



સુધી 20, 2017

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Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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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 Qaujimajatuqangit, 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 Qaujimajatuqangit, 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,



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



Daniel Shewchuk
Acting Chairman
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Iqaluit, Nu

August 18, 2016

Re: Prince Charles Island Caribou

QWB Executive had held a conference call on July 22, 2016 and the Executive dealt with on number of wildlife issues including the topic of potential die-off of Prince Charles Island Caribou and recent siting by CWS crew of approximately 50 carcasses.

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 Qaujimajatuqangit, 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.

Another statement was provided by QWB Chairman, James Qillaq about the potential die-off at the July 2014 caribou workshop meeting held at the parish hall in Iqaluit based on the information provided by late elder Noah Piugaltuk of Igloolik.

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.

QWB is recommending few options that NWMB should consider how to deal with the Prince Charles Island Caribou;

1. Relocation

In order to protect the overall Baffin Island caribou population, the caribou should be relocated to the Baffin Island to ensure further mass die-off doesn't occur.

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

QIKIQTALUK WILDLIFE BOARD



Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

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 (Igloolik 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 Mosesee, Vice-Chairman
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Cordially yours,
Noah Mosesee

April 18, 2016



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Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

ሰኔ 13, 2016

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David Shulman

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Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

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ארכיאולוגיה של ירושלים

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Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

3. $A \rightarrow A \subseteq A^P \times C^P$

תְּאַזֵּן לִשְׁמָרֶת

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ANSWER.

QIKIQTAAK WILDLIFE BOARD



Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

QIKIQTAAK
WILDLIFE BOARD



January 20, 2017

Mr. Daniel Shewchuk
A/Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
PO Box 1379
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Shewchuk,

Re: Nunavut Wildlife Management Board consideration of Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board's management and research proposal for Prince Charles Island caribou

Thank you for your letter of October 13, 2016 giving the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's consideration and further comments to the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board's management and research proposals for Prince Charles Island caribou. I share many of the concerns and points raised by the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

The preliminary results of an analysis of samples taken from caribou found on Prince Charles Island concluded that starvation was the most likely cause of death, as evidenced by the extremely low levels of fat reserves. The most likely explanation for the starvation of the caribou is a spring storm which could have prevented access to forage. Scientific literature suggests that these kinds of weather-related die-offs are not uncommon and can often be a natural mechanism of caribou population cycling on arctic islands, such as Prince Charles Island.

In response to the die-offs, the Department of Environment is proposing a new population survey to be conducted on Prince Charles Island in March 2017, in conjunction with the spring composition survey of Baffin Island caribou. The results of these surveys will be shared with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, and other affected co-management partners.



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