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Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaikjtkut Katimajiat
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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Tammaqtailinahuarinriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

May 21, 2008

The Hon. John Baird
Minister of the Environment
Les Terrasses de la Chaudiere
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

FAXED
21.5.08

Dear Mr. Baird:

Re: The proposed legal listing of the Wolverine (Western Population) as Special Concern under the Species at Risk Act (SARA)

The NWMB's decision

At the fifty fourth Regular Meeting of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board), held between December 11th and 13th 2007, the NWMB completed its consideration of Environment Canada's proposed listing of the Wolverine (Western Population) as a species of "*special concern*" under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). The NWMB made the following decision:

Based on review of the best available information by the NWMB and its technical experts, the NWMB does not approve the listing of the Wolverine (Western Population) as a species of "*special concern*" under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).

Background to the NWMB's December 11th-13th decision

In 2004, Environment Canada (EC) requested approval for the proposed listing of the Wolverine (Western Population) as a "species of special concern" under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA). As you are aware of that approval was dismissed for two reasons. The first of these reasons was that the Board did not feel that the listing process followed the expectations of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). The second was that the Board did not feel there was adequate consultation with effected communities within Nunavut and that the SARA requirement of including Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) had not been met. This decision by the Board was accepted by EC and the appropriate measures to meet the requirements set by the Board were set in motion.

To meet these requirements put forth by the NWMB, EC held consultation meetings with communities and representative organizations that had the highest traditional harvest of the Species between April and May of 2005. These communities and

representative organizations included: (a) the HTO Directors of Kugluktuk, (b) Cambridge Bay, (c) Bathurst Inlet, (d) Baker Lake, (e) Arviat and (f) Rankin Inlet. Through these consultation meetings the Board feels that the appropriate measures were taken to meet the two requirements set out by the Board, thereby the Board feels that an appropriate decision can now be made.

Rationale for the NWMB's Wolverine (Western Population) decision

The NWMB's decision to disapprove of the legal listing of the Wolverine (Western Population) as a species of "special concern" was based on information confirming that the Wolverine population in Nunavut appears to be increasing based on the best available information that has been provided. The main points that the Board reviewed to confirm this notion are the following:

- (1) Consultation meetings conducted by EC illustrated that the communities and representative HTO's generally disagreed with the listing as: 2 disagreed, 1 was indifferent, 1 did not give a position and 1 provided no response. The positions are listed below:
 - (a.) Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association (HTO): supported the listing but stated that current levels are sustainable. Concerns were due to lack of evidence and future changes (environment / human activity)
 - (b.) Ekaluktutiak HTO (Cambridge Bay): was indifferent to the listing.
 - (c.) Aqiggiag HTO (Rankin Inlet): did not give a decision. Concerns were related to lack of information and research. Suggested that more public consultations be done and that hunters be asked to participate.
 - (d.) Baker Lake HTO: disagreed with the decision. Suggested that more public consultations be conducted.
 - (e.) Arviat HTO: no formal written response
 - (f.) Kivalliq HTO's (3): disagreed with the decision. Stated that they were encountering more wolverines than previously.

Conclusion

The NWMB hereby forwards to you, Mr. Minister, its decision with respect to the Wolverine (Western Population) population within the Nunavut Settlement Area and its designation as a species of "*special concern*" under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). Should you have any questions or concerns with respect to this decision or the rationale provided by the NWMB, please do not hesitate to contact the Board.

Yours sincerely,



Harry Flaherty
Acting Chairperson of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board