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June 02, 2017

Mr. D. Shewchuck A/Chairperson Nunavut Wildlife Management Board PO Box 1379 Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent by e-mail to: tsaataa@nwmb.com

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

This letter details Kivalliq Wildlife Board's response to the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board's decision to withdraw from the public hearing on the revised Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan. The Kivalliq Wildlife Board (KWB) Executive met via teleconference on June 1, 2017 and decided that KWB will support QWB's decision to withdraw from the hearing and will also withdraw their participation from the hearing. Here, two major concerns are presented: (1) concern about equal and fair opportunity for all HTOs to participate in the hearing and (2) concern that recommendations are not taken seriously in the consultation process.

Equal and Fair Opportunity for All HTOs to Participate in Public Hearings

In agreeance with the QWB Executive, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board also feels that all HTOs throughout Nunavut should be treated fairly and equally during NWMB hearings and have the same opportunity to participate in public hearings. In the case of in-person hearings, this means that all HTOs potentially affected by the subject matter of the hearing should have equal opportunity to attend the hearing. With this revised Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan hearing, we do not feel that representatives of affected harvesters from every community do have reasonable opportunity to make their views known.

When NWMB is providing financial assistance to RWOs and/or HTOs to attend the hearings, it should be made explicitly clear how much funding will be provided to each RWO and HTO so that if the RWOs and HTOs need to supplement the funding, this can be planned and arranged. Ideally, the financial assistance that NWMB provides should be shared equally between all HTOs and the HTO expenses incurred to participate in meetings should be equivalent from HTO to HTO.



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Whale Cove

Concern that Recommendations are Not Taken Seriously

The KWB Executive recognizes that co-management consultations and hearings in Nunavut can be complicated as well as time and resource consuming. However, they are critically important to ensuring equal participation in wildlife co-management that affect our local communities, regions and the territory.

KWB and the Kivalliq HTOs want to be meaningfully involved in the consultation process. That means we want assurance that our concerns and recommendations are heeded in meaningful ways. Sometimes KWB feels as if issues that are important to us are overlooked or not taken seriously.

One recent example concerns this hearing, recommendations were made in a teleconference that a June hearing was not ideal for hunters to attend because of its overlap with an important hunting season when people want to be on the land.

It is not clear that concerns and recommendations presented at hearings are always taken seriously, which can make participating in the hearings challenging. We want our contributions to these processes to have real impacts on how co-management of wildlife occurs in Nunavut. In this case, community members and harvesters have important knowledge on how polar bears should be managed and harvested. We want this knowledge to be included in the Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan.

It is very important that all of the RWOs and the HTOs throughout Nunavut participate in the public hearings on the revised Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan. The KWB is in support of the concerns expressed by the QWB and has decided that we cannot participate in the public hearing process without full and equal participation of all communities and HTOs throughout Nunavut. I suggest that the current Hearing process be postponed.

Sincerely,

c.cl

Stanley Adjuk, Chairperson, Kivalliq Wildlife Board

7 Hunters and Trappers Orginizations, Kivalliq Region James Eetoolook, Vice President, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. Joe Ashevak, Chairperson, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board



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Joshua Kango, Vice-Chairperson, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board Drikkus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Government of Nunavut