

28 October 2014

Jim Noble
Executive Director, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Box 1379
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Noble:

Re: NWMB notice of intention to take prompt and appropriate actions to conserve Baffin Island caribou, October 6, 2014

Thank you for the Board's notice. Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. shares the Board's concern regarding the status of Baffin Island caribou. As you are aware, NTI and the NWMB are members of the Baffin Island Caribou Co-management Steering Committee. The Committee is directly involved with the organization of the November 3-4, 2014 Baffin Island caribou workshop, whose objective is for users to come to an agreement on the best management practices for Baffin Island caribou.

The Board's notice importantly confirms that the Board is willing to consider establishing harvest limitations through the Board's regular public hearing and decision process, if required, and to do so promptly. Decisions to restrict Inuit harvesting of Baffin Island caribou would be governed by the decision criteria and conservation principles set out in the *Nunavut Agreement*. The Board's notice also refers to the "interim decision" procedure set out in the *Nunavut Agreement*. An interim decision by the Minister or his agent can only be made in the circumstances set out in the *Nunavut Agreement*, and an interim decision affecting Inuit harvesting is subject to the Agreement's criteria and principles. If such a decision is permitted and made, the Board's role is to conduct a full review as soon as practicable afterwards. To date, this exceptional procedure has only been used by a Nunavut Minister to address the recent decline in Southampton Island caribou, at the request of the local HTO and regional Inuit Wildlife Organization.

At this important stage of the process, as options for action are being discussed, Nunavut Inuit depend on the NWMB to preserve the impartiality that the Board requires in order to make any decision and conduct any review relating to the conservation of Baffin Island caribou. Once again, thank you for communicating the Board's concern. NTI is dedicated to working with all interested organizations to ensure conservation of Baffin Island caribou and a sustainable harvest for the Inuit who depend on them.

Sincerely,

Bert Dean Cov

Acting Director, Department of Wildlife and Environment, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

CC Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Qikiqtaaluk Hunters and Trappers Organizations
Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Department of Environment
Linda Orman, Chair, Baffin Island Caribou Co-management Steering Committee
Jackie Price, South Baffin Liaison Officer, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat
Jason Mikki, North Baffin Liaison