



MAR 30 2012

Dr. Marty L. Leonard
Chair, COSEWIC
Department of Biology
Dalhousie University
1355 Oxford Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4J1

Dear Dr. Leonard,

I am writing to inform you that on December 5, 2011, the Secretariat of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation received a citizen submission filed under the Submission on Enforcement Matters process of the *North American Agreement for Environmental Cooperation* by the Centre for Biological Diversity. A copy of the submission is attached.

In that submission, the Submitters allege that Canada is failing to effectively enforce several provisions of the federal *Species at Risk Act* with regard to the recent listing of the polar bear as a species of special concern. Among other allegations, the Submitters name the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and assert that COSEWIC failed to consider the best available information about the status of the polar bear in Canada when recommending to Canada that the polar bear be listed as a species of special concern.

Currently, the Secretariat is reviewing the submission to determine whether it meets the required criteria for consideration under the Submission on Enforcement Matters process. We anticipate a determination on this issue in the coming weeks.

.../2



STOS 0 9 AM

As COSEWIC operates at arm's length from the Government of Canada, Environment Canada does not consider COSEWIC to be party to the *North American Agreement for Environmental Cooperation*. Nonetheless, we wish to ensure that COSEWIC is aware that this matter is ongoing, and we will forward a copy of the Secretariat's determination upon receipt. Such information sharing is consistent with article 16.4 of the *Guidelines for Submission on Enforcement Matters*, which provide that when "a submission received by the Secretariat names an individual or entity, the Party concerned may notify that individual or entity of the existence of that submission."

In the meantime, if you have any questions concerning the submission or the Submission on Enforcement Matters process, please do not hesitate to contact Stéphanie Johnson at stephanie.johnson@ec.gc.ca or 819-934-5189.

Sincerely,



Dan McDougall
Assistant Deputy Minister, International Affairs

cc: Evan Lloyd, Executive Director, CEC Secretariat
Coleen Volk, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Stewardship
Stéphanie Johnson, Director, Latin and South America Division