



Honourable Joan Shea
Minister of Environment and Conservation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL, Canada
A1B 4J6

January 15, 2014

Re: Polar Bear Total Allowable Harvest Carry-Forward

Dear Minister Shea,

In a letter dated January 8th, 2014 the Nunatsiavut Government requests a recommendation of the Board respecting the carry-forward of unused Polar Bear licences. Specifically, The Nunatsiavut Government recommends that the three licences unused in 2013 be applied to the 2014 Total Allowable Harvest, and that a carry-over provision be incorporated into the management system annually thereafter.

The Board met on January 13th, 2013, to consider the Nunatsiavut Government recommendation. Although the Board understands and appreciates that flexible harvest systems have been applied in other jurisdictions, and may well have merit in Nunatsiavut, it has not had an opportunity to consider the implications for conservation, or the details of how such a system would be structured. Given that the Board cannot engage this question meaningfully before the season start date of February 1st, it recommends that:

- There be no carry-over of unused Polar Bear licences at this juncture in time

We look forward to considering the merits of a flexible harvest system, and we hope to work with your Government and the Nunatsiavut Government toward that end through 2014.

Sincerely,

Ron Sparkes, Ed.D
Chairperson
Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board