

## Qikiqtarjuaq BB PB Population Concerns

According to our understanding our hto was to board written submission for the up-coming public hearings in Pond Inlet, the board had identified number of concerns in relation to the BB PB Population.

The Nattivak HTO Chairman had radio call-in show on March 28, 2008 concerning BB PB Population and the GNeS position on the matter.

One member of the membership indicated and raised a concern that most of the female polar bear he encounter appear not bearing polar bears cubs, possibly because of the male harvest only and as recommended.

During their regular board meeting on April 19, 2008 the board as a whole identified number of concerns in relation to the population at the time of the mou was signed by the three communities of Pond Inlet, Clyde River, and Qikiqtarjuaq; these observations include:

1. Chernobyl Reactor Explosion may also have contributed to those older and venerable polar bears, as it was explain by the scientist at the time of the fall-out; 2
2. There appear to be less seal pups or juvenile seals for the last several years according to the hunters observations and more polar bears are having hunting success rate and fewer hunters are catching seal pups and juvenile seals.
3. Polar Bear Population appear to be thriving both in Baffin Bay and Davis Strait according to the hunters observations, in early 1980 the Qikiqtarjuaq Hunters use to travel to Cape Dyer Area in search of Polar Bear when the Polar Bear appeared to be scarce and today the Qikiqtarjuaq Hunter no longer needs to travel to Cape Dyer Area as the hunter now spends One day to harvest in Qikiqtarjuaq Area.
4. According to the hunters observations, they are indicating that they are sighting more polar bears and the Government appears to know that there are less polar bears and this results in tug-of-war on who right and who is wrong.
5. The Government of Nunavut will need to identify the need of polar deterrances such as crackers, baton, electric fences, ammunitions, holding cages, as well clear compensation packages for the polar bear hunter equipment damages, polar bear monitors; these are some of the deterrence that the board suggest should the harvest be reduced.
6. Track and Kill Records of the Government of Nunavut should be provided and brought forth, this kill sheet should show number of researched polar bears, where polar bear were tranquillized for the purpose of the research. It should also show the numbers of the previous years up-to-date. (result should clearly show either male, female, and or cubs.
7. This list should also show number of defense kills in each of the respective communities of Pond Inlet, Clyde River, and Qikiqtarjuaq.
8. The director also suggested that prior any polar bear research is conducted, the Government of Nunavut should first consult the community through their respective HTO and during those sessions traditional knowledge (I.Q) should be given a priority over any decision made by the both parties involved, as it clearly stated on the NICA and the policies and procedures of the NWMB.
- 9 Compensation for polar bear attacks.