



Tammaqtainahuarniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihmaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of the Environment
Government of Canada

Honourable Dan Shewchuk
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Paul Kaludjak
President of Nunavut
Tunngavik Incorporated

Ross Tatty
Chairperson of the
Kivalliq Wildlife Board

Attima Hadlari
Chairperson of the
Kitikmeot Regional
Wildlife Board

Jayko Alooloo
Vice-Chairperson of the
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Re: Pre-hearing conference of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board with respect to the proposed listing of Polar Bear as a “*Species of Special Concern*” in the Nunavut Settlement Area

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has scheduled a pre-hearing conference, as a prelude to holding a public hearing to consider the proposed legal listing - pursuant to the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) - of Polar Bear as a “*species of special concern*” in the Nunavut Settlement Area. If a wildlife species is listed as special concern, it means that the species may become threatened or endangered in the future because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

The pre-hearing conference has been arranged in order to assist the NWMB in determining:

- the timing of the hearing, including with respect to the filing of submissions,
- the list of parties attending the hearing,
- the positions of the parties with respect to the proposed listing,
- whether the hearing should include an electronic component for parties unable to attend in person,
- the duration of the hearing,
- the procedures to be followed during the hearing process,
- whether the parties are interested in developing an agreed statement of facts relevant to the subject matter of the hearing.

- whether documents additional to those already filed with the NWMB should be placed on the hearing registry, and
- any other matters that may aid in the success of the hearing.

The pre-hearing conference will take place in Iqaluit on December 10th 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The NWMB is prepared to pay travel and accommodation costs for attendance by two Regional Wildlife Organization representatives from each of the three Regions (six delegates in total). If your department/organization wishes to attend the pre-hearing conference, please provide your confirmation in writing - including with respect to the number of representatives who will attend - by no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 20th 2009.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the Government of Canada's Department of Environment-Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) *Proposal for NWMB Decision* (CWS Proposal), filed recently with the Board. The NWMB is expecting to soon receive a comprehensive set of documents from CWS, comprising the best available information to date concerning the proposed listing of Polar Bear as a species of special concern. Plans are currently underway to place all of those documents on the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com) by no later than November 13th 2009. Thereafter, they will be available for download from the Board's website, or by contacting the NWMB at the following coordinates:

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Parnaivik Building

P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Phone: (867) 975-7300

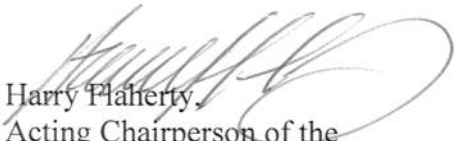
Fax: (867) 975-7320

E-Mail: receptionist@nwmb.com

Subject to consideration of input received at the pre-hearing conference, the NWMB currently intends to hold the hearing in Iqaluit from April 13th to 15th 2010, with public notice and invitations issued on or about January 8th 2010, and all written submissions delivered by no later than March 8th 2010. The Board is prepared to pay travel and accommodation costs for attendance by up to six Distinguished Elders and six RWO/Hunters and Trappers Organization representatives (twelve delegates in total). If other Inuit representatives wish to attend, the NWMB has no further funding available, but will – to the extent reasonably possible – make arrangements for electronic participation at the hearing.

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

Yours sincerely,



Harry Flaherty,
Acting Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Attachment (1)

c.c. Richard Connelly, Executive Director of the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, for distribution to the Chairpersons of Nunavut's Hunters and Trappers Organizations;
Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Department of Environment;
Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Bert Dean, Senior Policy Advisor, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Virginia Potter, Director General, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service;
and
Siu-Ling Han, Head of Eastern Arctic, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service

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 Polar Bear 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 Polar Bear as special concern. In accordance with this assessment, the Minister is considering recommending to the Governor in Council that Polar Bear be added to 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



10, 2009

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 ስልክ: (867) 975-7300
 ስልክ: (867) 975-7320
 ኢሜል: receptionist@nwmb.com

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AUG 28 2009

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RF 07/11/11

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