



Nunavut Field Unit
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Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

January 28, 2015

Ben Kovic
Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P. O. Box 1379
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Re: NWMB Public Hearing for Baffin Island Caribou

Mr. Chairperson,

This letter is in response to the December 23, 2014 invitation for written submissions for the upcoming public hearing for Baffin Island caribou. Parks Canada will attend the upcoming hearing and will be available to answer questions from any party regarding this written submission.

The conservation of endemic species and their habitat for future generations of Canadians is a key part of Parks Canada's mandate:

"On behalf of the people of Canada, we protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage, and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure the ecological and commemorative integrity of these places for present and future generations."

Despite current low numbers, Baffin Island caribou are an important part of ecosystems in Sirmilik and Auyuittuq national parks as well as an important aspect of Inuit culture in the communities adjacent to these parks. For these reasons, Parks Canada supports management actions that will prevent the further reduction or extirpation of caribou on Baffin Island and will allow future generations of Inuit to have access to caribou.

Parks Canada agrees with the Government of Nunavut's proposal to use an adaptive management approach based on regular monitoring that adapts harvest restrictions to reflect population size and trajectory. This ongoing adaptive management will be important to allow for the recovery of the species while maintaining a sustainable Inuit harvest.

Parks Canada does not have specific information to contribute that supports one of the approaches proposed by the Government of Nunavut over another, however Parks Canada will work with the Government of Nunavut and other wildlife management partners to ensure that future management actions are effective and applied within the national parks on Baffin Island.

In closing, Parks Canada requests that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board provide the recommendations of the upcoming hearing to the Minister of Environment for the Government of Canada.

Sincerely,



Nancy Anilniliak
Field Unit Superintendent