

December 22nd 2011

Honourable Keith Ashfield
Minister of Fisheries
and Oceans
Government of Canada

Honourable James Arreak
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Cathy Towtongie
President of Nunavut
Tunnigavik Incorporated

Ross Tatty
Chairperson of the
Kivalliq Wildlife Board

Attima Hadlari
Chairperson of the
Kitikmeot Regional
Wildlife Board

James Qillaq
Chairperson of the
Oikigtaaluk Wildlife Board

Chairpersons of Nunavut's
Hunters and Trappers
Organizations
c/o Richard Connelly
Executive Director of the
Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Public hearing of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to establish the basic needs levels for beluga, narwhal and walrus

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has scheduled a public hearing to establish the basic needs levels for beluga, narwhal and walrus in the Nunavut Settlement Area. The term “*basic needs level*” (BNL) refers to the level of harvesting by Inuit required to meet their basic needs, as determined through the decision-making process set out in Article 5 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA). The BNL constitutes the first demand by Inuit on the total allowable harvest for a stock or population of wildlife.

NLCA Section 5.6.25 requires the NWMB to establish the BNIs for beluga, narwhal and walrus, “...taking into account the fact that they are in short supply in some areas and therefore that the harvest by Inuit has been and is artificially low in relation to their needs and does not necessarily reflect their full level of needs.”

The hearing will take place on March 27th and 28th 2012, in Iqaluit at the Koojesse Room of the Frobisher Inn. The hearing will be conducted each day from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and

from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The NWMB may also hold one or more evening sessions from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Board is prepared to pay travel and accommodation costs for attendance by up to six (6) Distinguished Elders and six (6) Regional Wildlife Organization/Hunters and Trappers Organization representatives (twelve (12) delegates in total). Selection of those representatives will be decided by the Regional Wildlife Organizations. If other representatives of Inuit harvesters wish to attend, the NWMB has no further funding available, but will – if requested, and to the extent reasonably possible – make arrangements for electronic attendance at the hearing.

The hearing rules and a number of additional documents comprising the best available information to date will be available for download from the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com) by no later than January 9th 2012, or by contacting the NWMB at the following coordinates:

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Parnaivik Building

P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Phone: (867) 975-7300

Fax: (867) 975-7320

E-Mail: receptionist@nwmb.com

Through this letter, the NWMB is extending an invitation to your department or organization to provide up to two (2) sets of written submissions and supporting documentation concerning the establishment of the basic needs levels for beluga, narwhal and walrus in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The first set of written submissions and supporting documentation (**initial submissions**) must be filed with the NWMB, in English and Inuktitut, by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time) on February 9th 2012.

The second set of written submissions and supporting documentation (**reply submissions**) – provided in response to submissions filed as of February 9th 2012 - must be filed with the NWMB, in English and Inuktitut, by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time) on March 13th 2012.

Subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy concerns, all submissions will be placed on the NWMB's website, and will be available for download, within one business day after they are filed with the Board.

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

Initial and reply 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 Hearing for Beluga, Narwhal and Walrus*. Delivery of the materials may also be made through fax or electronic transmission, but only if your department or organization confirms by phone with the NWMB - prior to each 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 Land Claims Agreement* decision-making process.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mikidjuk Akavak,
Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

c.c. Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Bert Dean, Senior Policy Advisor, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Keith Pelley, A/Area Director, Eastern Arctic Area, Department of Fisheries and Oceans;
Kathy Fisher, Division Manager, Resource Management and Aboriginal Affairs, Department of Fisheries and Oceans;
David Akeeagok, Deputy Minister, Nunavut Department of Environment; and
Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Department of Environment