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Environment
CanadaEnvironnement
CanadaGatineau, QC
K1A 0H3**AUG 27 2009**Mr. Harry Flaherty
Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit NU X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Flaherty:

I am writing to advise you of what the Minister is considering with respect to his recommendation to the Governor in Council regarding a listing decision for the Short-eared Owl on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*, and to request the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's approval decision. This request is being made in accordance with subsection 3.9 of the Memorandum of Understanding to Harmonize the Designation of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and the Listing of Wildlife Species at Risk Under the *Species at Risk Act* (MOU).

In April 2008, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada assessed the Short-eared Owl as special concern. In accordance with this assessment, the Minister is considering recommending to the Governor in Council that the Short-eared Owl on Schedule 1 of the Act as a species of special concern.

Recognizing that the Department did not submit its request by May 31st for an approval decision, as set out in the MOU, I am requesting that you advise the Minister of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision regarding this proposed listing recommendation by February 28, 2010, with a copy to me. Although this request does not adhere to the specific month stated in the MOU, the amount of time allotted for the decision making process has been respected. This response would correspond with subsection 3.14 of the MOU. Environment Canada remains committed to making the MOU function as envisaged by all parties in its development, and will continue its efforts to meet the specified timelines in the future.

I understand that my staff briefed the Board on the results of the community consultations in June 2009. They would be happy to provide the Board with an update.

I appreciate the Board's ongoing participation in the species at risk listing process.

Sincerely,

for Virginia Poter
Director General
Canadian Wildlife Service**Canada**

www.ec.gc.ca





Dear Minister Prentice:

Re: the proposed legal listing of the short-eared owl as a species of special concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA)

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) conducted a public consideration of the proposed listing of the short-eared owl through a written hearing taking place during November 23, 2009 through January 8, 2010. On February 16, 2010, the NWMB held a decision-making session at which the Board reviewed a summary of the written submissions filed by parties to the hearing. Pursuant to Section 5.3.17 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA) and Step 3.14 of the *Memorandum of Understanding to Harmonize the Designation of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the Listing of Wildlife Species at Risk under the Species at Risk Act* (NLCA/SARA MOU), the NWMB hereby forwards its decision to you.

RESOLVED that the NWMB:

Approve the listing of the short-eared owl as a species of special concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).

The NWMB's reason for approving the listing was that the best available information suggests the number of short-eared owls has been declining for 40 years, and has declined by 23% in the last 10 years. The short-eared owl therefore may become a threatened or endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats. The Board also heard that there is no population status or trend information about the short-eared owl in Nunavut, and felt that listing this species could present an

opportunity for this information gap to be addressed through the subsequent management planning process.

Should you have any questions or concerns with respect to this decision or the rationale provided by the NWMB, please do not hesitate to contact the Board.

Yours sincerely,



Willie Nakoolak,
A/Chairperson of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

cc. Virginia Poter, Director General, CWS
Siu-Ling Han, Head, Eastern Arctic Unit, CWS



À 23, 2010

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