

WITNESS STATEMENT OF STEVEN PINKSEN

NOTE: Mr. Pinksen is a senior employee of the Government of Nunavut (GN) and will appear before the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (the Board) in both a personal and representative capacity. As such his evidence is based on personal knowledge as well as familiarity with the information available to him in his capacity as Assistant Deputy Minister Department of the Environment Government of Nunavut, Iqaluit.

Summary of Key Facts to be Provided by Mr. Pinksen:

- Is currently Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of the Environment (DOE) in Iqaluit
- Has worked for GN since 1992 when he was a Wildlife Officer in Pangirtung and that he had little involvement with the Southampton Island commercial caribou harvesting operation until 1997 when he was promoted to be Senior Advisor on Legislation and Enforcement stationed in Iqaluit where his duties included a direct role in the licensing of the project from year to year
- As Senior Advisor on Legislation and Enforcement he had oversight of the Regional Manager of the Kivalliq Region
- Before division of NWT and Nunavut commercial wildlife licences were issued from Yellowknife but he was partly responsible for coordinating with CFIA, Economic Development and for reviewing and making recommendations on all the applications received for the Southampton Island commercial harvests
- Had personal oversight over DOE managers and staff involved in the licensing and management of the Coral Harbour harvests
- In 1999 responsibility for issuing the licence was transferred to Iqaluit, at that point he took over responsibility for issuing the licences and their terms and conditions since he was Deputy Superintendent of Wildlife
- Worked with regional staff and the Regional Biologist Mitch Campbell as part of the licensing and caribou management process
- Will advise that monitoring and compliance responsibilities were the responsibility of Kivalliq Regional staff
- Will advise that the allocation of commercial harvesting tags under regulation went to the Coral Harbour HTO each year and that the quota in the regulations was very high, eventually increased to 6000 animals, but that each year the DOE staff worked with the HTO and came to a decision about how many caribou could be harvested based on wildlife management and business considerations
- In most if not all years the harvest was well below the total in the regulations and once the allocation was decided the commercial tags were allotted to the organization or company selected to conduct the harvest -- in many years it was a company

- Will advise that the HTO and DOE wanted to ensure a sustainable harvest and that the harvest did not threaten Inuit subsistence harvesting
- The harvesting operation required annual subsidies and the capacity of the processing plant and market demand also limited the number of caribou that could be harvested
- Will confirm that the harvest was originally intended to manage the Southampton Island caribou herd, but became an important economic opportunity for the community
- Will advise that Inuit on Southampton Island and elsewhere in the 1990's had all the caribou they wanted and that there was little demand for caribou from other Nunavut communities because they had their own – there simply was no domestic market for several thousand caribou
- Will advise that export of Southampton Island caribou meat was an early goal and that entailed the CFIA inspection requirements
- In the end most of the caribou was likely consumed in Canada
- The hunters were hired or contracted to the company with the licence and tags to supply meat for the purpose of commercial sales
- Will advise that the rules and requirements on the commercial hunters were strict, not like anything in the subsistence harvest – this was “Mad Cow” time and the CFIA restrictions were strictly enforced in relation to the Southampton harvest
- Restrictions included where to hunt in order to get the meat back unfrozen to the abattoir, time limits for returning shot caribou to the abattoir, where or how to shoot the animal, what to do if the caribou showed any signs of disease, how tags were assigned and the animals were skinned and processed with both CFIA and DOE staff inspecting them -- this was a truly commercial operation
- Will speak to his general knowledge of the history of commercial harvesting on Southampton Island, government management of the harvest and regulation of commercial as opposed to subsistence harvesting