*

1. Reasons for withdrawal by the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board from the public hearing process

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) was dismayed by the May 26th letter from Vice-Chairperson Joshua Kango, informing the NWMB that the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB) Executive Committee has decided to withdraw from the June 6th to 8th 2017 public hearing concerning the revised *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan*.

In summary, the reasons provided for the withdrawal are the following:

1. The NWMB's April 13th offer to fund travel and accommodation costs for attendance by six Qikiqtani representatives at the hearing violates the spirit – and possibly even the letter – of the *Nunavut Agreement*;
2. In order for the hearing to be fair and valid, the NWMB would have to fund travel and accommodation costs for attendance at the hearing by representatives of all thirteen Hunters and Trappers Organizations from the Qikiqtaaluk Region; and
3. In such circumstances, QWB must stand up for the basic principles of co-management and the spirit of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

In the NWMB's view, QWB has based its decision on an unfortunate misunderstanding of the facts. I am very much hoping that the explanation below will convince you to reconvene a meeting of your Executive Committee to reconsider QWB's May 26th decision.

2. The NWMB has no legal obligation to fund travel and accommodation costs for parties attending an NWMB hearing

I want to assure you that the Board is under no legal obligation – whether from the *Nunavut Agreement*, other federal or territorial laws, the law made by judges (case law), or any contractual agreement – to fund travel and accommodation costs for parties attending an NWMB hearing. As a result, the NWMB has never received any type of intervenor or participant funding from the federal government.¹

¹ The NWMB is required by Section 5.7.13 of the *Nunavut Agreement* to provide “adequate funding” for the operation of HTOs and RWOs. However, the reference to “adequate funding” necessarily refers to RWO and HTO funding levels determined by the parties to the *Nunavut Agreement* (or, where those parties cannot reach agreement, by Canada) through

Nevertheless, the Board – following the basic principles of co-management and the spirit of the *Nunavut Agreement* – has consistently attempted to maintain a close working partnership with the Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs) and Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs), including with respect to their participation at NWMB hearings.

Indeed, the Board has gone out of its way on a number of occasions over the years to secure funding from its own annual operating budget – funding designated for carrying out NWMB legal responsibilities under Article 5 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, but re-profiled in order to provide financial assistance to RWOs and HTOs. The provision of such funding is not an NWMB obligation; rather, it is a necessarily occasional, voluntary donation intended to ensure stronger RWO and HTO participation in the Nunavut wildlife management system.

By way of example, between 2008 and 2013, the NWMB held a total of one in-person pre-hearing conference and seven public hearings, all of which affected more than one Nunavut Region:

1. For four of the hearings, the Board did not offer any financial assistance to RWOs or HTOs for hearing attendance.² No HTO or RWO complained of being treated unfairly.
2. For the other three hearings, the NWMB provided modest financial assistance for hearing attendance.³ No HTO or RWO complained of being treated unfairly.
3. With respect to the single pre-hearing conference, the Board provided modest financial assistance for attendance.⁴ Once again, no HTO or RWO complained of being treated unfairly.

As a result of its consistent experience of no complaints during those six years, the NWMB reasonably understood that QWB had no concerns regarding this occasional, voluntary NWMB practice.

Over the years, the Board has taken additional important steps to help ensure RWO and HTO independence and participation at NWMB public hearings. For instance, the Board advised the Nunavut Implementation Panel - in its December 14th 2012 *Funding Proposal and Workplan for the Period from July 9th 2013 to July 8th 2023* – that the *Nunavut Agreement* parties must ensure adequate funding for RWOs and HTOs to participate at NWMB public hearings.⁵

Since the protection of Qikiqtani Inuit harvesting rights and Nunavut wildlife are necessarily essential QWB wildlife management responsibilities, the NWMB presumes that QWB made a similar recommendation in its own

implementation funding negotiations for each 10-year implementation planning period. The current planning period covers 2013 to 2023.

