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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik  
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

**MINUTES OF THE 137TH MEETING OF THE KEAC  
(ADOPTED)**

**DATES:** October 23 and 24, 2013

**LOCATION:** Maison Historique Chevalier (Musée de la civilisation), Quebec City

**PRESENT:**

**Kativik Regional Government (KRG) appointees:**

Michael Barrett, Chairperson

Vacant

**Government of Canada appointees:**

Claude Abel

Thessa Girard-Bourgoin

Line Choinière

**Government of Québec appointees:**

Paule Halley

Sylvie Létourneau

Julie Samson

**Executive Secretary:**

Benjamin Patenaude

**Environmental Analyst:**

Stéphanie Benoit (October 23 exclusively)

**ABSENT:**

Betsy Palliser, Vice-Chairperson, KRG appointee

**GUESTS:**

Philippe Lemire, Director, Office of Coordination for Nord-du-Québec, Ministère des Transports du Québec

Anick Guimond, Research Officer, Office of Coordination for Nord-du-Québec, Ministère des Transports du Québec

Isabelle Lemieux-Leblanc, Research Officer, Office of Coordination for Nord-du-Québec, Ministère des Transports du Québec

## 1. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda

The 137th meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 9:10 AM on October 23, 2013, at the Maison historique Chevalier (Musée de la civilisation) in Quebec City. It took place in accordance with the agenda below:

1. Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of Minutes of the 135<sup>th</sup> Meeting and Conference Calls on March 14 and July 10, 2013.
3. Business Arising from the 136th Meeting and Correspondence
  - a) Abandoned Outfitting Camps
  - b) Mineral Exploration on Category I Lands and Adjacent Lands
  - c) Environmental Assessment Procedure Applicable to the Proposed Cape Hopes Advance Iron Mining Project
  - d) Aluminum Can Recycling in Nunavik
  - e) Mid-Canada Line clean-up Project
  - f) Working Group on Public Participation-MDDEFP
  - g) Drinking Water Tank Cleaning Project – KMHB
  - h) Archaeological Heritage Guide-MCC
  - i) Public Consultations on Uranium Exploration and Exploitation
  - j) Public Consultations on Nunavik Nickel's Marine Infrastructure Project
  - k) 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada – Environment Canada
  - l) KEAC Work Plan
4. Budget, Secretariat and Members
  - a) Budget
    - i) Financial Summary
    - ii) Renewal of the Funding Agreement
    - iii) Financial Update
  - b) Secretariat
  - c) Members
  - d) Annual Report 2012-2013
  - e) Five-Year Action Plan, 2015-2020
5. Environmental Assessment in Nunavik
  - a) Revision of Schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 of the JBNQA
  - b) Environmental Assessment Pamphlet
  - c) Pilot Training Project on Environmental Assessment in Nunavik
6. Mining Activities
  - a) Presentation of the KEAC Brief on Bill 43, Mining Act
7. Residual Materials Management
  - a) Brief on the draft Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan
  - b) Household Hazardous Residual Materials Awareness Campaign
8. Transportation Plan for the Nord-du-Québec Region (Presentation)

## 9. Protected Areas-Biodiversity Reserves

## 10. KEAC Website

## 11. Miscellaneous

- a) MDDEFP and KRG Community Inspections
- b) KEAC Articles in Makivik Magazine
- c) Le Nord pour tous – SDN
- d) Consultations on Energy Production in Québec.
- e) Announcements by the Government of Québec
- f) The KEQC Secretariat

## 12. Dates and Locations of Next Meetings

### **2. Adoption of Minutes of the 135th Meeting and Conference Calls on March 14 and July 10, 2013**

The minutes from the 135th meeting as well as the conference calls on March 14 and July 10, 2013, were reviewed and subsequently adopted.

### **3. Business Arising from the 136th Meeting and Correspondence**

#### a) Abandoned Outfitting Camps

At the 136th meeting, it was proposed to invite a representative from the regional office of the Ministère des Ressources naturelles (natural resources, MRN) to present the current status of abandoned outfitting camps in Nunavik. MRN regional representatives responded that due to current restructuring, they are not available to make a presentation. The representatives are aware of the KEAC's concerns and should respond to the request once the restructuring is complete.

Members noted that this file is of importance since the MRN identified a large number of abandoned outfitting camps in Nunavik during inspections conducted from 2000 to 2008. With the present decline of caribou populations, the number of abandoned outfitting camps and installations is expected to increase.

The members requested that other regional organizations be contacted to determine if other inspections are being carried out and if any solutions are planned to resolve this problem. Based on the responses obtained, the KEAC should communicate by letter with MRN officials to point out the current state of abandoned outfitting camps in Nunavik.

#### b) Mineral Exploration on Category I Lands and Adjacent Lands

In the conference call on March 14, 2013, the members decided to prepare a letter to the deputy minister of the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement, de la Faune et des Parcs (sustainable development, environment, wildlife and parks, MDDEFP) to enquire about how the department deals with mineral exploration projects on category I and adjacent lands. Specifically, the members want to obtain information on the application of the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure by the MDDEFP as well as its interpretation of the conditions and definitions in sections 7 and 23 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA) for mineral exploration projects.

This topic was re-examined at the 136th meeting where it was concluded that the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission and the MDDEFP should be contacted to obtain the list of approved mineral exploration projects that have been subject to the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure.

At the 137th meeting, the members were informed that a majority of mineral exploration projects in past years have not been not subject to the procedure. Furthermore, none of the projects reviewed was located on lands adjacent to category I lands. The members decided that the letter should be revised to emphasize the importance of Inuit interests in mineral exploration projects close to the communities and of keeping the communities informed and consulting them on these projects.

#### c) Environmental Assessment Procedures Applicable to the Proposed Hopes Advance Iron Mining Project

On February 11, 2013, the KEAC transmitted a letter to the president of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA), who is also the federal administrator under the JBNQA, with regards to the three environmental assessment procedures applicable to the Hopes Advance Iron Mining Project in the Aupaluk region, specifically the procedure established under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, the procedure established under the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement Act* (Nunavik Marine Region), and the procedure established under the *Environment Quality Act*. The KEAC letter identified the problems that could arise due the application of various environmental assessment procedures. In particular, it recommended that the mechanisms provided under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (2012) be used (substitution or equivalency) to ensure a single procedure is implemented. The members discussed the non-application of the federal procedure under Section 23 of the JBNQA for this project.

On May 6, 2013, the KEAC received a response from the CEAA in which it was explained that federal process under Section 23 of the JBNQA should not apply to the project since it is uniquely under the jurisdiction of the Québec government. At the KEAC's 136th meeting, the members requested that a response letter be drafted on the application of the federal process under Section 23 of the JBNQA.

At the 137th meeting, the members discussed the draft letter and proposed adjustments. The letter was subsequently transmitted to the CEAA. The members were also informed that the Hopes Advance project proponent plans to submit its impact study in the fall of 2014.

#### d) Aluminium Can Recycling in Nunavik

On April 8, 2013, a letter and briefing note on the current state of aluminium can recycling was sent to RECYC-QUÉBEC. Copies of these documents were sent to distributors throughout Nunavik. In June 2013, the KEAC received a response from a RECYC-QUÉBEC representative. It was mentioned that Nunavik residents should use the recycling program already operated by the Federation of Cooperatives of Northern Québec and that future matters related to this topic should be addressed to the director of Boissons Gazeuses Environnement (BGE).

On September 26, 2013, copies of the letter and briefing note were sent to the director of BGE. Besides one acknowledgement of receipt, the KEAC has not received any response from the distributor. The members requested that this file be monitored.

#### e) Mid-Canada Line Clean-Up Project

At the 136th meeting, the members requested that a draft letter be addressed to the deputy minister of the MDDEFP to enquire about the current status of the Mid-Canada Line clean-up project. In early September 2013, the KEAC executive secretary contacted a representative from the regional office of the MDDEFP, who indicated that the project is currently being reviewed by the legal department of the MDDEFP. The members revised the draft letter and

asked that it include the KEAC's May 2012 position paper on this topic. A copy of the letter should also be sent to the Department of National Defence.

f) Working Group on Public Participation – MDDEFP

The members were informed that, on October 14, 2013, a letter was sent to the deputy minister of the MDDEFP to enquire about the current status of the working group on public participation.

