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Adjournment by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board of its June 6th to 8th 2017 Public Hearing concerning the *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan*

(*June 5th 2017 – Iqaluit, Nunavut*) The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) has decided to adjourn its scheduled June 6th to 8th 2017 public hearing concerning the draft *Nunavut Polar Bear Co-Management Plan* until at least the fall of 2017. The NWMB made this decision following the receipt of correspondence from the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (May 26th and June 2nd 2017) and the Kivalliq Wildlife Board (June 2nd 2017), which announced that they would not be attending the hearing. The primary reason provided by the two Regional Wildlife Organizations for their withdrawal from the hearing was the lack of sufficient funding provided by the NWMB to pay travel and accommodation costs for all Hunters and Trappers Organizations to attend the hearing.

The NWMB has no legal obligation to fund travel and accommodation costs for parties attending its hearings. As a consequence, there is no funding designated in the NWMB's annual operating budget to pay for intervenor or party attendance at NWMB hearings. Nevertheless, the NWMB, for this particular hearing, was able to re-profile funding from its budget to pay attendance costs for a total of eighteen (18) Regional Wildlife Organization and Hunters and Trappers Organization participants from all three Regions (Qikiqtaaluk, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot).

While the NWMB regrets that this misunderstanding about its funding obligations has led to the adjournment of the hearing, it is ready to work with Nunavut's Regional Wildlife Organizations and Hunters and Trappers Organizations - as well as with the Government of Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated - to ensure that affected Inuit wildlife organizations are able to participate in NWMB hearings.

To receive more information regarding the adjournment of the public hearing, please contact the NWMB:

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