² No financial assistance: The March 6th 2008 Bowhead Whale total allowable harvest public hearing, the September 10th 2008 public hearing to list Grizzly Bear as a species of special concern, the February 10th 2009 Bowhead Whale total allowable harvest public hearing, and the April 13th 2010 public hearing to list Polar Bear as a species of special concern.

³ Modest financial assistance: The September 11th and 12th 2012 public hearing to establish basic needs levels for beluga, narwhal and walrus (12 delegates in total, shared between QWB, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB) and the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB)); the July 24th to 26th 2012 public hearing concerning the *Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Narwhal*, including accompanying harvesting limitations (12 delegates in total, shared equally between QWB and KWB); and the September 10th and 11th 2013 Foxe Basin Polar Bear total allowable harvest public hearing (8 delegates in total, shared equally between QWB and KWB).

⁴ Modest financial assistance: The December 10th 2009 pre-hearing conference to list Polar Bear as a species of special concern (6 delegates in total: 2 for QWB, 2 for KWB and 2 for KRWB).

⁵ "...Informed RWO and HTO input into the hearing process – through the development of written and/or oral submissions, and attendance at the hearing – is crucial for informed and fair NWMB decision-making (NLCA S.5.1.2(h), 5.1.3(b)(ii), (iii) and (v), 5.2.26, 5.2.28, 5.2.34(f), 5.7.3(a) and (d), and 5.7.6(a) and (d))."

2013 to 2023 funding proposal and workplan regarding its funding needs for the current implementation planning period. The Board also presumes that the relatively significant budget increases achieved by the RWOs and HTOs for 2013 to 2023 include a reasonable level of funding for participation at NWMB hearings.

3. The NWMB's legal obligation is to hold procedurally fair public hearings

Among the most important of the Board's wildlife management responsibilities is the holding of procedurally fair public hearings. Procedural fairness includes three crucial elements: proper notice of the hearing, adequate disclosure of the relevant issues and facts, and the provision of a reasonable opportunity for affected harvesters to make their views known (via written submissions and/or the right to attend the hearing as a party). The NWMB has met all of those legal responsibilities with respect to this particular public hearing.

In fact, the Board has taken even more care than usual with the procedures it has followed in preparing for this highly important hearing:

1. The NWMB started with a written hearing in the fall of 2015, to which it properly applied the three crucial elements of procedural fairness;
2. In the course of that hearing, the NWMB decided that the draft *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan* required further development; the Board therefore adjourned the hearing to permit the Department of Environment to carefully review the submissions received, and to consider revisions to the original Plan based upon its review;
3. The Department subsequently undertook and completed a number of revisions, and then conducted further consultations with relevant Inuit organizations during October and November of 2016; the result of that process is the revised draft Plan, submitted to the NWMB on February 2nd 2017; the Board then held two pre-hearing teleconferences with the hearing parties (February 15th and March 30th);
4. At the initial teleconference, all parties – including QWB - indicated that they would support whatever hearing format (written or in-person) the Board decided upon; after careful consideration, the NWMB decided that an in-person public hearing was warranted; and
5. During the second teleconference, the parties discussed concerns over the dates and location of the hearing, the length of the hearing, the number of party representatives for whom the NWMB would pay travel and accommodation costs, the proposed agenda, and the timelines for oral submissions and resulting questions and answers; at the end of the teleconference, the Board was careful to ask all of the participants if they had remaining concerns. No concerns or disagreements were expressed by any of the participants, including the QWB representatives.

Within just one week - on April 7th - the NWMB issued a summary of the discussions at the pre-hearing teleconference, the final version of the hearing agenda, and a formal hearing invitation letter to the parties. All three documents reflected the consensus reached at the March 30th teleconference.

During the following seven weeks, the Board received no questions, concerns or replies to the three April 7th documents. At the end of the work day on Friday, May 26th – approximately one week before the hearing is to commence – QWB unexpectedly delivered its withdrawal letter to the NWMB.

