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March 21, 2022

Hon. Steven Guilbeault Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada Government of Canada

Dear Steven Guilbeault:

Re: NWMB Decision on Environment and Climate Change Canada's request for approval of the Recovery Strategy for the Peary caribou (Rangifer tarandus pearyi) in Canada

NWMB Decision

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Regular Meeting (RM001-2022) on March 9, 2022, Environment and Climate Change Canada presented a proposal requesting that the Board approve the *Recovery Strategy for the Peary caribou* (Rangifer tarandus pearyi) in Canada.

At the NWMB's March 10, 2022, In-Camera Meeting (IC001-2022), the Board made the following decision:

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 5.2.34(d)(i) of the Nunavut Agreement, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approves Environment and Climate Change Canada's proposed Recovery Strategy for the Peary caribou (Rangifer tarandus pearyi) in Canada.

Reasons for NWMB Decision

In reaching its decision, the Board considered your department's submission and the oral submissions provided by co-management partners at the NWMB's Regular Meeting.

Peary caribou have been listed as Endangered under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) since 2011. The federal *Species at Risk Act* (2002) requires that a recovery strategy be developed for all threatened species. Although Peary caribou were reassessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada as threatened in 2016, the



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Board understands, however, that a recovery strategy is required to address current threats and that this recovery strategy is a step towards addressing those threats.

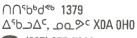
The Board considered that the intent of the proposed strategy is to help Peary caribou recover and support sustainable harvest for communities in Nunavut and Inuvialuit. Moreover, the Board determined that the conservation actions and research set out in the recovery strategy will not infringe upon Inuit harvesting rights. As such, the NWMB is satisfied that the conservation goals set within the recovery strategy will not impact Inuit rights.

The recovery strategy identifies sea-ice crossings as critical habitat. The Board understands that the sea-ice critical habitat was done collaboratively with Inuit and is satisfied that these are intended to achieve the conservation goals set out in the recovery strategy.

The recovery strategy also sets out a schedule of studies and management actions, including studies to identify more critical habitat. The Board understands that your department will develop plans within five years to provide more information on specific research and management actions needed for the recovery of Peary caribou. The NWMB also commends your department's intent to collaborate with Inuit on the studies, management actions and the potential for identifying more critical habitat.

The Board was satisfied with the consultation efforts by Environment and Climate Change Canada. The consultation reports outlined engagement and consultation meetings with Inuit, including in-person consultations with Hunters and Trappers Organizations in Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Grise Fiord, Kugaaruk, Resolute Bay, and Taloyoak. These reports indicated that affected Hunters and Trappers Organizations supported the identification of sea-ice crossings as critical habitat, supported the schedule of studies, and would like to be involved in conducting future studies. Your department also engaged with the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, Kitikmeot Region Wildlife Board, Regional Inuit Associations, and other government comanagement partners in the development of the recovery strategy.

During the NWMB Regular Meeting, representatives of the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board and the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board requested more engagement with affected communities in all aspects of the recovery planning process and future studies. The Board encourages continuous Inuit involvement, and the use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as Environment and Climate Change Canada moves to the next phase in its recovery and action planning.







ロロタペア トレイーへトペイペ トラートペート Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijitkut Katimajiat Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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Conclusion

The NWMB looks forward to your reply and completion of the *Nunavut Agreement* Article 5 decision-making process. If you have any questions regarding this letter, do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,

Daniel Shewchuk Chairperson

Dovid Shuhul

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

cc: Michael Svoboda, Environment and Climate Change Canada Isabelle Duclos, Environment and Climate Change Canada



Mr. Daniel Shewchuk
Chairperson
c/o Mr. Jason Akearok
Executive Director
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
jakearok@nwmb.com

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

Thank you for your March 21, 2022 letter, regarding the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision on Environment and Climate Change Canada's request for approval of the proposed final recovery strategy for the Peary Caribou in Canada under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

I am pleased that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approved the *Recovery Strategy for the Peary Caribou (Rangifer tarandus pearyi) in Canada* pursuant to paragraph 5.2.34(d)(i) of the Nunavut Agreement. Thank you for your comments in the letter. As provided in section 5.3.20 of the Nunavut Agreement, ECCC accepts the Board's decision.

In addition, I note that you also encourage ongoing Inuit engagement and the use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit during subsequent phases of the plan's implementation. Inuit involvement and the use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit was very important to the development of the recovery strategy and will continue to play a significant role as we move forward in our shared efforts to conserve Peary Caribou.

I appreciate the NWMB's interest in this important matter.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

Julie Spallin
Director Genaral
Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment and Climate Change Canada

cc. Bruce MacDonald, Regional Director, Northern Region

