



JUN 21 2011

Mr. Mikidjuk Akavak
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit NU X0A 0H0

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JUL 21 2011

Dear Mr. Akavak:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 27 and April 29, regarding the proposed listing of the Cumberland Sound population of beluga whale as a threatened species under the *Species at Risk Act*.

I note that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board maintains its original decision to not approve the listing of this species in Schedule 1 to the Act. This concludes the decision-making process as per the Memorandum of Understanding to Harmonize the Designation of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the Listing of Wildlife Species at Risk under the *Species at Risk Act*. It also concludes the Agreement decision-making process for this population of beluga whale, enabling me to move forward with the development of my proposed recommendation to the Governor in Council.

The next step will be the publication of my proposed recommendation in Part I of the *Canada Gazette*, to allow for a 30-day public comment period. I appreciate the Board's carefully considered reasons and will weigh its rationale prior to making my final recommendation to the Governor in Council. The Governor in Council's final decision will be published in Part II of the *Canada Gazette*.

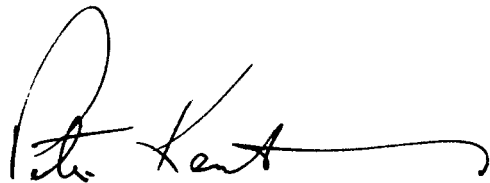
I concur that the use of the Memorandum of Understanding is making a positive contribution to reconciling the Act and the Agreement listing processes. With respect to the noted challenges, considering changes that might facilitate the Memorandum of Understanding's implementation is a logical next step. Federal officials will therefore be contacting the Board for further discussions.

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Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Kent". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Keith Ashfield, P.C., M.P.

