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March 15, 2016

Kugluktuk
Bathurst Inlet
Kingaok
Bay Chimo
Umingmaktok

Premier Peter Taptuna
Government of Nunavut
P.O. Box 2410
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Phone: 867-975-5050
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Email: Premier.Taptuna@gov.nu.ca

Re: New Government of Nunavut Position on Caribou Habitat

Cambridge Bay
Ikaluktutiak

Dear Mr. Premier:

Gjoa Haven
Okhoktok

The Government of Nunavut's (GN) current position on restriction rather than prohibitions on caribou habitat is more closely aligned with the perspectives of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KitIA). In a submission to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) in June 2015, the KitIA supported the implementation of mobile caribou protection measures. The KitIA Board has been updated on this position several times since April 2015, and the Board has not expressed any concern with the approach.

Taloyoak

Kugaaruk

The GN's 2014 submission to the NPC's draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (NLUP), and their previous position on the protection of caribou habitat, had significant implications for land managers in Nunavut. As the Designated Inuit Organization for surface IOL (Article 21, Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)) in the Kitikmeot, the KitIA was keenly aware that these proposed protected areas significantly impacted Inuit decision-making authority on a substantial amount of Inuit Owned Land. The draft NLUP "Core Calving and Post-Calving Protected Area" designation would prohibit development on 10.1% of surface IOLs, and 8.6% of subsurface IOLs in the Kitikmeot. These prohibitions also hinder Inuit economic activities and benefits, which are urgently needed in our region.

Additionally, in the Kitikmeot, both Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and western science have documented several shifts in caribou calving grounds. The KitIA is concerned that if prohibitions are applied to current caribou calving areas, how will those areas be managed if the calving grounds shift again?

The NLCA has permitted Nunavut to establish rigorous review processes for development projects. The KitIA contributes significantly to the Nunavut Water Board, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB), and the NPC processes and



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Kitikmeot ITOs, Kugluktuk / Cambridge Bay / Gjoa Haven / Taloyoak /
Kugaaruk / Umingmaktok / Kingaok
KitIA Executive Committee and Board Members