























**SEP 07 2022**

Mr. Joshua T. Arreak  
Acting Chairperson  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board  
P.O. Box 1379  
Iqaluit NU X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Arreak:

Thank you for your letter of July 13, 2022, in which you present the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision on the proposed up-listing of the Dolphin and Union population of caribou from special concern to endangered under the *Species at Risk Act*.

As Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I recognize the importance of the conservation for Dolphin and Union caribou. I am particularly encouraged by the work of the Government of Nunavut, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, as well as the Ekaluktutiak, Kugluktuk, Bay Chimo and Bathurst Inlet hunters and trappers organizations. Additionally, I take note of the shared efforts in developing a proactive vessel management agreement to reduce the impacts of icebreaking, and implementing a difficult Total Allowable Harvest regime to conserve the species. The efforts of so many partners makes me hopeful for the future of this species.

Environment and Climate Change Canada's investments have supported a number of initiatives. These include the 2020 abundance survey conducted by the Government of Nunavut, the Inuit/Inuvialuit User-to-User Working Group, and the Joint Caribou Health Monitoring Project. Collaborative initiatives to collect Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit will provide further insight into how we can best conserve the Dolphin and Union caribou.

I accept the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision to list the Dolphin and Union population of caribou as endangered. This completes the decision-making process under Article 5 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Over the coming months, I will take steps under the *Species at Risk Act* to implement the proposed status change of the Dolphin and Union population of caribou by recommending the decision to the Governor in Council.

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The work ahead to complete the recovery strategy will benefit greatly from a continued collaborative approach with Nunavut and the Northwest Territories and relevant Indigenous partners. In Nunavut, Environment and Climate Change Canada will continue to work collaboratively with Inuit to integrate applicable Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the next phase of recovery planning.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steven Guilbeault', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P. (il/lui/he/him)