

Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board
Comments for the Public Hearing
September 29, 2009

Hearing the comments from the 3 communities using IQ knowledge, the public hearing last year in April, 2008 and the upcoming public hearing, the Government seems to be handling this in a rush and the Government is still pressuring Inuit. As per the NLCA, it states on Article 5.6 from 1 to 4 and Article 5.7 from 1 to 16 about our Wildlife and HTO/RWO Powers and Functions. Back in November of 1997, I participated in a 2 days research and tagging with Mitch Taylor, Polar Bear Biologist from Dept. of Environment outside of Pond Inlet who had provided a report. But I did not find out how long the research and tagging lasted with Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq.

Around between Elsmere Island and Greenland and between North of Pangnirtung and South of Greenland, any kind of research has never been done around that area and the report that was provided by Dept. of Environment made an estimate figure only. Also it mentions between Baffin Bay and Kain Basin and between Baffin Bay and Davis Strait, there has never been a research done. If there was never a research done but a plan is being made for the next 5 years until 2014, how can the Government make a plan before the research has never been completed. It does not make sense making a plan that is not completed for Inuit and the Organizations.

For those who are talking about the Arctic, they assume that when we deal with wildlife issues and the Film crew who film polar bears or marine mammals, it has a huge impact on us by reports and photographs provided from Overseas. For this our own land, we live on the land and I would also like to mention since 1993, I have been involved with wildlife issues with RWO, every year the 13 Baffin communities keep saying there are too many polar bears around in Nunavut, all year round. It appears that nobody is concerned about polar bear birthing or migration.

Also, the Minister for Environment seems to make changes in his letter regarding the Baffin Bay quota on his own even though we have signed the MOU. It states in the MOU, 1.11 that all signatories have to come up with an agreement before making any decisions and changing the MOU.

Also, on the report on #1 or # 2, if it becomes in affect, the Inuit from the 3 communities will be in more danger because any bear that comes into the camp and destroy equipments that all bears would be killed. We know that if more rules and regulations are set out that it could create more difficult for Inuit.

Also, if the Government is putting more restraints on Inuit, it could create problems in the future and since we are in Nunavut, that it should not be dealt with from outside as it is part of our food.

Lastly, we would be very happy if all of Baffin Bay area and Greenland area to conduct a complete research. Also, for Foxe Basin area, that a 5 year research is being done, they should do the same thing for Baffin Bay area. At this time, there are still concern's that needs to be raised and dealt with and the Government has to realize that as they are not following it.