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Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board
Executive Meeting
February 3, 2022

WHEREAS in November 2020, the QWB AGM passed a resolution (Appendix A) to prohibit live-handling and related research of wild mammals in Qikiqtaaluk Region based on published peer-reviewed scientific papers showing risks of transmission of the COVID-19 virus from humans to mammals;

WHEREAS the QWB committed to review this prohibition annually, which the QWB Executive has undertaken;

WHEREAS on April 7, 2021, the Government of Nunavut refused to postpone their research programs of live-handling of caribou, in part because at that time:

- the available peer-reviewed scientific evidence for many species of mammals was based on modelling of their potential susceptibility to the virus and not actual infections;
- evidence of COVID infections of non-human mammals came from captive wildlife not closely related to caribou or polar bears, and
- there had been zero (0) cases of SARS-COV-2 in the Baffin region of Nunavut.

WHEREAS all of the above points have now changed, with:

- wild white-tailed deer, a species closely related to caribou, in Quebec and 4 states in the USA testing positive for the COVID virus, proving the susceptibility modeling to be valid and not restricted to captive mammals;
- the number of human COVID cases in Qikiqtaaluk Region has hit many communities in Qikiqtaaluk Region; and
- human infections are not prevented by vaccination against the recent variant of COVID, and individual persons can change from being negative to being positive within 24 hours;

WHEREAS healthy wildlife populations are extremely important to the nutrition and culture of future generations of Inuit, and the potential impacts of COVID on wildlife populations are currently unknown;

WHEREAS Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and other non-invasive research methods will continue to be available to manage wildlife without any need for live-handling by humans;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that

1. The QWB requests the federal and territorial Ministers responsible for wildlife and scientific research and protected area permitting and licensing in Qikiqtaaluk Region to prohibit the live-handling of all wild mammals in Nunavut at least until March 31, 2023.

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Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

2. This prohibition will continue to be reviewed by the QWB Executive annually, and renewed annually until the potential risks of human-wildlife transmission and wildlife health risks from the COVID virus are considered negligible.
3. The QWB further requests that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board makes a decision supports these prohibitions and restrictions in Qikiqtaaluk Region.

Moved: David Irngaut

Seconded: Philip Manik, Sr.

In Favor ___ALL___

Passed __X_____

Date: February 3, 2022

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James Qillaq, Chairman