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September 18, 2019

James Qillaq Chairperson of the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Dear Mr. Qillaq:

Re: Request for comments from the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board concerning the Government of Nunavut's *Baffin Island Caribou Management Plan*

NWMB decision

At the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's (NWMB or Board) Regular Meeting in Iqaluit on September 11, 2019 (RM003-2019), the Government of Nunavut asked the NWMB to approve the *Baffin Island Caribou Management Plan* (management plan). The goal of the management plan is to serve as "an adaptive guide to harvest and monitoring of the Baffin Island caribou population."

The Board considered the Government of Nunavut's proposal, along with records of government consultations with affected communities in the Qikiqtaaluk Region and decided to write to the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB). The Board decided to request that the QWB provide its position on the contents of the management plan, to the Government of Nunavut—before making a decision on the management plan. In reaching this decision, the NWMB considered the following:

- The Baffin Island caribou population is at a historic low, and there is a need to actively engage co-management partners in its management and recovery planning.
- On September 25, 2018, the Government of Nunavut sent the revised management plan to all Qikiqtaaluk Hunters and Trappers Organizations, QWB, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., and NWMB for comment. The initial deadline for submission of comments on the management plan was postponed several times at the request of the QWB. No comments were received from the QWB or any other Qikiqtani community by the July 15, 2019, deadline.
- Written input by the the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board could assist the Government of Nunavut in improving the management plan.
- The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board is a key co-management partner and the Qikiqtaaluk communities are the most directly affected in the management of Baffin Island caribou.



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The NWMB is requesting that the QWB provides its position on the *Baffin Island Caribou Management Plan* to the Government of Nunavut by **Friday**, **December 13**, **2019**, at **5 p.m. eastern time**.

If you or your officials have any questions or concerns about the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Shewchuk

Chairperson

Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

- cc Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife Management, Nunavut Department of Environment;
 - Paul Irngaut, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated; and
 - Pitsiulak Kolola, Executive Director, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board.