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July 20th, 2018

Hon. Catherine McKenna Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada, Government of Canada	Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak Minister of Environment, Government of Nunavut	Aluki Kotierk President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
James Qillaq Chairperson of the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board	Stanley Adjuk Chairperson of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board	Joe Ashevak Chairperson of the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board
Chairpersons of the Nunavut Hunters and Trappers Organizations, c/o the Executive Director of the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat	Vicki Trim and Gregor Gilbert Chairpersons of the Polar Bear Technical Committee	Christine Cleghorn and Stas Olpinski Chairpersons of the Polar Bear Administrative Committee
Paul Crowley Vice-President, Arctic, World Wildlife Fund	Charlie Watt President of Makivik Corporation	

Dear Colleagues:

Canada

Re: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in-person public hearing to consider the Government of Nunavut Proposal on the revised *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan*

1. Introduction

Through this letter, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) is extending an invitation to your department or organization to attend the Board's in-person public hearing regarding the Government of Nunavut - Department of Environment (Department of Environment) revised *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan* (Plan). The NWMB is also inviting your department or organization to provide written, translated submissions and supporting documents for the Plan hearing.



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2. Background

On June 5th, 2017, the NWMB provided public notice of its decision to adjourn the in-person public hearing on the Department of Environment's Proposal to consider the revised *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan.* The NWMB made this decision after it received correspondences from the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (May 26 and June 2, 2017), and the Kivalliq Wildlife Board (June 2nd, 2017) announcing their decision to boycott the hearing because the NWMB did not provide enough funding to cover travel and accommodation costs for all affected Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTO) to attend the hearing.

On June 19th, 2017, the NWMB held a teleconference with its co-management partners to re-iterate the Board's commitment to a fair and representative hearing process and to attempt to reach consensus on an appropriate time to resume the hearing as soon as reasonably possible.

On April 26th, 2018, the NWMB held a second pre-hearing teleconference to inform hearing parties of its proposed way forward to resume the hearing and to discuss and obtain feedback regarding:

- the location and potential dates of the hearing;
- proposed hearing format and time allocation between parties;
- funding for community participation; and
- any relevant issue that the parties wished to make.

Following the April 26th, 2018 teleconference, the NWMB sent a letter (June 19th, 2018 – attached as Appendix A) to all the hearing parties to distribute the minutes of the meeting and to seek additional feedback on the issues discussed at the meeting (minutes of the meeting attached as Appendix B).

Environment and Climate Change Canada expressed support for the Board's proposed way forward. No other additional comments or suggestions were received by the deadline on July 11th, 2018.

3. Date and location of the hearing

Considering that no comments were provided by the July 11th, 2018 deadline, the NWMB will resume the in-person public hearing to consider the Department of Environment's revised *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan.* The Plan hearing will take place over four (4) days— from the 13th to 16th day of November 2018, at the Cadet Hall in Iqaluit. The hearing will start at 9:00 AM on the 13th of November. The rest of the daily schedules are set out in the hearing Agenda attached to this correspondence as Appendix C. Please note that the NWMB reserves the right to modify details of the agenda, including the daily schedules.

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4. NWMB Funding for representatives of Inuit harvesters

In the fall of 2017, the Board received support from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) to allocate funds to help cover additional community delegates to attend the Plan hearing. This support from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada enables the NWMB to cover airfare, accommodations and per-diems (**honoraria NOT included**) for one delegate per Nunavut community (except the host community, Iqaluit), for a four (4) day in-person public hearing. The NWMB will cover per-diem expenses for one host community delegate.

5. Best available information and NWMB Hearing Rules

Attached to this letter is a copy of the Department of Environment's *Proposal for NWMB Decision* regarding the revised *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan* (Appendix D) and the NWMB Hearing Rules (Appendix E). These, along with additional documents comprising the best available information to date—including the revised Plan—are also available for download from the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com), or by contacting the Board at the following coordinates:

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0 Phone: (867) 975-7300 Fax: (888) 421-9832 Email: receptionist@nwmb.com

6. Invitation to the public hearing

All written materials must be filed with the NWMB—in <u>Inuktitut and English—by no later than</u> <u>5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit Time) on October 12th, 2018</u>. The requirement for translation at the time of filing is mandatory. The requirement for translation does not apply to such documents over 10 pages in length, if each supporting document that is not translated is accompanied by a concise, translated summary (English and Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun) at least two (2) pages in length.

Please take note that, unless persuasive written and translated reasons are provided to the Board for late filing, the NWMB will not consider materials for this hearing that are not filed on time.

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Subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy concerns, all submissions and supporting documentation will be placed on the NWMB's website, and will be available for download.

Submissions and their supporting documentation may be filed with the Board in person, by courier or by mail. They should be clearly marked as pertaining to the NWMB Public Hearing on the revised *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan*. Delivery of materials may also be made through fax or electronic transmission, but only if your department or organization confirms with the NWMB—prior to the filing deadline—that a complete and legible copy of the transmission has been received by the Board. Materials are deemed to have been filed on the actual day of receipt by the NWMB.

Please keep in mind that the more thorough, reliable and persuasive submissions and supporting documentation are, the more weight they will be given by the NWMB in the *Nunavut Agreement* decision-making process.

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

Sincerely,

David Slunchul

Daniel Shewchuk, Chairperson of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

c.c. Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment; Paul Irngaut, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated; Caroline Ladanowski, Director, Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada;

Jason Mikki, Acting Executive Director, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board; Qovik Netser, Regional Coordinator, Kivalliq Wildlife Board;

Ema Qaggutaq, Regional Coordinator, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board; Jenna Boon, Nunavut Field Unit Superintendent, Parks Canada Agency; Pam Lefaive, Director of Treaty Management East, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada;

Adamie Delisle Alaku, Executive Vice President, Makivik Corporation; and Brandon LaForest, Senior Specialist, World Wildlife Fund Canada.

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