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Avatiliqiyikkut

Department of Environment

Ministère de l'Environnement

August 16, 2011

Gabriel Nirlungayuk
Director of Wildlife
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated

Adam Schneidmiller
Director of Wildlife
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Re: Wildlife Management Jurisdiction of the Government of Nunavut

As you know, there is some uncertainty surrounding the Government of Nunavut's ability to manage certain species of wildlife due to Section 24 of the *Nunavut Act* (Canada). Section 24 of this federal legislation states:

"The government may not make laws... that restrict or prohibit Indians or Inuit from hunting ...for food game other than game declared by order of the Governor in Council to be game in danger of becoming extinct."

The system and concept of declaring species "in danger of becoming extinct" is no longer in use, having been replaced by newer approaches including such legislative tools as the *Species at Risk Act*. Therefore, for species that were never declared in danger of becoming extinct, there is uncertainty over our ability to enact laws to manage these species. This uncertainty extends to our ability to implement decisions of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board pursuant to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

The Government of Nunavut is preparing to approach the federal department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development to seek the necessary amendments to the *Nunavut Act* (Canada) to clarify this jurisdictional issue. As this issue relates directly to the ability to the Government of Nunavut to implement wildlife management decisions made under the NLCA, I would like to request that your organizations support us in this effort. It would be very helpful if you could indicate your support for having this jurisdictional ambiguity clarified.

Please feel free to contact if you would like to discuss this further, and I look forward to your response.



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Sincerely,

Drikus Gissing

Director, Wildlife Management Department of Environment Government of Nunavut