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The Inuit right to the entire total allowable harvest is, under Article 5.6.20 of the Nunavut Agreement, contingent upon the total allowable harvest being equal to or less than the basic needs level. My understanding is therefore that the NWMB, while still developing the exact basic needs level for the Blue-Nose East caribou herd, has determined that the basic needs level is no less than 450 caribou per year. I hereby accept this decision of the NWMB that the basic needs level is at least 450 caribou per year and may be higher once the basic needs level is formally struck under Article 5.6.19 of the Nunavut Agreement.

This acceptance is subject to any written clarification from the NWMB if it did not intend make such a decision; any such clarification will have to reach me prior to June 3, 2024, in order to hold back implementation of the decision. Once the regulation has been enacted, I look forward to a formal allocation decision by the relevant Regional Wildlife Board.

I will implement this decision for the 2024-2025 harvest year which begins on July 1, 2024, and the TAH will be put into regulation. This decision will remain in place until I receive a new NWMB decision following the submission of new information. The provisional BNL of at least 450 caribou per year will also be put into regulations. However, the NWMB within two years of this decision being out into regulations must submit a new BNL for the BNE herd or subsequent requests after two years for TAH increases may be denied.

I trust that our collaborative work will continue in the implementation of this management decision, and I value the efforts that have been put forth in its creation.

Sincerely,

Daniel Qavvik  
Minister of Environment

