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October 6th, 2014

Honourable Johnny Mike Minister of Environment Government of Nunavut

Cathy Towtongie
President of Nunavut
Tunngavik Incorporated

James Qilliaq
Chairperson of the
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Chairpersons of all Qikiqtaaluk Hunters and Trappers Organizations

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Notice of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's intention to take prompt and appropriate management actions to conserve Baffin Island caribou

The Baffin Island Caribou Co-Management Steering Committee (Steering Committee) has recently circulated a summary of the final results from the Baffin Island caribou survey conducted between February 26th and March 21st, 2014. The survey results indicate that there are between 3,462 and 6,250 caribou on the entire Baffin Island complex. As the main instrument of wildlife management in the Nunavut Settlement Area, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) is extremely concerned by these low numbers and recognizes the urgent need to work with its comanagement partners to ensure that prompt and appropriate management actions are taken to conserve Baffin Island caribou.

The Steering Committee is organizing a Baffin Island Caribou Workshop, which is scheduled to take place November 3rd – 4th, 2014 in Iqaluit, to discuss management action and the development of a Co-management Plan for Baffin Island caribou. The NWMB Chairperson, Executive Director, and appropriate staff will attend the workshop as observers to listen to the concerns and management recommendations from the affected communities. Although it is understood that the objective of this workshop is for users to come to an agreement on the best management practices for Baffin Island caribou, the NWMB is prepared to promptly take those steps it considers necessary in the circumstances to help ensure essential management and protection of Baffin Island caribou, should it be required. Depending on the outcome of workshop discussions regarding possible options, the NWMB's considerations could include, but are not limited to, supporting voluntary Regional Wildlife Organization/Hunters and Trappers Organization-led management actions (for example, individual and community quota or

other restrictions); hosting an NWMB hearing (in-person or written); recommending an interim decision (Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Section 5.3.24); or a combination of the above. In order for the workshop to be as productive as possible, the hopeful that delegates attending the workshop will be prepared to represent the views and recommendations of their respective communities.

The NWMB is looking forward to working with co-management partners and Baffin Island communities to address this conservation concern. If you have any questions or concerns with the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,

Ben Kovic

Chairperson of the

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

c.c. Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment;

Bert Dean, A/Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated; Lynda Orman, Chair, Baffin Island Caribou Co-Management Steering Committee; Jackie Price, South Baffin Liaison Officer, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat; and Jason Mikki, North Baffin Liaison Officer, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat