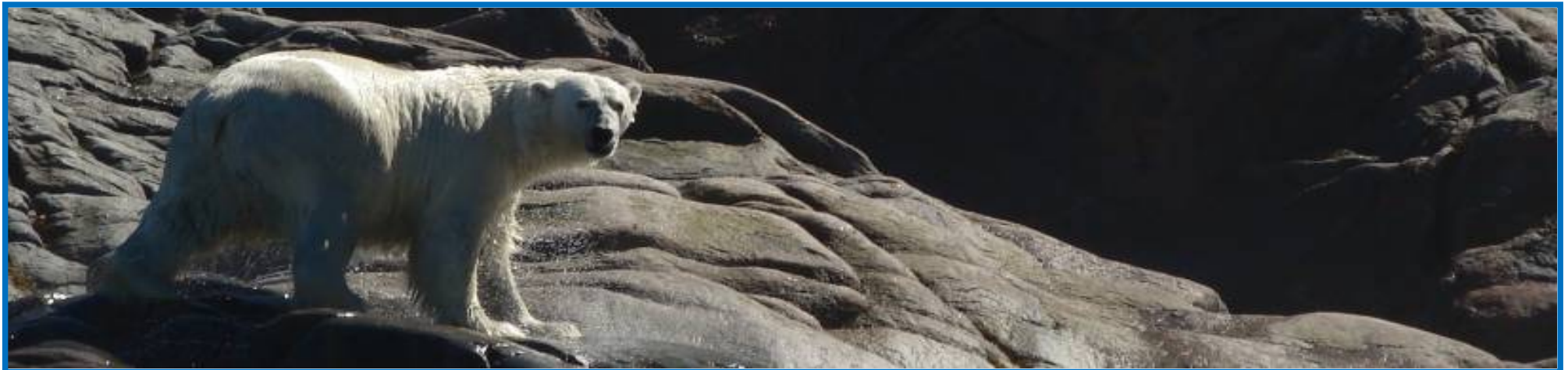


# The co-management decision-making process in Canada as a Best Management Practice

*An overview of management processes & legal context for wildlife management in the Canadian North*

**Presentation to the Polar Bear Range States  
Meeting of the Parties  
February 2-4, 2018  
Fairbanks, Alaska**



# Context: overview of roles



- Canadian Federal Government Role
  - National coordination, where required.
  - Habitat protection (e.g., national parks, marine protected areas, national wildlife areas).
  - Lead on international coordination:
    - 1973 *Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears*
    - Bilateral agreements for shared populations (US & GL)
  - Export control (*Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*).
  - *Species At Risk Act* - Management Plan.
  - Involvement in, & support for, research and monitoring.
  - Participate in Polar Bear Administrative and Technical Committees



# Context: overview of roles

- Canadian Provinces and Territories Role
  - Primary management responsibility for polar bears:
    - Harvest management
    - Human-bear conflicts
    - Habitat protection
    - Research & Monitoring
  - Wildlife Management Board role is fundamental to decision-making within a Land Claims Agreement context.
  - In P/T with Land Claims Agreements, Land Claims Organizations play an instrumental role in administering the Land Claims Agreements, including for wildlife management.
  - Participate in Polar Bear Administrative and Technical Committees



# The Co-Management Process for Decision-Making

- Land Claims Agreement (LCA) Context
  - LCA are treaties negotiated between the Federal Government (the “Crown”) and Indigenous peoples, including Inuit & Cree.
  - They guarantee certain rights:
    - Meaningful involvement in wildlife management
    - the right to hunt, fish, and trap
    - in accordance with the Principles of Conservation
  - Protected under the Canadian Constitution and have the force of statutory law.
  - Supersede any past, present, or future legislation.



# Four Inuit regions of Canada



Ontario Coastal Cree Nations also have harvesting rights under Treaty 9 (a historic treaty; ★)  
Quebec Cree have similar rights as Inuit under the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement (★)

# Comprehensive Land Claims Agreements

- Inuvialuit
  - Inuvialuit Final Agreement (1984)
- Nunavut
  - Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (1993)
- Nunavik & Quebec (Inuit and Cree)
  - James Bay & Northern Quebec Agreement (1975)
  - Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (2008)
  - Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement (2011)
- Nunatsiavut
  - Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (2005)

# Inuit & Cree LCA: Co-management Boards

- Inuvialuit Final Agreement (1984)
  - Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NT)
  - Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NS)
- Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (1993)
  - Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
- James Bay & Northern Quebec Agreement (1975)
  - Hunting Fishing Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC)
- Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (2008)
  - Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board
- Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreements (2011)
  - Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board
- Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement (2005)
  - Torngat Wildlife & Plants Co-management Board (TWPCB)

# Co-Management Board: *structure*

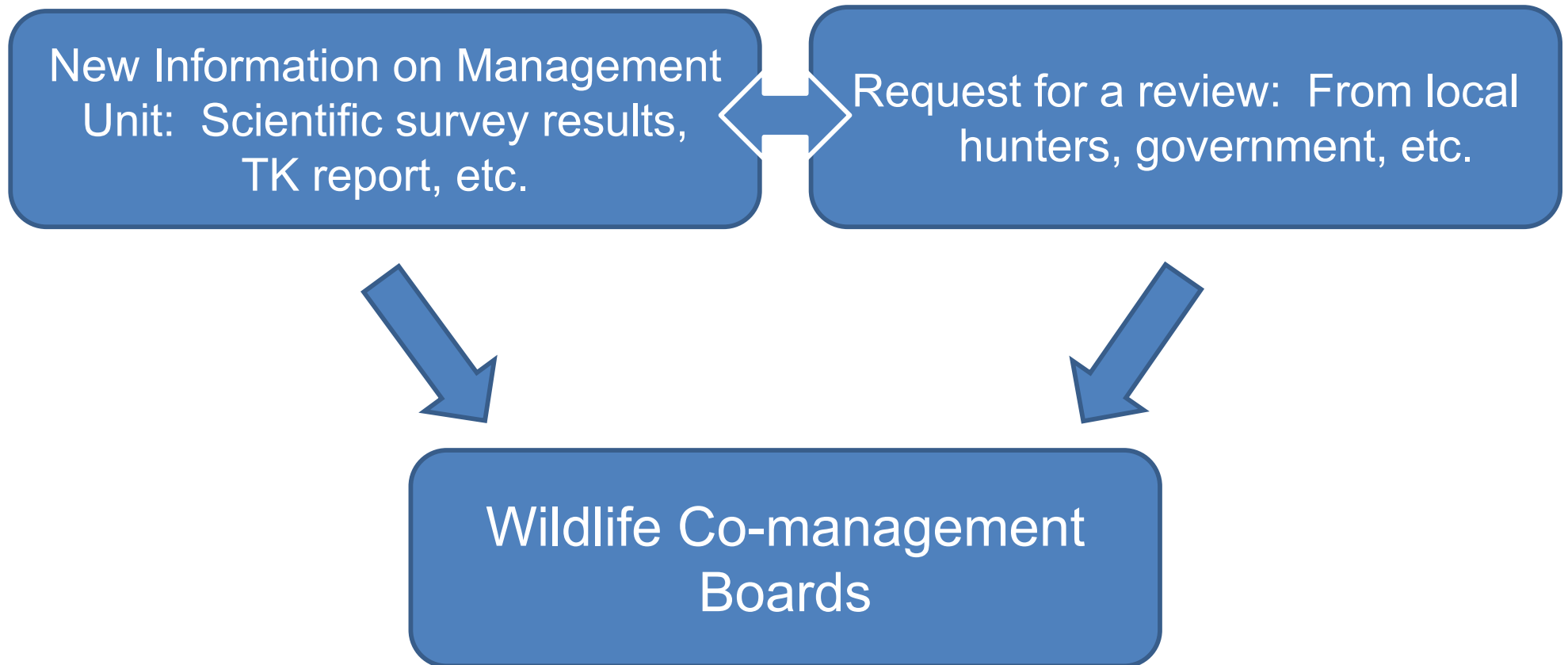
- Equal Representation:
  - Government Appointees
    - Federal, Provincial, and / or Territorial
  - Land Claims Organization Appointees
    - Makivik Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Inuvialuit Game Council, Nunatsiavut Government
- Board Appointees nominate a Chair (in most cases)
  - Appointed by appropriate Minister





