

November 10th 2009

Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of the Environment
Government of Canada

Honourable Dan Shewchuk
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut

Paul Kaludjak
President of Nunavut
Tungavik Incorporated

Ross Tatty
Chairperson of the
Kivalliq Wildlife Board

Attima Hadlari
Chairperson of the
Kitikmeot Regional
Wildlife Board

Jayko Alooos
Vice-Chairperson of the
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board

Chairpersons of the following Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs):

Arviat HTO
Issatik HTO
Aqiggiak HTO
Aqigiq HTO

Baker Lake HTO
Aiviit HTO
Burnside HTO
Angoniatit HTO

Ekaluktutiak HTO
Omingmaktok HTO
Hall Beach HTO
Sanikiluaq HTO

Peter J. Ewins
Director of Species Conservation
World Wildlife Fund

Dear Colleagues:

Re: Written hearing of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to Consider the Listing of the Short-eared Owl as a “*Species of Special Concern*” in the Nunavut Settlement Area

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) has scheduled a written hearing to consider the proposed legal listing, pursuant to the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), of the Short-eared Owl as a “*species of special concern*” in the Nunavut Settlement Area. If a wildlife species is listed as special concern, it means that the species may become threatened or endangered in the future because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

A written hearing is one in which all submissions are filed in writing, and the hearing does not have an oral component. If you have an objection in this case to the NWMB holding a written

hearing only, please respond in writing to this letter by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time) on November 20th 2009, providing the reason or reasons for your position. **The NWMB will not consider any objection received after the November 20th deadline.**

Attached to this letter is a copy of the Government of Canada's Department of Environment-Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) *Proposal for NWMB Decision* (CWS Proposal), filed recently with the Board. The NWMB is expecting to soon receive a comprehensive set of documents from CWS, comprising the best available information to date concerning the proposed listing of Short-eared Owl as a species of special concern. Plans are currently underway to place all of those documents on the NWMB's website (www.nwmb.com) by no later than November 13th 2009. Thereafter, they will be available for download from the Board's website, or by contacting the NWMB at the following coordinates:

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Parnaivik Building

P.O. Box 1379, Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Phone: (867) 975-7300

Fax: (867) 975-7320

E-Mail: receptionist@nwmb.com

Through this letter, the NWMB is inviting your department/organization to file written submissions responding to the CWS Proposal and any other relevant documents filed with the Board – duly translated into English and Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun, as the case may be – by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time) on January 8th 2010. The requirement for translation at the time of filing is mandatory.

Unless persuasive written and translated reasons are provided to the Board for late filing, the NWMB will not consider materials for this hearing that are not filed on time.

Shortly after the deadline for delivery of the written submissions, the NWMB will consider all of the relevant evidence and arguments filed, and will make a decision whether or not to approve the listing of Short-eared Owl as a species of special concern.

Submissions may be filed with the Board in person, by courier or by mail. They should be clearly marked as pertaining to the NWMB Hearing for Short-eared Owl. Delivery of the submissions may also be made through fax or electronic transmission, but only if your department/organization confirms by phone with the NWMB – by no later than 5:00 p.m. (Iqaluit time) on January 8th 2010 – that a complete and legible copy of the transmission has been received by the Board. Documents are deemed to have been filed on the actual day of receipt by the NWMB.

Please keep in mind that the more thorough, reliable and persuasive supporting evidence and justifications are for your submissions, the more weight they will be given by the NWMB in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* decision-making process.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to visit the NWMB website or contact the Board directly.

Yours sincerely,



Harry Flaherty,
Acting Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Attachment (1)

- c.c. Richard Connelly, Executive Director of the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, for distribution to the Chairpersons of Nunavut's other Hunters and Trappers Organizations;
Drikus Gissing, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Department of Environment;
Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Bert Dean, Senior Policy Advisor, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Virginia Potter, Director General, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service;
and
Siu-Ling Han, Head of Eastern Arctic, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Gatineau, QC
K1A 0H3

AUG 27 2009

Mr. Harry Flaherty
Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
P.O. Box 1379
Iqaluit NU X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Flaherty:

I am writing to advise you of what the Minister is considering with respect to his recommendation to the Governor in Council regarding a listing decision for the Short-eared Owl on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*, and to request the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's approval decision. This request is being made in accordance with subsection 3.9 of the Memorandum of Understanding to Harmonize the Designation of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and the Listing of Wildlife Species at Risk Under the *Species at Risk Act* (MOU).

In April 2008, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada assessed the Short-eared Owl as special concern. In accordance with this assessment, the Minister is considering recommending to the Governor in Council that the Short-eared Owl on Schedule 1 of the Act as a species of special concern.

Recognizing that the Department did not submit its request by May 31st for an approval decision, as set out in the MOU, I am requesting that you advise the Minister of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's decision regarding this proposed listing recommendation by February 28, 2010, with a copy to me. Although this request does not adhere to the specific month stated in the MOU, the amount of time allotted for the decision making process has been respected. This response would correspond with subsection 3.14 of the MOU. Environment Canada remains committed to making the MOU function as envisaged by all parties in its development, and will continue its efforts to meet the specified timelines in the future.

I understand that my staff briefed the Board on the results of the community consultations in June 2009. They would be happy to provide the Board with an update.

I appreciate the Board's ongoing participation in the species at risk listing process.

Sincerely,

for Virginia Poter
Director General
Canadian Wildlife Service

Canada

www.ec.gc.ca



Document communiqué en vertu de l'accès à l'information