

**POLAR BEAR MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

**for the NORTH BEAUFORT SEA AND VISCOUNT-**

**MELVILLE SOUND POLAR BEAR POPULATIONS**

**between the Inuit of the Kitikmeot West Region in Nunavut  
and the Inuvialuit**

**Signed by the Kitikmeot Hunters and Trappers' Association**

**and**

**Inuvialuit Game Council**

The Parties to this agreement are the Inuvialuit and the Inuit of the Kitikmeot West Region in Nunavut:

*Noting* that both groups have traditionally harvested a portion of polar bears from the North Beaufort Sea and Viscount-Melville Sound polar bear populations;

*And Noting* that the continued hunting of polar bears is essential to maintain the dietary, cultural, and economic base of the groups;

*And Noting* that the maintenance of a sustained harvest for traditional users in perpetuity requires that the number of polar bears taken annually not exceed the productivity of the population;

*And Noting* that the US and Canadian management authorities have accepted the *Inuvialuit-Inupiat Polar Bear Management Agreement in the Southern Beaufort Sea* and it has proven to be an effective user-to-user agreement in the shared management of that polar bear population;

*And Noting* that nothing in this Agreement shall be read to abrogate the responsibilities of Federal or Territorial authorities under existing or future statutes;

*And Noting* that the Inuit of the Kitikmeot West Region in Nunavut and the Inuvialuit will have a long-term fundamental influence on the maintenance and use of this resource and that the efforts of other parties will also be required to ensure effective conservation;

*the Parties have agreed as follows:*

## ARTICLE I

(a) The species considered in this Agreement is the polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*).

(b) The area covered by this Agreement is the area within the boundaries of the North Beaufort Sea and Viscount-Melville Sound Polar Bear Populations as defined in the appropriate legislation.

(c) The people covered by this Agreement are the Inuit of the Kitikmeot West Region in Nunavut and the Inuvialuit.

(d) The settlements and their outpost camps whose hunting practices may be affected by this Agreement are Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Sachs Harbour, Ulukhaktok, and Paulatuk.

(e) Sustainable yield means a harvest level which does not exceed net annual recruitment to the population and accounts for all human-caused forms of removal from the population, and which considers the status of the population, based on the best available scientific information and Traditional Knowledge/Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

(f) A Joint Commission with responsibility to implement this agreement will be formed and shall consist of three (3) representatives designated by each of the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Kitikmeot Hunters and Trappers Association. A Technical Advisory Committee with responsibility for ensuring the collection and evaluation of all relevant management data, including Traditional Knowledge/Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and making recommendations to the Joint Commission, shall be appointed by the Joint Commission.

## ARTICLE II

### Objectives:

- (a) To maintain the North Beaufort Sea and Viscount-Melville Sound polar bear populations at healthy viable levels in perpetuity.
- (b) To manage polar bears on a sustained yield basis in accordance with all the best information available.
- (c) To provide protection to female polar bears by encouraging that the female proportion of the harvest not exceed one third of the sustainable total.
- (d) To encourage the collection of adequate scientific, Traditional Knowledge/Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and technical information in a timely manner to facilitate management decisions.
- (e) To minimize detrimental effects of human activities on polar bears and their habitat.
- (f) To identify research priorities.
- (g) To allocate the total sustainable yield between the two jurisdictions.
- (h) To encourage the wise use of the polar bear populations and all polar bear products.
- (i) To facilitate the import into the USA of hides and other products from polar bears harvested in the Kitikmeot West Region in Nunavut and in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.
- (j) To meet annually to review the best available information on the aforementioned polar bear populations, and make recommendations for research and management.
- (k) To review this Agreement every 5 years, or sooner if requested by either Party.

## ARTICLE III

### Collection of Data and Sharing of Information:

- (a) The following data will be recorded for each bear killed: sex, date, and location of the kill.
- (b) The following specimens shall be collected from each bear killed: the lower jaw or an undamaged post-canine tooth to be used for age-determination, ear tags, lip tattoos, radio collars if present, the baculum from each male, and other specimens as agreed to by the hunters of either jurisdiction for additional studies.
- (c) A summary of all harvest information and pertinent research plans or results from each jurisdiction shall be exchanged annually, normally at the annual meeting referred to in Article II (j).
- (d) The number of collars deployed for research purposes shall be limited to the minimum number necessary to reach management objectives.
- (e) There shall be notification and consultation prior to undertaking research.

## ARTICLE IV

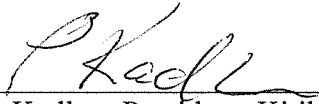
### Duration and Administration of Agreement:

- (a) This Agreement shall enter into force when it has been signed by the duly authorized representatives of each Party.
- (b) This Agreement shall remain in force unless either Party requests it be terminated.
- (c) Amendments to the Agreement may be proposed by either Party, then accepted or rejected by mutual agreement of the Parties. Formal written notification of any amendments to the Agreement approved and accepted by both Parties should be made to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) and the GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The signatories of this document have no authority to bind, and do not purport to bind, the respective regulatory authorities to any agreement which would otherwise be in violation of their management authority, but are acting solely as representatives of the local traditional user groups of the polar bear resource in furthering the goals of conservation, consultation, management, and information exchange.

SIGNED on this, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2006 in the city of Yellowknife.

On behalf of the Inuit of the Kitikmeot West Region in Nunavut:



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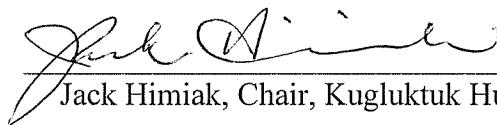
Philip Kadlun, President, Kitikmeot Hunters and Trappers' Association

Witnessed by:



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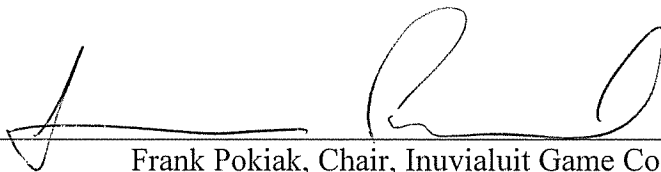
Attima Hadlari, Chair, Cambridge Bay Hunters and Trappers' Organization



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Jack Himiak, Chair, Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers' Organization

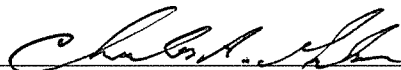
On behalf of the Inuvialuit:



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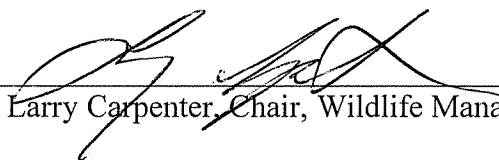
Frank Pokiak, Chair, Inuvialuit Game Council

Witnessed by:



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Charles A. Gruben, Member, Inuvialuit Game Council



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Larry Carpenter, Chair, Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)