



Thursday August 20th 2026

Subject: Submission for Consultation on the Proposed Amendment to the List of Species Under the Species at Risk Act (SARA): Snowy Owl

Makivvik appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed listing of the Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) as Threatened under the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

Based on the information available, Makivvik supports the listing, as *Ukpik* is a species culturally significant and part of Inuit knowledge and stories.

The COSEWIC assessment indicating a 46% population decline over the past 24 years and the threats identified (climate change, increased winter mortality during southern migration, collisions with vehicles and aircraft, electrocution, disease and indirect poisoning from rodenticides) are concerning. With the exception of climate change, most of these threats are not prevalent in Nunavik or more generally in Inuit Nunangat. This suggests that many of the factors contributing to the species' decline occur outside its northern breeding range and measures that could truly support its recovery are outside of Inuit's reach and stewardship. This fact highlight the need to implement conservation measures in its southern distribution range to address these pressures and support the recovery of the species.

At this time, Makivvik is not aware of a formal Inuit Knowledge study focused specifically on the Snowy Owl in Nunavik. Preliminary discussions suggest that some Nunavimmiut have noticed fewer Snowy Owls in recent years, though observations vary by community. The species is rarely harvested today, but there is the Guaranteed Level of Harvest of 196 Snowy Owls established under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA). *Ukpik* remains an essential species in Nunavik ecosystems and an important part of Inuit culture, knowledge and traditions.

Makivvik encourages ECCC to work with Nunavimmiut to strengthen Inuit Knowledge documentation for this species. We hope that listing can support recovery efforts and improve monitoring and research in Nunavik and throughout its distribution range to ensure that future generation of Inuit can cohabit with *Ukpik*. We encourage ECCC and relevant institutions to increase collaboration with Inuit organizations and communities and ensure that Inuit Knowledge is included in conservation and management decisions.

It is expected that any listing decision will continue to respect all rights and obligations under the JBNQA and the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement.