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Société Makivik
Makivik Corporation

November 17, 2017

Daniel Shewchuk
Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Box 1379
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0

Re: Makivik submission to the NWMB Western Hudson Bay Polar Bear public hearing

Dear Mr. Shewchuck;

I am writing to you on behalf of Makivik Corporation, the birthright organization representing the Inuit of Nunavik. As you are aware, Nunavimmiut are also polar bear hunters. Although Nunavik is not adjacent to the Western Hudson Bay (WH) polar subpopulation boundary, Inuit hunters know polar bears travel extensively throughout Hudson Bay, and that polar bears from the Western Hudson Bay subpopulation can sometimes be found along the coast of Nunavik. During the 2010-2011 polar bear harvest, two polar bears that had been tagged in Western Hudson Bay (tag numbers 33126 and 33232, captured and tagged south of Churchill, MB) were hunted near Inukjuak, Nunavik. Makivik would like to stress that, while the take of WH polar bears in Nunavik is limited, there is an incidental take of WH bears, primarily by our communities in Hudson Bay.

When making decisions, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) must consider harvesting activities that take place outside of the Nunavut Settlement Area (Nunavut Land Claims Agreement s. 5.3.4). Makivik feels that it is important that the NWMB be made aware of information related to hunting of WH polar bears that takes place in outside of the NSA in order for the NWMB to arrive at the best decision possible.

For further information on the take of polar bears in Nunavik, including polar bears from the WH subpopulation, I invite you to contact my technical staff: Gregor Gilbert (ggilbert@makivik.org) or Mark O'Connor (moconnor@makivik.org).

Sincerely,

Adamie Delisle-Alaku
Executive Vice-President
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Makivik Corporation

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