









As per *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* Section 5.6.19, the Board shall strike a basic needs level once a total allowable harvest has been determined. Therefore, following a pre-hearing teleconference with its co-management partners the Board passed the following resolution during its In-Camera Meeting (006-2015) on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015:

*RESOLVED that the NWMB divide the current Southampton Island caribou hearing into two hearing: a written hearing addressing the total allowable harvest and accompanying non-quota limitation for Southampton Island caribou, and the continuation of the in-person hearing addressing the basic needs level for Southampton Island caribou.*

The NWMB is planning to resume its in-person hearing to address the basic needs level in 2016.

## **2. RATIONALE FOR THE NWMB'S DECISIONS**

During its decision-making, the NWMB carefully considered the best available scientific information and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. A May 2015 aerial survey produced a population estimate of 12,297 caribou, demonstrating that the population had increased from the May 2013 population estimate of 7,287 caribou. This increase is believed to be in part due to an emigration event detected by Coral Harbour hunters in the winter of 2013/2014.

In addition, the Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment staff held a face to face meeting with the Coral Harbour Hunters and Trappers Organization to discuss the survey results. During this meeting the Hunters and Trappers Organization passed a motion supporting a total allowable harvest of 1600 caribou and a non-quota limitation prohibiting the harvest of cow/calf pairs for the Southampton Island caribou herd.

Given that the 2015 population survey indicates an increase in herd size and that the next aerial survey is expected to occur in May 2017, the NWMB does not feel that setting the total allowable harvest at 1600 will cause a conservation concern during this short time frame. In fact, as the most recent Interim Order for this herd expired on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, leaving no legal harvest restrictions in place, the NWMB feels that setting this total allowable harvest is essential to ensure the sustainable harvesting of this herd.

## **3. Conclusion**

As per Section 5.3.8 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, the NWMB is hereby forwarding its decision concerning the harvest management of Southampton Island caribou to you for your review and consideration. As there are currently no legal harvest restrictions in place, the NWMB looks forward to your prompt reply, ensuring that the Article 5 decision making process will be completed as soon as possible.

Should you or your officials have any questions or concerns regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ben Kovic', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ben Kovic  
Chairperson of the  
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Enclosures (1)