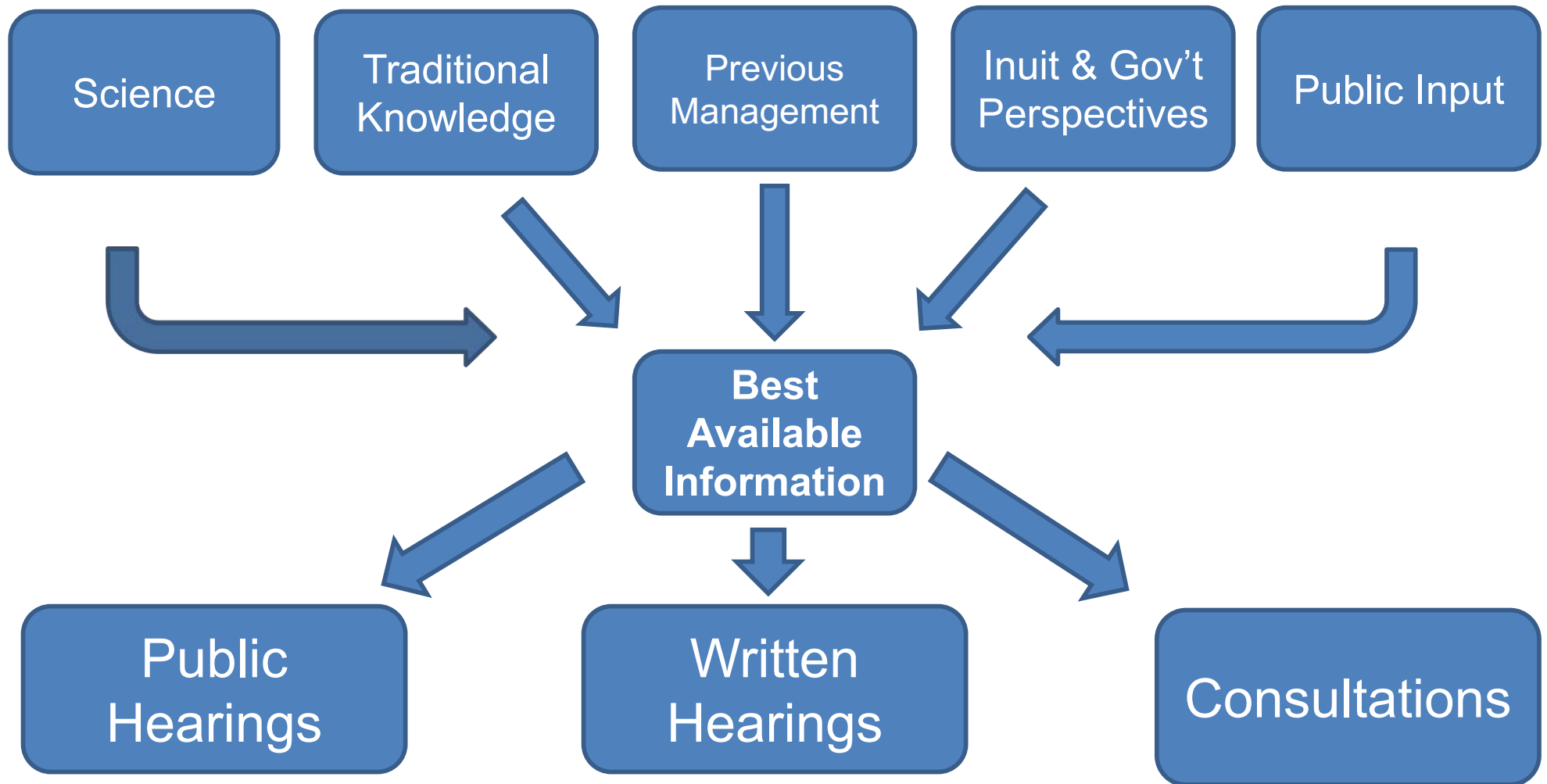
# Co-Management Boards:

