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P.O. Box 529, Arviat, NU X0C 0E0 • Phone (867) 857-2636 • Fax (867) 857-2488

Ben Kovic
Chair, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

September 24, 2015

Stanley Adjuk
Chair, Kivalliq Wildlife Board

RE: Enforcement of Traditional Rules for Caribou Water Crossings

Mr. Kovic & Mr. Adjuk,

The Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) has been consulting with hunters and Elders, in preparation for final hearings for the Nunavut Land Use Plan. During these consultations, we discussed land use regulations for caribou water crossings. Many Elders are concerned that younger hunters are not following traditional rules for the protection of water crossings. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit has very strict rules about how water crossings should be treated. There are traditional rules about where people can and cannot camp, cache meat, and skin animals near a water crossing. We would like the next generations to respect these rules, so the caribou herds thrive and caribou are available in the future.

Hunters and Elders are also very concerned that some sport hunting and fishing camps in our area are not respecting these rules. Some permanent camps have been constructed adjacent to water crossings. We are concerned that this will impact migration routes and possibly cause caribou herds to decline.

The Arviat HTO requests that the Kivalliq Wildlife Board and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board look into finding a way to enforce these traditional teachings around caribou water crossings. Inuit hunters, as well as tourist camps, must respect the wisdom of our Elders.

Thank you very much for considering our request,

Alex Ishalook
Chair
Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization

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CC:
Cathy Towtongie, President, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
David Ningeongan, President, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Earl Evans, Chair, Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board
Jonathan Savoy, Senior Planner, Nunavut Planning Commission
Peter Scholz, Senior Planner, Nunavut Planning Commission
Karla Letto, Wildlife Biologist, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Leah Muckpah, Regional Coordinator, Kivalliq Wildlife Management Board