

October 30, 2013

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Re: Inuvialuit Concerns with respect to Bill 3 Amendments

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Inuvialuit representatives worked closely with the Government of the Northwest Territories and other Land Claim and Aboriginal organizations in the development of Bill 3 (*Wildlife Act*). The development of this legislation represents an important milestone in collaborative wildlife management. It is our view, however, that one of the motions advanced at the conclusion of the SCEDI review, and now included in the Bill, is inappropriate and not in keeping with wildlife management practice in the co-management framework that characterizes the NWT.

This amendment is the result of the decisions made after the Committee of the Whole met on October 29, 2013. We would like to address your attention to the following amendment and set out our concerns about its implications and effect on wildlife management in the NWT.

Motion 102-17(4) speaks to the requirement to "report the wounding, killing or capture of big game or other prescribed wildlife when requested by the Minister or in accordance with the regulations."

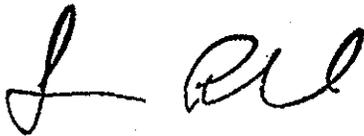
Legislating this requirement has been resisted by all organizations representing aboriginal harvesters. To be clear, the leaders of all Land Claims Organizations opposed this provision. There are a number of reasons for this. First and foremost, the end result will be paperwork (reporting forms) which aboriginal harvesters, particularly Elders, may not have the capacity to manage. Inevitably, a failure to report could result in prosecution. Wildlife Officials could end up spending a significant amount of time chasing paperwork rather than implementing all the other provisions of the Act. This approach is not consistent with co-management.

Further, except in a circumstance where there is a proven conservation concern, we would question whether the Government of the Northwest Territories even has the authority to impose this requirement on Aboriginal harvesters. In our view, concerns about harvesting levels are best addressed at the community level by Wildlife Officials working collaboratively with Hunters and Trappers Committees or Renewable Resource Councils.

The Working Group that collaborated on the development of the Act rejected a similar provision during our discussions because of the possible infringement issue mentioned previously, and the preference to work through the cooperative management processes already in place in the areas with settled land claims.

We would respectfully request Members of the Legislature consider removing this reporting requirement by a unanimous consent motion during third reading of the Bill. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Yours truly,



Frank Pokiak
IGC, Chair

Yours truly,



Nellie Eurnoyea
IRC, Chair and CEO

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