

WITNESS STATEMENT OF MITCH CAMPBELL

NOTE: Mr. Campbell is an 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 Regional Biologist for the Kivalliq Region.

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

- Mitch Campbell, Kivalliq Regional Biologist since 1997, home community Arviat
- Was personally involved in the monitoring of disease and health of the Southampton Island caribou population, and sampled over a one to two week period during commercial operations , beginning in 1998 and continuing each year (with some exceptions) until the commercial harvest was discontinued
- Was one of several GNWT (later GN) employees and community staff involved annually in monitoring disease prevalence and condition/health of the commercially harvested animals
- This work was done primarily at the abattoir set up each year. The abattoir set-up involving the processing of caribou carcasses and preparation of high quality portions of the meat for shipping out of Nunavut
- Was also involved in working with HTO each year, conducted surveys of caribou population and contributed to decisions about commercial harvesting levels which were set each year as commercial licensing took place
- Contributed to commercial licensing of harvest through the adjustment in commercial quotas and sex ratio, and provided input too Economic Development staff to plan for the following year's commercial harvest
- When sampling at abattoir, ensured and confirmed that all animals processed were tagged with a specimen tag and that the information necessary for caribou heard management was collected
- Will advise the Board that during the years while the commercial harvest was under way there were no restrictions of any kind on Inuit harvesting on Southampton Island or on Inuit trade, barter or sale of the results of their subsistence hunts
- Will advise the Board that the main reason for the commercial harvest was to reduce the number of caribou on Southampton Island to protect Inuit harvesting and use of caribou, that government was concerned that the population which had been reintroduced would exceed the Island's carrying capacity and crash
- Will advise that just shooting caribou and leaving them to reduce the population was not possible because of laws about meat wastage and that the commercial harvest was

conceived of by government wildlife and economic development staff as a way to utilize the meat from animals killed as part of this population management effort

- Will advise that the commercial harvest was eventually started with twin goals of managing caribou population and ensuring some community benefits
- GN worked with the HTO to set the commercial quota, and manage the harvest with a view to ensuring that Inuit subsistence harvesting would take precedence over all other uses of the resource.
- Will advise about the regulation or control of the harvesting activities under control of the managers of the company or organization which held the commercial licence including: strict rules about how caribou were to be shot; how the carcass could not be frozen; how strict the CFIA inspections were
- Will advise that animals that did not pass inspection were rejected and that included gut or shoulder shot animals; animals that froze and diseased animals
- Will advise that some rejected animals or parts of those animals were made available to the residents of Aiviit and that tongues and some other parts of the animals which were not processed were also made available to the community because the key priority was to minimize wastage to the extent possible because the commercial harvesting licence prohibited wastage
- Will advise that caribou pelts were generally not kept and had no value in an operation designed to produce meat for commercial sale and export (they tried keeping and processing pelts one year but it didn't work out).
- Will advise that some of the processed meat was sold in the North but it was commercially certified by CFIA and sold in some community based stores.
- Will confirm that many Inuit worked in the operation but only some were hunters and that the hunters were accommodated, fed, provided with gas and oil and ammunition
- Will speak to his general knowledge of the history of commercial harvesting on Southampton Island, government management of the harvest and role of Inuit working for or involved with the harvesting operations