## ***Step 1 – Process Triggers***

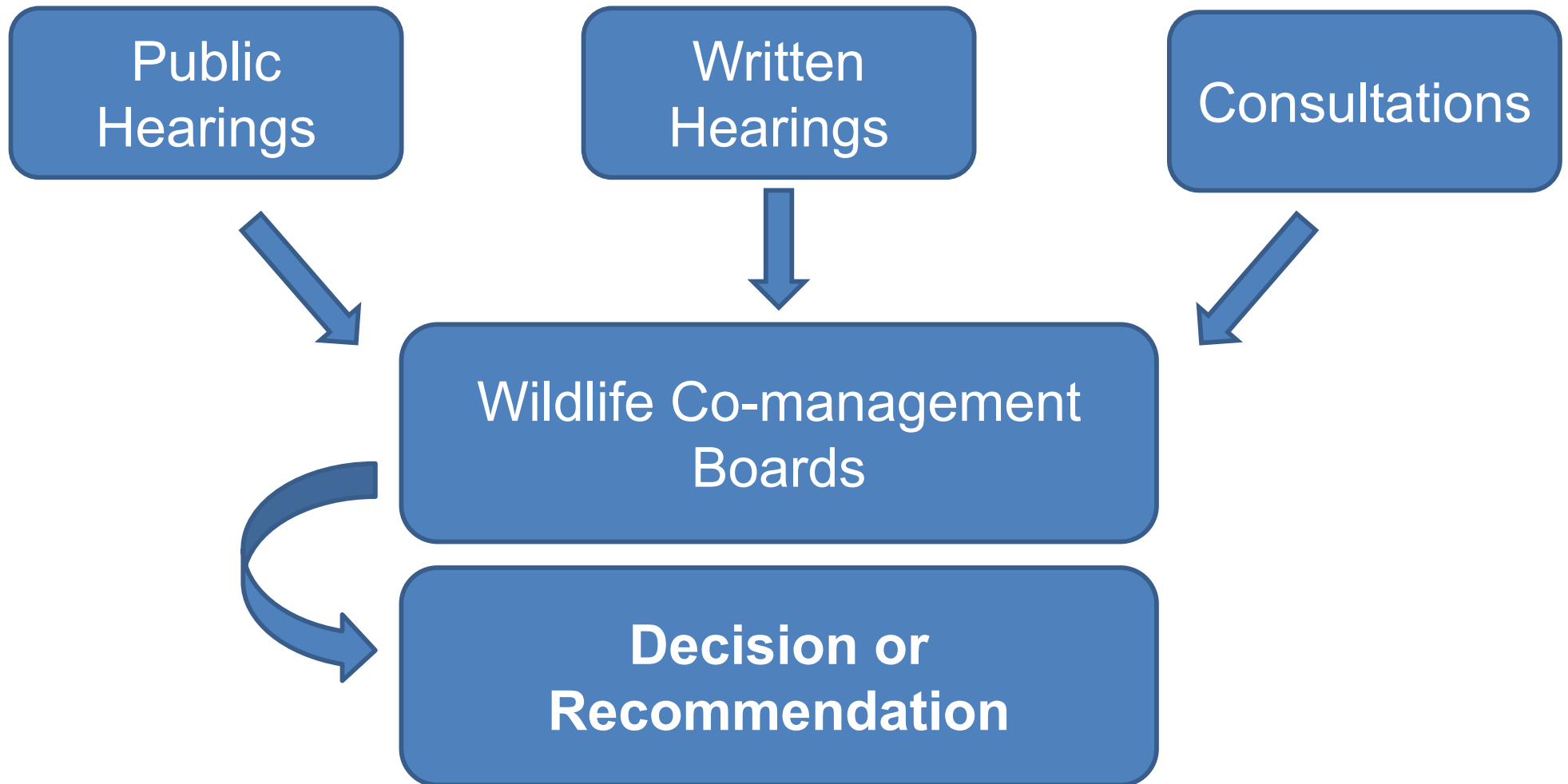


# Co-Management Boards:

## ***Step 2 – Information Collection***

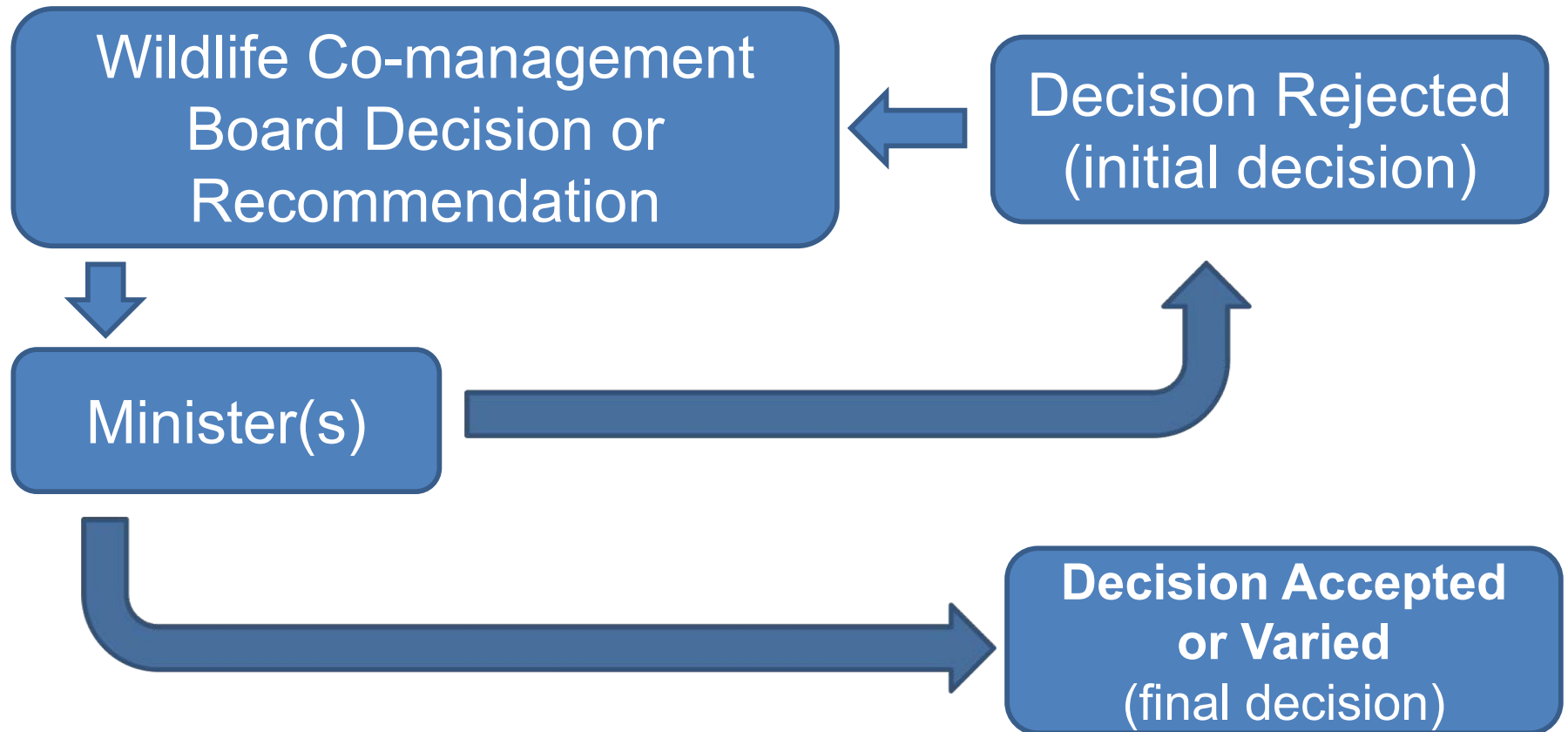


# Co-Management Boards: ***Step 3 – Decisions***



# Co-Management Boards:

## ***Step 4 – Approval Process***



# Co-Management Boards:

## *Subtle Differences between Boards*

- Some differences in process between co-management boards:
  - Differences in approval processes
  - Some boards give recommendations only
  - In some cases Minister does not have to go back to the board if decision is rejected.
- In all cases, Minister(s) has (have) the ultimate authority. The responsible Minister(s) may be from federal, territorial or Inuit governments.





# Co-management Process:

## *Take-Home Message*

- Wildlife Co-management Boards are quasi-judicial bodies that receive their mandates from LCA.
- Equal representation from Government & Inuit.
- Make decisions based on best available information:
  - Science, Traditional Knowledge, public input



## Co-management Process: *Take-Home Message*

- All polar bear management decisions flow through wildlife co-management boards.
- Vital link between Indigenous hunters, scientific research, Traditional Knowledge, Government & management bodies.
- Allows for objective consideration & prudent decision-making for polar bear management.

# Best Management Practices of the co-management decision-making process

- All relevant and implicated parties are engaged.
- Decision-making is transparent and inclusive.
- Co-management Boards react to new information established under an adaptive management framework.
- Multiple data sources (science & TK) and viewpoints are considered:
  - Leads to better decisions based upon multiple-sources of information.
  - Community/hunter engagement at early stages of decision-making tends to create broad acceptance of resultant management actions.

# Co-management Process: *The Future*

- Harmonization of decision-making by multiple co-management boards for shared polar bear management units.
- Improved communication between co-management boards, Indigenous peoples & the public.





Thank You  
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Quyanainni  
Merci





