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March 12, 2012

Honorable James Arreak  
Minister of Environment  
P.O. Box 1200,  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0  
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***Re: Request for Ministerial Management Initiative on Southampton Island Caribou***

The Aiviit HTO in Coral Harbour recently met with the GN DoE staff to discuss the current situation of the Southampton Island Caribou population. In light of recent scientific studies and local Inuit Qauyimayatuqangit, it was overwhelmingly agreed by the Aiviit HTO that we request a Ministerial Management Initiative from you on the Southampton Island Caribou.

Please find attached the Southampton Island Caribou Population Management plan that we will forward through to the KWB and NWMB, we would like for you to review and find that with the combination of the current harvest levels, an estimate of sustainable harvest and the recent Abundance Estimate completed by DoE, we are very concerned about where the community is headed toward with the population of Southampton Island Caribou.

As a temporary mitigation measure, we are requesting the following management actions by the Minister of Environment as allowed under the *Nunavut Wildlife Act Section 150 (1) and (2)* where it states...

*Interim decisions*

*150. (1) Pursuant to the Agreement, when urgent and unusual circumstances require an immediate modification in harvesting activities within the Nunavut Settlement Area, the Minister or the Minister's delegate may make and implement any reasonable interim decision.*

*Emergency decisions*

*(2) The Minister or the Minister's delegate may make and implement any emergency order the Minister considers necessary or advisable to protect wildlife,*

*including the prohibition of any activity in relation to wildlife, in respect of an area*

*outside the Nunavut Settlement Area, or within the Settlement Area if it is not contrary to the Agreement.*

The recommended management actions are as follows...

- 1) Establish limits in quantity of caribou that may be harvested to 600 Caribou up until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at which time a limit in quantity of caribou that may be harvested of 1000 will be applied to the 2012/2013 harvesting season commencing July 1, 2012 and terminating June 31, 2013
- 2) Ban all forms of commercial harvesting and remove all tag and tag allocations related to any and all commercial harvest of Caribou on Southampton Island (Including White Island, considered a part of the Southampton Island Caribou Population).
- 3) Establish two Non-Quota Limitations (NQLs) designed to mitigate our conservation concerns. These limitations include the restriction of harvesting of any and all mature bulls on the island and a restriction on the harvesting of any and all cow/calf pairs.

The limits in quantity of caribou that may be harvested as in our request number 1 above is conditional on the following:

- a) that an abundance survey is flown in June 2012 to re-estimate the Southampton Island Caribou Population for the purpose of community buy-in and trust in the scientific methods and also to re-evaluate the limits in the quantity of harvesting caribou and adjust as necessary for the 2012/2013 harvesting season.
- b) That the GN Department of Environment investigate the feasibility of re-locating live mature bulls from other populations such as Coats/Mansel Island or from mainland Nunavut in response to extremely low levels of mature bulls on the island as observed by IQ and scientific surveys, and also to inject new genetic material into the island caribou population. This would also re-populate the mature bulls to aid in the recovery of pregnancy rates.

In addition to the wildlife management initiatives mentioned above, we would also like to see the following related actions by the Department of Environment..

- a) Put in place an information campaign to alert and inform airlines and other shipping companies of the caribou conservation issues on the Island and of the legal requirement for shippers to ensure that caribou meat is not to be shipped without being affixed with a legally obtained tag.
- b) Inform other communities through the proper channels (KWB and NWMB) that there is an establishment of limits in the quantity of caribou that can be harvested and there is a requirement for the issuance of tags through the Coral Harbour HTO before any caribou can be harvest, and also that there are NQL's associated with harvesting caribou on the island.

The Aiviit HTO and the Department of Environment Wildlife Research Division recommends these actions be put in place immediately and that the urgency of this situation will not allow the time necessary to wait for the more lengthy process of working through the NWMB management process. To this end, the Aiviit HTO respectfully recognizes the importance of the NWMB in the decision making process for wildlife management in Nunavut and we will immediately provide this material to the NWMB through the KWB so that this process may begin as early as possible upon resolution to be incorporated in to the current Management Plan over the long term.

Sincerely Yours,



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