



May 20, 2017

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Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

October 13th, 2016

Honourable Joe Savikataaq
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Re: Prince Charles Island caribou die-off

Dear Minister Savikataaq,

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) September 13th, 2016 Regular Meeting (RM-003-2016), the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board presented a *Proposal for Decision* (Proposal) with options for the NWMB to consider in response to the spring 2016 Prince Charles Island caribou die-off (see Appendix 1). The Proposal's options included:

- (1) Relocation of caribou from Prince Charles Island to Baffin Island, by air, to avoid further die-offs and protect the total Baffin Island caribou population.
- (2) A new population survey to provide an updated population estimate of caribou on Prince Charles Island, conducted by the Department of Environment.
- (3) A vegetation survey of Prince Charles Island, as a component of the Department of Environment's future population survey.
- (4) A special permit harvest to allow Baffin Island communities to harvest caribou on Prince Charles Island, outside of their total allowable harvest allocation, to reduce the population and enable the habitat to recover.

The Proposal also outlined concerns that the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board has expressed in the past regarding the possibility of a caribou die-off on Prince Charles Island, including during the 2015 NWMB public hearing regarding Baffin Island caribou. Previously, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board had also requested research on Prince Charles Island vegetation based on Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, and possible relocation of caribou from Prince Charles Island to Baffin Island, but no actions were taken.

In its consideration of the Proposal, the Board determined that there is not enough information currently available about the causes and impacts of the die-off to develop a management response, such as those proposed by the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board. However, the Board encourages the Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment to conduct additional research into possible causes of the die-off, including a vegetation survey incorporating Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, and to obtain an updated population estimate of caribou on Prince Charles Island. The results of this research should be shared with the NWMB, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, and other affected co-

management partners in order to determine if further action is required in response to the die-off.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Shewchuk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Daniel Shewchuk
Acting Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

- c.c. Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife Management, Government of Nunavut-
Department of Environment
Ron Elliot, Executive Assistant to Honourable Joe Savikataaq, Government of
Nunavut
Noah Mosesee, Vice-Chairman, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board
Jason Mikki, Executive Director, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Re: Prince Charles Island Caribou

QWB had previously stated before during the NWMB Public Hearing (QWB Submission February 13, 2015) again at the public hearing. QWB voiced its concerns based on Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, of potential caribou die-off at the Prince Charles Island as IQ predicted the Island couldn't sustain all the caribou for lengthy period. This again was brought forth by David Irngaut and couple of QWB Directors at QWB June 2016 Meeting, requesting for research on the vegetation status as Inuit know, once the vegetation is gone, there will be die-off, the weather factor probably isn't the only probable cause as indicated by the GN DoE briefing document.

QWB also had made a statement wanting relocation of the caribou in Prince Charles Island during the high peak of abundance to prevent overload on the Island which would cause shortage of caribou vegetation, but no one seriously committed to our point of view. Now, we have learned and heard the news thru media regionally and nationally about the recent discovery of dead caribou carcasses.

1 Relocation

The relocation would need to be conducted by air as the island is inaccessible by boat or snowmobile throughout the year.

2. Prince Charles Island Vegetation



DoE has indicated they will be heading to conduct further sampling and population survey to see if any have crossed to the Baffin Island, while QWB supports the idea, it's highly recommending that the crew needs to observe the Island's vegetation state too. If the crew doesn't have the knowledge than QWB recommends they include an elder preferably from nearby communities (Igloodik or Cape Dorset) with caribou and habitat knowledge.

3. Population Estimate

QWB fully supports DoE's proposal to conduct the population survey, once the findings & results are known, QWB again encourages or recommends to have the caribou from Prince Charles Island relocated to Baffin Island to ensure no further massive die-off occurs

4. Special Permit Harvest

QWB Executive has expressed interest to receive special permit for Baffin Island communities to harvest in Prince Charles Island without utilizing its community tags, so the population is reduced and the Island can sustain the vegetation longer with the remaining caribou.

While this will not be supported and controversial, but from Inuit point of view, it makes sense QWB has been on record for action be taken based on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit for the survival of caribou in Baffin Island.

QWB hopes that our letter will be heard and discussed as it appalling that Inuit perspective and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit weren't adhered to but based on merely current management regime and western science.

Sincerely,

Noah Mosese, Vice-Chairman
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

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▷ 13. 2016

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Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujima jat uq ang it and scientific knowledge

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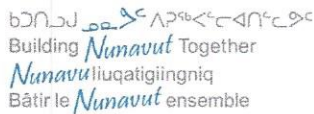
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22-6-1964

Qikiqtani Wildlife Board 3075, Box 210, Repulse, Nunavut, Canada X0A 0A0. Tel: 867-447-4266. Fax: 867-447-4073

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Building Nunavut Together
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Minister of Environment
Ministaat Avatiliqiyitkut
Ministre de l'Environnement

The Department will also explore the possibility of conducting a vegetation study based on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit after consideration of budgetary allocations. If the Department proceeds with the study, the results will be shared with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, and other affected co-management partners.

I hope this information shared to date serves to strengthen the co-management process and clarify concerns raised by the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

I would like to thank the board for their careful consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Joe Savikataaq, Honourable Minister of Environment

Cc: David Akeeagok, Deputy Minister, Dept. Environment, Dept. GN
Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife Management, Dept. Environment, GN
Noah Mosesee, Vice-Chairman, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board
Jason Mikki, Executive Director, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board