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Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijitkut Katimajiat  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

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Tammaqtailinahuarniriit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin  
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge

October 10<sup>th</sup> 2014

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq  
Minister of Environment  
Environment Canada

Honourable Johnny Mike  
Minister of Environment  
Government of Nunavut

Cathy Towtongie  
President of Nunavut  
Tungavik Inc

Ross Tatty  
Chairperson of the  
Kivalliq Wildlife Board

Alex Ishalook  
Chairperson of the Arviat  
Hunters and Trappers  
Organization

Hugh Ikoie  
Chairperson of the Baker  
Lake Hunters and Trappers  
Organization

Barney Aggark  
Chairperson of the Aqigig  
Hunters and Trappers  
Organization

Paul Kanayok  
Chairperson of the  
Kangiqliniq Hunters and  
Trappers Organization

Stanley Adjuk  
Chairperson of the Issatik  
Hunters and Trappers  
Organization

Dag Vongraven  
Chairperson of the IUCN  
Polar Bear Specialist Group

David Miller  
President and CEO  
World Wildlife Fund Canada

Drikus Gissing  
Chairperson of the Polar  
Bear Administrative  
Committee

Dear Colleagues:

**Re: Public hearing of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board concerning the regional total allowable harvest level for the Western Hudson Bay polar bear sub-population**

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has scheduled a public hearing concerning the level of regional total allowable harvest for the Western Hudson Bay polar bear sub-population.

**Background**

On September 15<sup>th</sup> 2014, during the NWMB's Regular Meeting number 003-2014, the Board discussed the NWMB's August 2012 resolution regarding the total allowable harvest for the Western Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation, which was as follows:

*"RESOLVED that – pursuant to Sections 5.3.3, 5.6.16, and 5.6.17 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement – the NWMB approve a regional total allowable harvest of twenty four (24) polar bears for the Western Hudson Bay subpopulation for three (3) years only, to be formally reviewed following the 2014-2015 harvesting season, or at such time as new relevant information based on western science and/or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit becomes available"*

The NWMB has made a commitment to review and set the total allowable harvest for the Western Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation in time for the opening of the 2015-2016 harvesting season on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. In addition, new relevant scientific information has become available as Environment Canada has recently completed an updated population status report (not yet peer reviewed) based on analysis of mark-recapture and harvest data collected between 1984 and 2011. Therefore, during the NWMB's In-Camera meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the NWMB decided to conduct a public hearing to review and set the level of total allowable harvest for the Western Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation.

### **In-person public hearing details**

The hearing will take place on **December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014, in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut at the Siniktarvik Hotel & Conference Centre**. The hearing will be conducted each day from **9:00 am to 5:00 pm**. In addition the NWMB may also hold evening sessions from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

The Board is prepared to pay travel and accommodation costs for attendance by up to four (4) Qaujimaniliit and four (4) Hunters and Trappers Organization representatives (eight (8) delegates in total). This includes: one (1) delegate from the Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization, one (1) Qaujimaniliit from Arviat, one (1) delegate from the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization, one (1) Qaujimaniliit from Baker Lake, one (1) delegate from the Aqigiq (Chesterfield Inlet) Hunters and Trappers Organization, one (1) Qaujimaniliit from Chesterfield Inlet, one (1) delegate from the Issatik (Whale Cove) Hunters and Trappers Organization and one (1) Qaujimaniliit from Whale Cove. Selection of those delegates will be decided by the Kivalliq Wildlife Board. If other representatives of Inuit harvesters wish to attend, the NWMB has no further funding available, but will – if requested, and to the extent reasonably possible – make arrangements for electronic attendance at the hearing.

The hearing rules and a number of documents comprising the best available information to date are available for download from the NWMB's website ([www.nwmb.com](http://www.nwmb.com)) or by contacting the NWMB at the following coordinates:

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD  
3rd Floor, Ikaluktuutiak Drive  
P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0  
Phone: (867) 975-7300  
Fax: (888) 421-9832  
E-Mail: [receptionist@nwmb.com](mailto:receptionist@nwmb.com)

### **Invitation and instruction to provide written submissions**

Through this letter, the NWMB is extending an invitation to your department or organization to provide written submissions and supporting documentation concerning the level of regional total allowable harvest for the Western Hudson Bay polar bear sub-population.

Written submissions and supporting documentation must be filed with the NWMB, in **Inuktitut and English**, by no later than **5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time) on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**

Subject to relevant confidentiality or privacy concerns, all submissions will be placed on the NWMB's website, and will be available for download, shortly after the submission deadline.

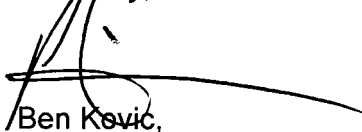
**Please take careful note that, unless persuasive written and translated reasons are provided to the NWMB for late filing, the Board will not consider materials for this hearing that are not filed on time.**

Submissions and their supporting documentation may be filed with the Board in person, by courier or by mail. They should be clearly marked as pertaining to the *NWMB Public Hearing for Western Hudson Bay Polar Bear*. Delivery of the materials may also be made through fax or electronic transmission, but only if your department or organization confirms by phone with the NWMB - prior to the filing deadline - that a complete and legible copy of the transmission has been received by the Board. Materials are deemed to have been filed on the actual day of receipt by the NWMB.

Please keep in mind that the more thorough, reliable and persuasive submissions and supporting documentation are, the more weight they will be given by the NWMB in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* decision-making process.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to visit the NWMB website or to contact the Board directly.

Sincerely,



Ben Kovic,  
Chairperson of the  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

- c.c. Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment;  
Bert Dean, A/Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated;  
Lisa Pirie, A/Head of Eastern Arctic, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service;  
Peter Hale, Senior Advisor, Arctic Wildlife Management, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada;  
Leah Muckpah, Kivalliq Liaison Officer, Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat; and  
Paul Crowley, Director of World Wildlife Fund - Canada's Arctic Program