



December 24 2014

The Honourable Johnny Mike
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut
P.O. 1000, Station 1320
Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Dear Minister Mike:

Re: Request for a reply by the Government of Nunavut to Nunavut Tunngavik's proposed Nunavut Wildlife Management Board Directions for pre-hearing disclosure in the Southampton Island Caribou Public Hearing

As you are aware, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) adjourned phase 2 of the NWMB's Southampton Island Caribou Public Hearing (SHI Hearing) on May 28th 2014. The reason for the adjournment was that more time was required to obtain important evidence, primarily from the Government of Nunavut (GN). Throughout the seven months since that adjournment, this matter has remained a top priority for the Board, and it intends to reconvene the hearing at the earliest reasonable opportunity.

On December 3rd 2014, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) informed the NWMB by correspondence that it had received a large volume of new SHI hearing documents from the GN. At the same time, NTI requested that the NWMB issue directions as soon as possible regarding pre-hearing disclosure. The proposed need for the development and issuance of such directions was first raised by NTI in October 28th 2014 correspondence, copied to the GN. Therein, NTI invited "...the GN to inform NTI and the Board of the GN's views regarding NTI's requested Board Directions by November 04..." The GN promptly indicated that it would formally respond to the NTI request following internal discussions. As a result, the NWMB decided to wait to provide its own reply to NTI until after the GN had set out its views.

More than seven weeks have passed since October 28th, and the GN has yet to provide its response. Taking into account that the hearing has been adjourned for more than half a year, and that the GN has recently delivered its new hearing documents to NTI, the Board has decided that the issuance of NWMB Directions at this time would be particularly helpful in moving the hearing process forward in a timely, transparent and fair manner.

The Board's preparation of such Directions would clearly be aided by a consideration of the GN's views. Accordingly, **the NWMB is requesting that the GN fulfill its commitment to formally respond to NTI's October 28th 2014 invitation by no later than January 21 2015.** Shortly thereafter, the Board intends to finalize and issue its Directions.

In the meantime, NWMB, GN and NTI legal counsel met on December 16th 2014 to discuss issues related to reconvening the SHI caribou hearing at the earliest reasonable opportunity. The Board understands their consensus view to be that the GN should be in a position to file new hearing documents by early February 2015. Considering the urgent need to complete the hearing and resulting co-jurisdictional decision-making process under Article 5 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* – as well as the approaching expiration of your most recent *Southampton Island Caribou Herd Total Allowable Harvest Interim Order* on June 30th 2015 - the NWMB is in agreement that an early-February filing timeline is appropriate.

Mr. Minister, should you or your officials have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the Board at your convenience. The NWMB looks forward to soon receiving and considering the GN's response to NTI's October 28th 2014 requested Board Directions.

Yours sincerely,



Ben Kovic,
Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

c.c. Cathy Towtongie, President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Deputy Minister, Department of Environment;
Paul Irgaut, Wildlife Director, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;
Ross Tatty, Chairperson of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board;
James Qillaq, Chairperson of the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board;
Noah Kadlak, Chairperson of the Coral Harbour Hunters and Trappers Organization;
Quvianaqtuliaq Tapaungai, Chairperson of the Aiviq Hunters and Trappers Organization;
Michel Akkuardjuk, Chairperson of the Arviq Hunters and Trappers Organization;
Barney Aggark, Chairperson of the Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers Organization;
Paul Kanayok, Chairperson of the Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization;
and
The Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat