

James Qillaq
Chair
Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board
Box 429
Iqaluit, NU X0A0H0
Email: ngwb@niws.ca

Translation to Follow

March 11, 2016

Dear Mr. Qillaq,

Thank you for your letter dated March 2, 2016, regarding the necessity of protecting caribou grounds for Inuit.

Wildlife protection and caribou are essential to our culture and way of life. At the same time, development is critical to our economy by insuring Nunavummiut have access to good paying jobs and are able to support their families. Both the protection of the environment and the socio economic realities must be taken in to consideration when it comes to development of our territory.

The Government of Nunavut will not support projects that have a negative impact on wildlife that cannot be mitigated. We are engaged in the regulatory process to ensure that regulators are able to do the job they are tasked with under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. This process includes environmental, wildlife, and socio-economic assessments by Nunavut and federal regulatory agencies.

Each development project is analyzed and evaluated on a case by case basis. If a project were to fall within calving or post calving grounds or a migration corridor, I expect a full regulatory review of the project and informed decisions for restrictions that will be in place in order to protect the natural habitat. Seasonal restrictions on activities in post calving grounds must also be vetted through the appropriate regulator. It is through a sound and robust regulatory process that project certificates are awarded.

Our land claim set the stage for our regulatory framework. It is up to my government to put restrictions in place and ensure that development follows our rules and regulatory process. I am committed to ensuring a sound regulatory process is in place so that development and wildlife management will benefit all Nunavummiut.

Thank you for your letter and your perspective on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Peter Teptuna

Premier, Nunavut

CC: Members of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly
Honourable Johnny Mike, Minister of Environment
Stanley Adjuk, Kivalliq regional Wildlife Board
Simon Qingnaqtuq, Kitikmeot Regional wildlife Board
Paul Irngaut, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Jason Akearok, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Andrew Nakashuk, Nunavut Planning commission