

Environment
CanadaEnvironnement
CanadaGatineau, QC
K1A 0H3**AUG 27 2009**

Mr. Harry Flaherty
Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit NU X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Flaherty:

I am writing to advise you of what the Minister is considering with respect to his recommendation to the Governor in Council regarding a listing decision for the Polar Bear on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*, and to request the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's approval decision. This request is being made in accordance with subsection 3.9 of 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* (MOU).

In April 2008, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada assessed the Polar Bear as special concern. In accordance with this assessment, the Minister is considering recommending to the Governor in Council that Polar Bear be added to Schedule 1 of the Act as a species of special concern.

Recognizing that the Department did not submit its request by May 31st for an approval decision, as set out in the MOU, I am requesting that you advise the Minister of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision regarding this proposed listing recommendation by February 28, 2010, with a copy to me. Although this request does not adhere to the specific month stated in the MOU, the amount of time allotted for the decision making process has been respected. This response would correspond with subsection 3.14 of the MOU. Environment Canada remains committed to making the MOU function as envisaged by all parties in its development, and will continue its efforts to meet the specified timelines in the future.

I understand that my staff briefed the Board on the results of the community consultations in June 2009. They would be happy to provide the Board with an update.

I appreciate the Board's ongoing participation in the species at risk listing process.

Sincerely,

for Virginia Poter
Director General
Canadian Wildlife Service

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