

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Board of Directors Meeting

Date: October 27, 2004
Location: Ottawa, Ontario



Resolution #: No Number
Resolution Title: COWSECWIC

Moved by: Paul Kaludjak
Seconded by: Pita Aatami

John Cheechoo, Policy Advisor presented the briefing on COWESIC, Cheechoo noted to the board that ITK is seeking approval from the Board of the attached Terms of Reference (TOR) of the COSEWIC Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) Subcommittee.

The ITK Board had the opportunity to review and provide a decision for the ATK Subcommittee TOR at the previous Board meeting in Repulse Bay in June, 2004. As the ITK Board record of decision indicates, the motion to approve the TOR was withdrawn at the time due to a concern that there may be possible terminology inconsistencies of the TOR with land claims agreements and that more time was required to get the views of one of the representatives on the ATK Subcommittee.

To recount the context of the ATK Subcommittee, the Species At Risk Act (SARA) was granted Royal Assent in December 2002, and a major portion of its provisions were proclaimed into law in June 2003, with the remaining provisions proclaimed in 2004. Included here is the formal establishment of COSEWIC (Sections 14 -26). Pursuant to Section 18 (1), COSEWIC is required to establish specialist subcommittees, including a “subcommittee specializing in aboriginal traditional knowledge”. The Preamble to the Act stipulates, “traditional knowledge of the aboriginal peoples of Canada should be considered in the assessment of which species may be at risk and in developing and implementing recovery measures.”

The board discussed in detail the options that were provided and decided to approve the TOR's, it was further noted that Nunavut and Nunavik will identify names for COWESIC.

Option A (Approval): Should there be no inconsistencies of concern identified between the ATK TOR and the provisions of land claims agreements, the full approval of the TOR be given by the Board.

In Favor: All

Against:

Abstentions:

Carried:

Defeated: