



OCT 20 2010

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Minister of Environment
Minista Avatiliritjutinut
Ministre de l'Environnement

Willie Nakoolak
Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Box 1379
Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

OCT 15 2010

Dear Mr. Nakoolak;

Re: Decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Decision on the Total Allowable Harvest for Western Hudson Bay Polar Bear Population.

Thank you for your letter of September 29, 2010, regarding the decision of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) on the Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) for the Western Hudson Bay Polar Bear Population (WH). To reiterate, your decision is to increase the WH TAH by six bears for the 2010-2011 harvest season only, so that the harvest level for 2010-2011 is 8 bears. I would like to thank the NWMB for your attention to this important matter and for communicating your decision to me by October 1, as requested.

Please be advised that pursuant to section 5.3.9 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA), I hereby accept the NWMB decision and will proceed to implement the decision for the 2010-2011 harvest season. This decision takes into account the flexible and effective management approaches that are required to address the conservation concern in the WH population, while acknowledging the need to manage defense kills.

As you know, this decision does not have any effect on legitimate defense kills; as stipulated in the NLCA and the *Wildlife Act* (Nunavut) there are no restrictions on harvesting wildlife in self defense. As such I do not agree with your stated position that the increased TAH is necessary based on "urgent and serious public safety concerns".

It is important for co-management partners to work cooperatively to maintain communication on wildlife management and the complex challenges that confront us on a wide range of files, including polar bears. With that in mind, the Department of Environment will be prepared to provide the NWMB with updates

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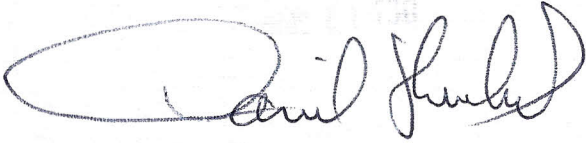
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on various polar bear initiatives at the Regular Meeting No. 66 in December 2010. Our officials will be in contact with NWMB staff to discuss the nature and format of how this information should be presented.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your considered response. I appreciate the effort of the NWMB in reaching its decision, and look forward to the continued cooperation of the NWMB in reaching effective solutions for managing wildlife in Nunavut.

Sincerely,



Daniel Shewchuk
Minister of Environment