

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Annual General Meeting

Date: September 27 & 28, 2011

Location: Inuvik N.W.T



Resolution #: A11-09-10

Resolution Title: Approval of Inuit Guided Polar Bear Hunts

Moved by: Jim Lyall

Seconded by: John Lucas Jr.

WHEREAS, the Inuit of Canada have co-existed with polar bears across Inuit Nunangat for a thousand years;

WHEREAS, the Inuit of Canada value and respect polar bears as an essential part of Inuit culture, spirituality, and identity;

WHEREAS, the Inuit of Canada possess traditional knowledge of polar bears that includes, but is not limited to, the species' past and current behaviours and movements, past and current population density trends, denning and reproduction, physical anatomy, and the food sources and environments on which they depend;

WHEREAS, the Inuit of Canada have sustainably harvested and utilized polar bears throughout Inuit Nunangat for a thousand years and continue to do so for cultural, social, subsistence, and other economic purposes;

WHEREAS, the Inuit of Canada possess legal rights to harvest polar bears as recognized and protected by the provisions of the Inuvialuit, Nunavut, Nunavik Inuit, James Bay & Northern Quebec, and Labrador Land Claims Agreements, as protected by Section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982;

WHEREAS, the Inuit of Canada are conserving and sustaining polar bear populations for current and future generational use based on Inuit cultural values of sustainable use and the conservation measures administered through regional wildlife management systems;

WHEREAS, the Inuit of Canada can legally assign a portion of their polar bear annual harvesting conservation quotas toward Inuit guided hunts for licensed non-Inuit hunters in order to provide optimal economic, social, and cultural benefits for Inuit hunters, their families, and their communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Inuit of Canada have successfully and responsibly conducted Inuit guided polar bear hunts for a number of years and have demonstrated that such hunts provide positive benefits for the conservation of polar bear populations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Inuit of Canada support the continued practice of Inuit guided polar bear hunts in Inuit Nunangat as both a harvesting method compatible with fundamental conservation principles and as a practical and valuable option for maximizing the social, cultural, and economic benefits for Inuit hunters and communities; and,

The Inuit of Canada recognize that the continued practice of Inuit guided polar bear hunts in Inuit Nunangat is a legitimate activity that flows from the wildlife harvesting, land use, governance and other rights of Inuit as recognized and protected by Inuit Land Claims Agreements with the Crown and by the Constitution of Canada.

Carried Unanimously

In Favor:

Against:

Abstentions:

Carried: X

Defeated: