

Inuktitut Questioning Party:	Inuktitut Question:	Inuktitut Answering Party:	Inuktitut Answer:
Board Staff	What role did the Government of Quebec have in the implementation of the 2016 Board/Minister Final Decision for the establishment of TAT and NQL for portions of the NMR and EMR? (See attached Final decision of Minister Savikataaq for the Government of Nunavut and Minister McKenna for the Government of Canada.)	Government of Quebec	The Government of Québec did not play a direct role in the implementation of the 2016 TAT and NQL decisions for the Southern Hudson Bay Polar Bear subpopulation (by the federal Minister of Environment and the Environment Minister of Nunavut) because it does not have jurisdiction in the Eeyou and Nunavik Marine Regions. However, the Government of Québec have sent the same amount of registering tags to the RNUK and CTA as the TAT number (23). Note that in the case the RNUK or CTA would have requested additional tags, the Québec Government would have provided those extra tags, in order to respect the current applicable regulations on the Québec territory, established through the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA) and the Act respecting hunting and fishing rights in the James Bay and New Québec territories (D-13.1) which currently does not limit the harvest of polar bears by JBNQA beneficiaries. The Québec government has worked with the RNUK, LNUK, Makivik, CTA and CNG to promote the registration of all human-caused polar bear mortality, even though there are evidences that complete reporting has not been reached at that time.
Board Staff	During Phase 2 of the Hearings, the Government of Nunavut identified the Government of Quebec as being instrumental in the implementation of Board decisions. What role does the Government of Quebec see itself playing in the implementation of any decisions that may flow from Board's Polar Bear hearings?	Government of Quebec	As indicated in the previous answer, the Québec Government does not have jurisdiction in the NMR and EMR, but only on the Québec land where there is no TAT in place. Rather, it is the Government of Nunavut (GN) who has jurisdiction in the offshore islands, and the federal government in the surrounding waters. We understand that the Nunavut Government wildlife protection officers do not necessarily patrol the NMR and EMR islands, and given their proximity to the Québec shores, the GN might believe that the Québec Government wildlife protection officers could play that role, as a practical matter. More importantly, the Québec Government thinks that the first question that needs to be adressed, with all stakeholders (Wildlife boards, Cree and Inuit entities, governments, etc.) should be wether or not it is desirable to establish a regulatory system with legal penalties. Given the collaborative work accomplished by stakeholders over the past years, through a rigourous process of drafting and adopting a Polar bear co-management plan, the punitive approach may not be the most promising. The very next step in this Management plan implementation, as clearly identified in the document, is to formalize the implementation working group, where those discussions should take place. Anguvigaq and Makivik mentioned that they were working on a harvest monitoring system, managed by the Nunavimmiut, who have harvesting rights in the area covered by the Agreements. The Québec Government is looking forward to collaborate with both organisations to reach complete reporting of all polar bear harvest in Nunavik and Eeyou Itstchee. There is no reason not to trust the Nunavimmiut to achieve this goal. Other stakeholders may welcome this desire for ownership, offering their support with the intention of increasing the chances of success. Success would then be threefold, since the objective would be achieved without the use of coercisive means, by leveraging local skills and maintaining harmonious relations between stakeholders. It is only in a second time that other implementation systems may be considered, if results fail to live up to expectations. In summary, the Québec Government's role will be to sit on the Polar Bear Management Plan Implementation Committee, along with other stakeholders, to help monitor and support the achievement of objectives.