



April 13th 2017

Aluki Kotierk
President of Nunavut
Tunngavik Inc

Stanley Adjuk
Chairperson of the
Kivalliq Wildlife Board

Jobie Tukkiapik
President of Makivik
Corporation

Re: Public Hearing of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board concerning the revised *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan*

Through this letter, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) is extending an invitation to your department or organization to provide written, translated submissions and supporting documentation, and to also attend the NWMB's June 6th to 8th 2017 public hearing, regarding the Nunavut Department of Environment's revised *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan* (revised Plan). Further details and instructions regarding submissions to and attendance at the hearing are set out below, in sections 4 to 7 of this correspondence.

In 2013 the Nunavut Department of Environment (Department) began coordinating the development of a draft Polar Bear Management Plan (original Plan), with the intention of

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replacing the current *Polar Bear Memorandum of Understanding* as the guiding document for polar bear management in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

In June of 2015, the Department submitted a *Proposal for Decision* to the NWMB for approval of the original Plan. The Board held a written public hearing in the fall of 2015, and subsequently decided to adjourn that hearing in order to permit the Department to carefully review the submissions received, and to consider revisions to the original Plan based upon its review.

The Department subsequently reviewed those written submissions, undertook and completed a number of revisions, and then conducted further consultations with relevant Inuit organizations during October and November of 2016. The result of that process is the revised Plan, submitted to the NWMB on February 2nd 2017. At the Board's March 2017 quarterly meeting, the NWMB decided to resume the *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan* hearing process as an in-person public hearing.

3. Results of pre-hearing teleconferences

The NWMB has held two pre-hearing teleconferences concerning its planned resumption of the hearing process – one on February 15th, shortly after receiving the revised Plan, and the other on March 30th, following its quarterly meeting.

At the February 15th call, all participants¹ indicated that they would support whatever hearing format (written or in-person) the Board decided upon, and that they intended to participate in the hearing process.

At the March 30th call, attendees provided their views on a draft hearing agenda prepared by the NWMB.² Subject to proposed minor changes (since accepted by the Board), all participants agreed to the timelines and most other details set out in the hearing agenda, which is attached to this correspondence as Appendix A. The agreed-upon timelines for party submissions and resulting questions and answers during the three day hearing are as follows:

- ❖ Nunavut Department of Environment: 3 hours and 55 minutes;
- ❖ Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.: 2 hours;
- ❖ The Qikiqtaaluk Region (Regional Wildlife Organization and Hunters and Trappers Organizations): 3 hours and 15 minutes;

¹ In attendance were representatives of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, the Arviat Hunters and Trappers Association (on behalf of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board), the Department, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Parks Canada, and the World Wildlife Fund Canada.

² In attendance were representatives of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, the Department, Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Polar Bear Administrative Committee. The NWMB will soon be issuing to all participants – under separate cover - a summary record of the pre-hearing teleconference.

- ❖ The Kivalliq Region (Regional Wildlife Organization and Hunters and Trappers Organizations): 3 hours and 15 minutes;
- ❖ The Kitikmeot Region (Regional Wildlife Organization and Hunters and Trappers Organizations): 3 hours and 15 minutes;
- ❖ Qaujimaniliit: 2 hours;
- ❖ Makivik Corporation: 1 hour;
- ❖ World Wildlife Fund Canada: 1 hour;
- ❖ Environment and Climate Change Canada and Parks Canada: 1 hour and 30 minutes; and
- ❖ Members of the public: 45 minutes.

4. Dates and location of the hearing

The “*Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Public Hearing to Consider the Government of Nunavut’s Polar Bear Co-Management Plan*” will take place over three (3) days - June 6th, 7th and 8th 2017 - in Iqaluit at the Cadet Hall. Day 1 begins at 9:00 am. The rest of the daily schedules are set out in the attached hearing agenda. Please note that the NWMB reserves the right to modify details of the agenda, including the daily schedules.

5. NWMB funding for attendance by representatives of Inuit harvesters

The Board is prepared to pay travel and accommodation costs for attendance by up to six (6) representatives from each region (consisting of Distinguished Elders/Qaujimaniliit and representatives of the Regional Wildlife Organization and/or Hunters and Trappers Organizations) – for a total of eighteen (18) participants in total. Selection of those representatives will be decided by the Regional Wildlife Organizations. Unfortunately, the NWMB has no further funding assistance available.

6. Best available information and NWMB Hearing Rules

Copies of the Department’s *Proposal for Decision* (Appendix B) and the NWMB Hearing Rules (Appendix C) are attached to this letter. These - and a number of additional documents comprising the best available information to date – including the revised Plan are also available for download from the NWMB’s online hearing registry (found at www.nwmb.com), or by contacting the Board at the following address:

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD
 1106 Ikaluktuutiak Road, Allavvik Bldg., 3rd Floor
 P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0
 Phone: (867) 975-7300
 Fax: (888) 421-9832
 E-Mail: tsataa@nwmb.com

7. Invitation and instructions to provide written submissions

Through this letter, the NWMB is extending an invitation to your department or organization to provide written submissions and supporting documentations³ in response to the Department's *Proposal for Decision*. **All written materials must be filed with the NWMB – in English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun – by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit Time) on May 19th 2017.** The requirement for translation does not apply to supporting documentation over ten (10) pages in length, as long as each supporting document that is not translated is accompanied by a concise, translated summary (English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun) at least two (2) pages in length.

In addition, the Board is extending an invitation to your department or organization to attend the hearing as a party entitled to make oral submissions, and to ask and answer questions of the other parties. **In order to help ensure a fair and efficient hearing, the NWMB requires that a qualified representative of your department or organization confirm in writing – by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit Time) on May 19th 2017 – attendance by your department or organization as a party at the public hearing.**

Subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy concerns, all submissions and supporting documentation will be placed on the NWMB's website/hearing registry, and will be available for download shortly after they are filed with the Board.

Please take careful note that, unless persuasive written and translated reasons are provided to the NWMB for late filing, the Board will not consider materials for this hearing that are not filed on time.

Materials may be filed with the Board in person, by courier or by mail. They must be clearly marked as pertaining to the *NWMB Public Hearing on the Polar Bear Co-Management Plan*. Delivery of the materials may also be made through fax or electronic transmission, but only if your department or organization confirms by phone with the NWMB – **by no later than the filing deadline** – that a complete and legible copy of the transmission has been received by the Board. Materials are deemed to have been filed on the actual day of receipt by the NWMB.

Please keep in mind that the more thorough, reliable and persuasive supporting evidence and justifications are for your submissions, the more weight they will be given by the NWMB in the *Nunavut Agreement* decision-making process.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to visit the NWMB website or to contact the Board directly.

³ "Supporting documentation" refers to one or more studies, articles, opinions or other documents separate from a person's or organization's written submission, filed as additional evidence and/or argument in support of that person's or organization's submission.

Yours sincerely,



Dan Shewchuk
A/Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Attachments (3)

- c.c. Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Department of Environment;
 Paul Irrngaut, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
 Jason Mikki, Executive Director, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board;
 Ema Qaggutaq, Regional Coordinator, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board;
 Qovik Netser, Regional Coordinator, Kivalliq Wildlife Board;
 Adamie Delisle Alaku, Executive Vice President, Makivik Corporation;
 Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Acting Head of Eastern Arctic, Canadian Wildlife Service,
 Environment and Climate Change Canada;
 Caroline Ladanowski, Director, Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs
 Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada;
 Jenna Boon, Nunavut Field Unit Superintendent, Parks Canada Agency; and
 Paul Crowley, Vice-President Arctic, World Wildlife Fund Canada;