

LA 26, 2017

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ᠲᠤᠰᠠᠳ᠋᠎ᠠ ᠨᠢᠮᠪᠦᠭᠡᠨᠣᠨ ᠱᠤᠯᠤᠰ: tsataa@nwmb.com

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- [illegible]

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Joshua Keung

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May 26, 2017

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

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

Dear Mr. Shewchuk:

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

The QWB Executive met by teleconference today to discuss NWMB's invitation of April 13, 2017 to attend NWMB's in-person public hearing on the revised polar bear plan during June 6-8, 2017. The Executive made the following decisions related to your invitation:

1. The QWB Executive believes that the NWMB's invitation of only 6 Distinguished Elders/Qaujimaniliit and representatives of the Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs) and/or Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) from Qikiqtaaluk region violates the spirit, if not letter, of the Nunavut Agreement. The Agreement does not state that the NWMB may treat any HTO or RWO differently from any other.

Qikiqtaaluk region has 13 HTOs, all of which should be treated fully and equally during any NWMB hearing in terms of opportunity, expenses and time allocations.

The NWMB's invitation attempted to put the QWB in the untenable position of selecting at least 7 HTOs that would not be given full and equal opportunities to represent themselves.

The QWB Executive cannot comply with NWMB's conditional invitation, and has no choice but to decline to select any representatives.

We do not recognize the proposed Hearing as being fair or valid under the spirit of the Nunavut Agreement.

Therefore, the QWB cannot participate in the public Hearing during June 6-8, 2017.

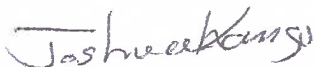
2. Through this letter, I notify the NWMB that the QWB rejects the revised Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan. It is unacceptable in its current form.

Further, the QWB officially withdraws its May 19 Written Submission regarding the revised Plan. We do this because we will be unable to discuss and explain fully our Submission, with the support and additional information that could be offered by all our HTOs if a full and fair Hearing was to be convened.

I regret that the QWB had to make these decisions, but we will not participate in the unfair treatment of the HTOs that we represent as the NWMB has asked us to do. We must stand up for basic principles of co-management, and the spirit of the Nunavut Agreement.

We trust that in future, the NWMB will enable the QWB and all its HTOs to represent their members fully, equally and in-person with respect to this Plan, which will be so important to the Inuit across Nunavut and in every community.

Sincerely,



Joshua Kango
Vice-Chairperson
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

cc. 13 Hunters and Trappers Organizations, Qikiqtaaluk region
James Eetoolook, Vice-President, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Joe Ashevak, Chairperson, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board
Stanley Adjuk, Chairperson, Kivalliq Wildlife Board
Drikkus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Government of Nunavut