



SUBMISSION TO THE

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

FOR

Information: X

Decision:

ISSUE: Wildlife Damage Prevention Program

BACKGROUND

The damage to property caused by polar bears is an economic loss to property owners. In addition, bears are often killed in attempts by property owners to deter them or to prevent damage. Each defense killed polar bear is an economic loss as well as a lost hunting opportunity. Individuals who suffer property damage from bears are often upset by this, and often tend to respond by feeling that there are too many bears, and by being less supportive of the polar bear management system. Therefore preventing and reducing damage to property caused by wildlife is desirable from a number of perspectives.

The Wildlife Damage Prevention Program is intended to both increase awareness on the alternatives available to prevent conflict or deter bears, and make these alternatives accessible and affordable. The program will consist of a fund as well as technical advice and assistance, that individuals and groups will be able to access. The program will provide assistance with the purchase, installation, and operation of detection and protection systems including electric fencing, bear resistant containers (variety of sizes), deterrents, higher grade construction materials, wire for cache protection, etc.

Consultations with HTO's will be conducted this fall/winter.

As with the Wildlife Damage Compensation, this program is expected to be available prior to April 1, 2011.

CURRENT STATUS

While the program has yet to be formally launched, we have begun a number of projects to begin field testing and evaluating a number of deterrent and damage prevention products. This includes:

- Electric fences (temporary) to protect dog teams, (Arviat)
- Electric fences (temporary) to protect Igunaq caches (Igloolik & Hall Beach)
- Bear Resistant containers (individual sized) to protect cached meat/dog food (Arviat/Qikiqtarjuaq)
- Wire Mesh to protect Igunaq caches (Igloolik)
- CritterGitter®, a heat and motion sensor to protect camps (Igloolik)
- Trip Wire Fence to protect camp (Pond Inlet)