

Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association
Hunters' and Trappers' Organization
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February 12, 2010

FAXED
Feb 12/10

The Honorable J. Michael Miltenberger
Minister of Environment & Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

**Re: Decision to Allow Caribou Hunting of Other Herds
(Due to Decision on Harvesting Ban of the Bathurst Caribou Herd)**

During the January 28, 2010 regular board meeting of the Kugluktuk Hunters' & Trappers' Organization, Board of Directors, Kugluktuk, Nunavut, the board raised some concerns regarding the decision made by GNWT, ENR to encourage aboriginal harvesters in the NWT (Yellowknife Area) to hunt other caribou herds, for example; the Bluenose East and West and Ahiak caribou herds to compensate for the GNWT, ENR decision to ban harvesting of the Bathurst caribou herd.

The Kugluktuk HTO board is concerned about the decision by ENR, GNWT to assist the North Slave harvesters with chartered flights to harvest the Bluenose East and West, and Ahiak caribou herds. Kugluktuk HTO feels that the decision to harvest from other caribou herds as measure to compensate the harvesting ban on the Bathurst caribou winter range is not appropriate considering the similar declining trends experienced by these caribou herds. This decision was made without consulting all groups and communities that are connected to these herds. The Bluenose East and West, the Dolphin and Union, and the Ahiak caribou herds are shared between the Kitimeot and the NWT and are used for subsistence by West Kitimeot and Inuvialuit residents..

Here are some of the concerns (and statements) that were presented by the Kugluktuk Hunters' & Trappers' Organization, Board of Directors:

- Why is the GNWT, ENR allowing harvesting of the other caribou herds, for example, the Bluenose East and West and Ahlak caribou herds when these herds are also in decline? There is not enough data on the numbers of the caribou herds, to permit harvesting of these caribou herds.
- The decision was made without consultation with all parties and organizations involved with the caribou herds in question. There are communities that are closely knit to these herds that the ENR, GNWT wants to harvest. For example, Kugluktuk, Paulatuk, Tuktoyaktuk are communities that are connected to these herds in question.
- There is concern on where the GNWT, ENR is allowing the NWT aboriginal harvesters to hunt. There has to be consideration for the residents in the Kitikmeot West and NWT Western Arctic residents.
- There is also concern, on how the ENR, GNWT would allow harvesting to be done, via chartered flights (helicopter? small aircraft?). This kind of harvesting can further disturb caribou herds.
- The HTO feels that this is not a solution to the current problem.
- The Kugluktuk HTO already made a commitment during a meeting in the fall of 2009, to work co-operatively with the NWT to management or help manage the caribou herd decline.

The caribou herd decline has hit home before, with the decline of the Dolphin and Union Caribou herd. The community of Kugluktuk made commitments in the past to help manage those herds and we want to continue to assist and help manage again, to decide what best way to encourage restoration of the herd's numbers.

The Kugluktuk HTO will be holding a public consultation meeting on caribou herd decline, which is set for February 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Copper Room of the Kugluktuk Recreation Complex. We have invited the local Department of Environment, Biologist (Mathieu Dumond) to present data and information on the caribou herds surrounding the community.

We want to thank you for taking our concerns in consideration. We will give an update to the public consultation meeting once we have compiled the outcome of the meeting. We look forward to working with all parties involved, and towards sustainable wildlife management goals.

Regards,



Floyd Kaitak
Chairperson

c.c. **Attima Hadlari, Chairman KRWB**
 Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
 Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
 Minister of Environment, GNU
 Dustin Fredlund, Kitikmeot Regional Manager of Wildlife, DOE
 Shane Sather, A/ Kitikmeot Regional Manager of Wildlife, DOE
 Mathieu Dumond, DOE Kugluktuk
 Allen Niptanatiak, DOE Local Wildlife Office
 Ekaluktutiak HTA, Nunavut
 Paulatuk HTO, NWT
 Tuktukyaktuk HTO, NWT
 Ulukhaktuk HTO, NWT
 Kugluktuk HTO, Board of Directors

**Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association
Hunters & Trappers Organization
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Ulukhaktuk HTO, NWT 396-3025

Date: February-12-10

From: Barbara Adjun, Manager

Subject: Copy of Letter Addressed Minister of ENR, GNWT

No. of Pgs. 4 pages

COMMENTS:

The following is a letter dated February 12, 2010, addressed to the Minister of ENR, GNWT.

Thank you.