ᓄᓇᕗᑦᒥ ᐆᒪᔪᓕᕆᔨᕐᔪᐊᑦ ᑲᑎᒪᔨᖏᑦ
Nunavunmi Anngutighatigut Aulapkaijitkut Katimajiat
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᐆᒪᔪᓂᒃ ᐱᐅᖅᓯᐊᕈᓯᖏᓐᓂᒃ ᐆᒪᔪᓕᕆᔾᔪᓯᖏᓐᓂᒡᓗ ᐊᑐᕐᓗᑎᒃ ᐊᒻᒪ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅᑎᒻᒪᕆᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᒪᓂᕆᔭᖏᓐᓂᒃ ᐆᒪᔪᓕᕆᔾᔪᓯᖃᕐᓗᑎᒃ, ᐅᓪᓗᒥ ᐃᓄᖕᒍᑎᓪᓗ ᑭᖑᕝᕕᓴᓪᓗ ᐊᖑᓇᓱᒍᓐᓇᐃᓐᓇᕆᒌᓗᒋᑦ ᓄᓇᕗᒥ.

*Managing wildlife, guided by conservation principles, honouring the key role of Inuit in harvesting, for the well-being of current and future generations in Nunavut.*

By Email

April 28, 2025

Gabriel Nirlungayuk
Director, Wildlife and Environment Department
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

Dear Mr. Nirlungayuk:

**Re: BNL for Southampton Island Caribou**

I am writing on behalf of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (Board) in response to your letter dated April 7, 2025, regarding the Basic Needs Level for caribou on Southampton Island.

The Board's July 2024 Memo followed a comprehensive internal review of the information, evidence, arguments, and perspectives submitted by co-management partners and other parties—regarding what types of harvests are to be included in the calculation of Basic Needs Levels—over the ten years starting from the conclusion of the Nunavut Wildlife Harvest Study ("NWHS") in 2004 and concluding with the adjournment of the Southampton Island caribou public hearing in 2014.

Based on this review, the Board accepted as "correct", and made the decision to rely on, the NWHS Steering Committee's interpretation of the *Nunavut Agreement*, which recommended the exclusion of commercial harvests from consideration in the establishment of a Basic Needs Level (BNL).

The NWHS Steering Committee determined that the "primary application of the Harvest Study results was for the calculation of the basic needs levels" and concluded that:

> the context of the Agreement does indicate that the basic needs level is that amount of harvest which is currently taken for domestic and cultural purposes. …. (sic) Harvesting or gathering for the purpose of obtaining skins, feathers, dog food, craft materials, etc. would all be acknowledged "basic needs" components as long as the end use occurred in the hunter's community or entered into inter-settlement trade. Apparently, not eligible for consideration as an item of "basic need" would be material harvested or gathered for commercial sale as food outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The Board's decision to defer to the expertise of the members of the Steering Committee is further supported by the fact that the membership of the Steering Committee was composed of respected and knowledgeable representatives appointed by all three Regional Wildlife Organizations and three government departments. These representatives had ample occasion to voice the positions of their respective organizations at the time the Nunavut Harvest Study was being conducted. Their recommendation reflects their understanding of the intent of these provisions of the *Nunavut Agreement*.

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We trust this clarification addresses your concerns regarding the Board's process and methods that led to the issuance of the July 2024 Memo.

As required under Section 5.6.24 of the Nunavut Agreement, Board staff will consult with the Hunters and Trappers Organization in Coral Harbour to confirm whether the community kept records regarding the levels of <u>non-commercial</u> harvesting activities by Inuit in the five years before the TAH was established.

This meeting is currently scheduled for 6:30 pm local time (EST) on May 07, 2025, at the Hamlet Chambers in Coral Harbour. We welcome Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.'s participation in person or through a link for virtual attendance upon request.

Sincerely,

Jason Akearok
NWMB Executive Director