

August 30, 2006

Simon Awa
Deputy Minister
Department of Environment
Government of Nunavut

FAXED
01/09/06

Dear Mr. Awa:

**Re: Special Meeting No. 12 – August 2006 Government of Nunavut Submissions
filed with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board**

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) thanks you for the helpful submissions recently filed by the Government of Nunavut's Department of Environment (DOE) for Special Meeting No. 12. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with recommendations and directions related to those submissions.

With respect to the 35-page justification document entitled, “*NQLs in the Proposed Regulations*” (undated), the NWMB notes that DOE does not refer to the specific sub-section(s) under Section 5.3.3 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* that DOE is relying upon – and is recommending that the NWMB rely upon - to limit the constitutionally-protected harvesting rights of Inuit. The Board directs that DOE modify the document, by no later than 5:00 PM on September 8th, to include those important references and any related justifications and/or evidence.

The NWMB also notes that DOE has indicated, in its NQL list and justification document, a complete reversal in its position with respect to harvesting or possessing wildlife in a wildlife sanctuary. Whereas previously, Inuit (and a limited number of others) were exempted by S.1 of the proposed *Conservation Areas Management Order* (draft 11) from the prohibition on harvesting or possession, there is no longer any exemption for Inuit from that prohibition. The NWMB recommends that DOE file an appropriate document, by no later than 5:00 PM on September 8th, informing the Board:

- Why it has reversed its previously-held position; and
- What consultations, if any, it has conducted with Inuit since deciding upon this proposed fundamental change.

With respect to the document entitled, *Preliminary Density and Abundance Estimates for Peary Caribou and Muskoxen in the Canadian High Arctic* (09 August 2006) - and

generally in connection with the proposed *Peary Caribou Total Allowable Harvest Order* (draft 13) – DOE may wish to consider filing, by no later than 5:00 PM on September 8th, two other documents that may be helpful:

- “*Estimating Peary Caribou (Rangifer tarandus pearyi) and Muskox (Ovibos moschatus) Numbers, Composition and Distributions on Ellesmere Island, Nunavut* (Mitch W. Campbell, Summary Report to Nunavut Co-Managers, June 15th 2006); and
- *High Arctic Peary Caribou Management Plan, 6th Draft* (February 2005).

Finally, the NWMB points out that the *Muskox Management Areas Regulations* (draft 9) contain a number of non-quota limitations with respect to area of harvest. If DOE intends to maintain those non-quota limitations, the Board directs that it file appropriate justifications by no later than 5:00 PM on September 8th 2006.

Should you or your officials have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Noble, Chief Operating Officer of
the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

- c.c. Joe Adla Kunuk, Chief Executive Officer of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Phillip Kadlun, Chairperson of the Kitikmeot Hunters and Trappers Association
David Aksawnee, Chairperson of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board
Jayco Aooloo, Vice-chairperson of the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board
The Chairpersons of Nunavut's Hunters and Trappers Organizations

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