

WITNESS STATEMENT OF ROBERT CONNELLY

NOTE: Mr. Connelly is an employee of the Government of Nunavut (GN) and will appear before the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (the Board) in both a personal and representative capacity. As such his evidence is based on personal knowledge as well as familiarity with the information available to him in his capacity as Manager of Community Economic Development working from the Kivalliq Regional Office in Rankin Inlet.

Summary of Key Facts to be Provided by Mr. Connelly:

- Robert Connelly Manager of Community Economic Development, Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Kivalliq Regional Office, Rankin Inlet NU
- GNWT(now GN) employee since April 1997
- Had little to do with the Southampton Island commercial caribou harvest in first few years in the region, but from 1998/99 onward played a role in reviewing applications for funding support from the Aiviit Hunters & Trappers Organization, Hamlet of Coral Harbour and/or the other parties involved in the commercial harvest
- Would review business plans, budgets, application to various government funding programs and make recommendations to his superiors
- If applications were approved would prepare necessary documents to get funding out to the community for the harvest to take place
- Over many years of the harvesting operation maybe 5 or 6 different organizations were responsible for the harvest including Sudliq Developments, Tunnuq Harvest Ltd., the Coral Harbour Community Development Corporation and the Aiviit Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) too
- It was the organizers of the harvest who were required to contact the CFIA and make arrangements to have inspectors in the abattoir; this was done to ensure any and all meats harvested met federal guidelines for export
- Will confirm that the primary focus for the hunt at the outset was for herd management but that the community recognized that there were economic opportunities including jobs that could be created for the community
- Will advise that the harvest created seasonal opportunities and an opportunity to create an exportable product for Nunavut but that required federal certification/inspection
- In the early years Grandview Farms took the meat south to do the final processing (until about 1999) after that the meat was sold to Kivalliq Arctic Foods – owned by the Nunavut Development Corporation (Crown Corporation) and a processing plant was operated in Rankin Inlet which provided over the years between 8 and 16 jobs to do the secondary processing

- Government support was based in part on the project's ability to create jobs and opportunities for the people of Coral Harbour
- Will advise that the relationship between the organizations which held the commercial harvesting licences and the Inuit involved varied over the years, sometimes they were employees and sometimes for business reasons they were subcontractors but the fact is they were paid to do a certain task and to produce a carcass that could meet CFIA and even EU standards so that the product could be shipped to Rankin Inlet for further processing and then shipped to national or international markets
- Will advise that despite best efforts the harvesting project could never be economically viable because that would have required raising the harvest to a level which wildlife managers and the HTO knew would not be sustainable
- Will confirm that the commercial nature of the harvest and requirements for CFIA and other inspections and certification created a very different operation: caribou had to be head shot, delivered to the abattoir in a specific time limit, unfrozen, only 8 to 12 harvesters did all the shooting
- Will advise that government was willing to support the project at an average subsidy of approximately \$100,000.00 to \$150,000.00 per year because it created 50 to 70 jobs per year in a region with limited opportunities
- Will speak to his general knowledge of the history of commercial harvesting on Southampton Island, government support for and management of the harvest