



Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association • Hunters' and Trappers' Organization
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Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board
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Bathurst Inlet Hunters & Trappers Association
Bay Chimo Hunters & Trappers Association
Kurairojuark Hunters & Trappers Association
Taloyoak Hunters & Trappers Association
Department of Environment, Regional Office
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board – Iqaluit
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RE: Sports Hunting of Caribou in the Kitikmeot Region & Tags

This has become an ongoing and urgent issue for the Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association, Hunters & Trappers Organization (HTO), since 2009, when the HTO Board of Directors decided to take action by announcing in a statement that they will no longer support sports hunts on caribou.

In the past, the Kugluktuk HTO created priorities on what actions to take when caribou are in decline. The first priority being to stop all issuance of sports hunting tags on caribou for Kugluktuk. This was requested and sent for support from the other Kitikmeot Region communities. This statement was sent on December 7th, 2009. To date, this issue has not been addressed by the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board or the other communities in the region.

A letter was sent to the outfitter that worked out of Kugluktuk, and it was Fred Webb's sports hunting outfitter stating that we are asking that all sports hunts be stopped on caribou until further notice, who sent a letter back to the Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association (HTO), stating that he fully supported the Kugluktuk Hunters & Trappers decision and would no longer conduct sports hunts on caribou. He also stated that he would still like to continue to conduct sports hunts on other animals, and continue to work side by side with the Kugluktuk HTO. The Kugluktuk HTO support the outfitter and continues to work closely with the outfitter and continues to receive reports.

What the Kugluktuk HTO cannot understand is how sports hunting is still being conducted on caribou while the caribou are in decline? How the caribou sports hunting tags are being issued in Nunavut and being hunted in the NWT, when NWT has a decision to stop sports hunting on caribou. Where is the logic? How does this assist our Inuit when Inuit are fighting to have caribou on our tables, and the sports hunters are allowed to hunt them for the big dollar, and in the pocket of the few Inuit, while the larger Inuit population struggle.

The Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association is requesting support from the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board on the decision to stop issuing sports hunting tags on ALL caribou herds. It has become such a dire issue, the caribou are in further decline and still there are communities in the region who continue to conduct sports hunts, all for the big dollar.

The outfitters are supporting the sports hunters and their game of hunting, while Inuit are struggling to harvest caribou for subsistence, to put food on their table. Each community has a right to stop sports hunts on caribou, or can seek to work together with outfitters.

There is a bigger incentive that needs to be addressed, and that is to save our caribou to help our Inuit and to see that our younger generation will have caribou. Right now, our community members are not getting any caribou because the caribou are scarce, and the caribou have been too far away.

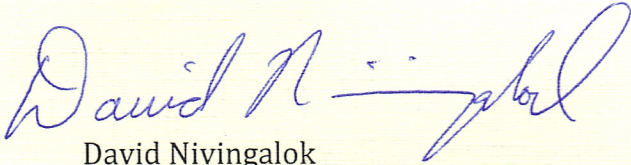
The caribou that our community harvests are the Bluenose East Caribou herd, the Dolphin and Union Caribou herd and sometimes the Bathurst Caribou herd. All the herds are presently showing major signs of decline. This has to be a major concern as a large picture. We need to address it as a Kitikmeot community, so larger issues do not come about. Which can be a moratorium like what happened in Iqaluit. And that is something we cannot allow.

We are asking each Kitikmeot community to support the Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association to stop the issuance of sports hunting tags on ALL caribou, and those are the Bluenose East Caribou, Dolphin and Union Caribou and the Bathurst Inlet Caribou. The Kitikmeot Region can fight together to save our livelihood, which is so important, to save the caribou for the younger generations to come. Do you want your grandchildren and great grandchildren to continue to have caribou while they grow up? Then there is action to be taken. We need to think of them now.

There are ways to educate our hunters to harvest other animals to help each community sustain them with country food. It can be done. Instead of conducting large community harvests on caribou, provide other country food instead, there is muskox, fish, rabbits, ptarmigan, seals, whale. We can teach and educate our communities that there are other country food and not caribou only.

The Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association, Hunters & Trappers Organization (HTO) is now requesting and seeking support to stop all sports hunts in the Kitikmeot Region. We need to do this until our caribou are in healthy populations again. We need to do this for our Inuit.

Regards,



David Nivingalok
Chairperson

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