4. Conclusion

The NWMB's legal obligation is to provide a reasonable opportunity for affected harvesters and their representative organizations to respond to the *Proposal for Decision* that has been presented to the Board for approval. The NWMB is confident that it has met that legal obligation; in fact, the Board believes it has satisfied a very high standard in meeting all of its procedural fairness obligations to QWB and the other hearing parties. Accordingly, the NWMB met by teleconference on May 29th, and unanimously decided to proceed with the hearing as scheduled.

James, it goes without saying that QWB is entitled to not attend the public hearing, and to withdraw its written submission. However, the NWMB believes that QWB's withdrawal from this very important wildlife management process would be an unfortunate and unnecessary loss for all concerned – a loss that could be felt by Qikiqtani harvesters for many years to come. I therefore sincerely ask you, on behalf of the NWMB, to reverse the May 26th decision, and to have QWB once again play the thoughtful leadership role it has displayed at so many NWMB hearings over the years.

If you require further information or explanation, the NWMB's Executive Director and Legal Counsel would be happy to meet with you and/or your Executive Committee at a mutually convenient time prior to the commencement of the hearing.

Yours sincerely,



Dan Shewchuk
A/Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

c.c. Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Nunavut Minister of Environment;
Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada;
Atuki Kotierk, President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Joe Ashevak, Chairperson of the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board;
Stanley Adjuk, Chairperson of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board;
Chairpersons of the Nunavut Hunters and Trappers Organizations,
c/o the Executive Director, Annie Tattuinee, of the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat;
Daniel Watson, Chief Executive Officer, Parks Canada Agency;
David Miller, President and CEO, World Wildlife Fund Canada;
Jobie Tukkiapik, President of Makivik Corporation;
Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Department of Environment;
Paul Irngaut, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Jason Mikki, Executive Director, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board;
Ema Qaggutaq, Regional Coordinator, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board;
Qovik Netser, Regional Coordinator, Kivalliq Wildlife Board;
Adamie Delisle Alaku, Executive Vice President, Makivik Corporation;
Lisa Pirie, Acting Head of Eastern Arctic, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada;
Caroline Ladanowski, Director, Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada;
Jenna Boon, Nunavut Field Unit Superintendent, Parks Canada Agency; and
Paul Crowley, Vice-President Arctic, World Wildlife Fund Canada.

Sent by e-mail to: tsataa@nwmb.com

On behalf of the QWB, I am replying to your response to Mr. Kango's letter of May 26, 2017 regarding the polar bear plan hearing.

Further, it is not true that the QWB did not inform the NWMB about our concerns for 7 weeks.

In our view, NWMB had enough time to discuss QWB's concerns internally, and then engage the QWB in positive discussions. The NWMB did not engage us to build a consensus.

NWMB's ED essentially replied, No. The agenda had already been set, and he was unwilling to consider changes. He stated that each region would get the same amount of time, regardless

of how many delegates they send. Therefore, NWMB would not allow each of Qikiqtaaluk's 13 HTO representatives to fairly and reasonably make their views known on par with other HTOs.

Annie Tattuinee, Executive Director, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, also supported QWB's position, and spoke about the meaning of fairness and representation as per the spirit of the Agreement

Over the next month, the QWB became dismayed that the NWMB's did not engage us in a timely manner.

The NWMB apparently wants to hear from 12 delegates from 12 communities that have a basic TAH allocation of about 178 polar bears, but from only 6 of 13 communities with a TAH of about 312 bears. Those other 12 delegates will be funded by NWMB, and will be given twice as much time to speak. The QWB cannot accept that as fair. We do not accept that the NWMB has met its own stated criteria for "provision of a reasonable opportunity for affected harvesters to make their views known" in a procedurally fair hearing.

Very few of our HTOs have any funding for travel, and none specifically for attending NWMB Hearings. Similarly, the QWB does not have funding allocated for sending HTO delegates to NWMB Hearings.

In a teleconference today for all members of the QWB, our Board again decided not to participate in the NWMB hearing planned for next week. We gave the reasons for withdrawing from the public hearing in Mr. Kango's letter. We believe that the NWMB attempted to inaccurately reframe our reasons in its written response of May 30, 2017. Mr. Kango's letter stands on its own.

The QWB is willing to discuss a fair in-person public hearing process. If the NWMB becomes interested in reaching a true consensus, I suggest that the current Hearing process be postponed.

Sincerely,



Jason Mikki
Executive Director

cc. James Qillaq, Chairperson, QWB
Chairpersons, 13 Qikiqtaaluk HTOs
Chairpersons, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot RWOs
Paul Inngaut, NTI
Annie Tattuinee, NIWS



Mr. D. Shewchuck
 A/Chairperson
 Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
 PO Box 1379
 Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

Equal and Fair Opportunity for All HTOs to Participate in Public Hearings

In agreeance with the QWB Executive, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board also feels that all HTOs throughout Nunavut should be treated fairly and equally during NWMB hearings and have the same opportunity to participate in public hearings. In the case of in-person hearings, this means that all HTOs potentially affected by the subject matter of the hearing should have equal opportunity to attend the hearing. With this revised Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan hearing, we do not feel that representatives of affected harvesters from every community do have reasonable opportunity to make their views known.

When NWMB is providing financial assistance to RWOs and/or HTOs to attend the hearings, it should be made explicitly clear how much funding will be provided to each RWO and HTO so that if the RWOs and HTOs need to supplement the funding, this can be planned and arranged. Ideally, the financial assistance that NWMB provides should be shared equally between all HTOs and the HTO expenses incurred to participate in meetings should be equivalent from HTO to HTO.



Vineyard Cove

Kivalliq Wildlife Board | Box 219 Rankin Inlet, NU | X0C 0G0 | T. 867-645-4860 | F. 867-645-4961 | www.kwb.ca
ᑕᓴᖃᓴᐱ ᗪᓴᓴᓴᐅᓴᒃᓴᐱ | ᑲᓴᑦ 219 ᑕᓴᓴᓴᐱ ᑕᓴᓴᓴᐱ, ᑕᓴᓴᓴᐱ | X0C 0G0 | ᑕᓴᓴᓴᐱ 867.645.4860 | ᑕᓴᓴᓴᐱ 867.645.4961



Whale Cove

Kivalliq Wildlife Board | Box 219 Rankin Inlet, NU | X0C 0G0 | t. 867-645-4860 | f. 867-645-4861 | www.niws.ca
ᑕᓴᐅᔭᗵᖃ ᒃᓂᓄᓇᑦᓱᑲᐁ 219 ᑐᑦᓯᑦ ᐱᓪᓰᓶᓷᓚᑦ ᑦᓂᑎᑏ ᒷᓻᓆᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦᓴᑦ ᓄᓇᛉᑦ | X0C 0G0 | ᓫᓪᑐᑦᑤ 867.645.4860 | ᓬᓪᑲᓈᑦᑦ 867.645.4861



Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

ᐱᓗᕙᑕᑕᑦᑭᑦ ᐃᒻᓴᑦᑭᑦ ᑖᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ ᑖᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ ᑖᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ ᑖᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ
Tammaqtailinahuarniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujima jatugangillu ilihmaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujima jatugangit and scientific knowledge

June 2nd 2017

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Hon. Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment
And Climate Change
Canada

Aluki Kotierk
President of Nunavut
Tunngavik Inc

Joe Ashevak
Chairperson of the
Kitikmeot Regional
Wildlife Board

James Qillaq
Chairperson of the
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Stanley Adjuk
Chairperson of the
Kivalliq Wildlife Board

**Chairpersons of the
Nunavut Hunters and
Trappers Organizations,
c/o the Executive Director
of the Nunavut Inuit
Wildlife Secretariat**

Daniel Watson
Chief Executive Officer
Parks Canada Agency

Jobie Tukkiapik
President of Makivik
Corporation

David Miller
President and CEO
World Wildlife Fund
Canada

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Adjournment of the Public Hearing of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board concerning the revised *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan*

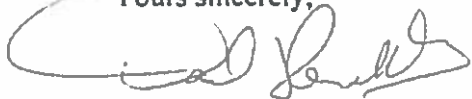
The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has regretfully decided to indefinitely adjourn its June 6th to 8th 2017 public hearing regarding the Nunavut Department of Environment's revised *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan*. The reason for the adjournment is that the NWMB was informed on May 26th and June 1st by the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB), and on June 2nd by the Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB), that they will not attend the hearing for the reasons provided in their letters attached to this correspondence.¹

The NWMB regrets that misunderstandings among co-management partners have led to this adjournment decision. The Board apologizes for the resulting inconvenience to hearing parties. Nevertheless, as a practical matter, the NWMB is of the view that the hearing cannot proceed at this time in the absence of two RWOs.

The Board will soon be in further touch regarding next steps.

¹ Accompanying this letter are copies of the May 26th and June 1st correspondence from QWB, May 30th correspondence from the NWMB, and June 2nd correspondence from KWB.

Yours sincerely,



Dan Shewchuk
A/Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Attachments (4)

- c.c. Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Department of Environment;
Paul Imgaut, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Jason Mikki, Executive Director, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board;
Ema Qaggutaq, Regional Coordinator, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board;
Qovik Netser, Regional Coordinator, Kivalliq Wildlife Board;
Adamic Delisle Alaku, Executive Vice President, Makivik Corporation;
Lisa Pirie, Acting Head of Eastern Arctic, Canadian Wildlife Service,
Environment and Climate Change Canada;
Caroline Ladanowski, Director, Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs
Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada;
Jenna Boon, Nunavut Field Unit Superintendent, Parks Canada Agency; and
Paul Crowley, Vice-President Arctic, World Wildlife Fund Canada;

~ PRESS RELEASE ~



**Adjournment by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board of its June 6th to 8th 2017
Public Hearing concerning the *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan***

(June 5th 2017 – Iqaluit, Nunavut) The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) has decided to adjourn its scheduled June 6th to 8th 2017 public hearing concerning the draft *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan* until at least the fall of 2017. The NWMB made this decision following the receipt of correspondence from the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (May 26th and June 2nd 2017) and the Kivalliq Wildlife Board (June 2nd 2017), which announced that they would not be attending the hearing. The primary reason provided by the two Regional Wildlife Organizations for their withdrawal from the hearing was the lack of sufficient funding provided by the NWMB to pay travel and accommodation costs for all Hunters and Trappers Organizations to attend the hearing.

The NWMB has no legal obligation to fund travel and accommodation costs for parties attending its hearings. As a consequence, there is no funding designated in the NWMB's annual operating budget to pay for intervenor or party attendance at NWMB hearings. Nevertheless, the NWMB, for this particular hearing, was able to re-profile funding from its budget to pay attendance costs for a total of eighteen (18) Regional Wildlife Organization and Hunters and Trappers Organization participants from all three Regions (Qikiqtaaluk, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot).

While the NWMB regrets that this misunderstanding about its funding obligations has led to the adjournment of the hearing, it is ready to work with Nunavut's Regional Wildlife Organizations and Hunters and Trappers Organizations - as well as with the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated - to ensure that affected Inuit wildlife organizations are able to participate in NWMB hearings.

To receive more information regarding the adjournment of the public hearing, please contact the NWMB:

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0
Phone: (867) 975-7300
Fax: (888) 421-9832
E-Mail: receptionist@nwmb.com
Website: www.nwmb.com