g) Drinking Water Tank Cleaning Project – KMHB

As discussed at the 136th meeting, a letter was transmitted on October 22, 2013, to the president of the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau (KMHB) recognizing the creation of a cleaning program for residential drinking water tanks in Nunavik. The members were informed that the program is currently being implemented in certain communities. The members asked to receive copies of progress reports as they become available.

h) Archaeological Heritage Guide-MCC

At the 135th meeting, a representative of the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications (culture and communications, MCC) gave a presentation on archaeological heritage and the new guide for project proponents that includes the recent amendments to the *Cultural Heritage Act*. On April 30, 2013, the KEAC transmitted two letters on this subject. The first was addressed to the deputy minister of the MDDEFP regarding the importance of archaeological heritage and its role in environmental assessment procedures. The second letter was addressed to the deputy minister of the MCC and included the KEAC's comments on the guide. On August 9, 2013, the KEAC received a letter of response from the director general of the MCC. The letter confirmed that the KEAC comments would be taken into consideration for the revision of the guide and that a copy of the KEAC letter had been transmitted to the MCC regional office.

i) Public Consultations on Uranium Exploration and Exploitation

On March 26, 2013, the KEAC received a letter from the minister of the MDDEFP requesting KEAC participation in upcoming public consultations on uranium exploration and exploitation. These hearings are to be carried out in accordance with a mandate to be given to the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (environmental public hearings committee). Although correspondence has been exchanged by the MDDEFP and the KEAC on this topic, the members are awaiting further information about how the public consultations will be organized.

j) Public Consultations on Nunavik Nickel's Marine Infrastructure Project

In early May 2013, the Federal Environmental and Social Impact Review Panel (COFEX-North) held public consultations in Kangiqsujuaq and Salluit concerning proposed port infrastructure development in Deception Bay by Canadian Royalties Inc. On July 12, 2013, following receipt of the COFEX-North recommendation, the CEAA issued authorization for the project.

It was suggested that the KEAC should contact the CEAA president to obtain clarifications concerning the letter of authorization. It was requested that the KEAC should contact COFEX-North to obtain the minutes of the public consultations in order to provide comments.

k) 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada – Environment Canada

On October 15, 2013, the KEAC contacted Robert McLean, the executive director of the Canadian Wildlife Service (Environment Canada) to enquire about the status of the objectives contained in the *2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada*. The members requested to be kept informed of developments.

l) KEAC Work Plan

Following up on the 136th meeting, a table of staff duties was created to evaluate workload. The members discussed this topic and reassigned some duties.

#### **4. Budget, Secretariat and Members**

a) Budget

i) Financial Summary

The executive secretary presented a summary of the KEAC financial statements between 2000 and 2013. The summary will help the members to assess financial needs for the coming years.

ii) Renewal of the Funding Agreement

The members were informed that as of the 2014–2015 fiscal year Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) will replace the CEAA as the federal government organization responsible for funding 50% of the KEAC's operating budget. As the MDDEFP funds the other 50% and the KEAC has a signed agreement with the MDDEFP for the transfer of the entire budget, it would be suitable to revise this agreement and assess the possibility of signing separate agreements with each of the funding parties.

iii) Financial Update

KEAC expenditures for the period from June to September were presented and reviewed.

b) Secretariat

The members discussed the renewal of the contract for the environmental analyst and the difficulty being experienced by the executive secretary finding lodging in Kuujuaq as provided for in his working conditions.

c) Members

Line Choinière was appointed to the KEAC by the Government of Canada, replacing Gilles H. Tremblay. The members acknowledged the important contributions of Mr. Tremblay to the KEAC since 2002. As well, the KRG will shortly appoint a new member as Joseph Annahatak has resigned.

d) Annual Report 2012–2013

The members again shared their comments on the draft 2012–2013 KEAC annual report. The adoption of the final version was postponed to the next conference call.

e) Five-Year Action Plan, 2015-2020

The KEAC must produce a new five-year action plan for the years 2015 to 2020. The recent progress in this file was presented. It was mentioned that this edition of the action plan should address such topics as mining activities, biodiversity, environmental assessment and residual materials management. A revised budget for this period should also be included. It was suggested that the action plans of other organizations could be consulted.

## 5. Environmental Assessment in Nunavik

a) Revision of Schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 of the JBNQA

The members were informed that there have been no developments in this file. The members stated that the revision of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 of the JBNQA should be a priority for the parties.

b) Environmental Assessment Pamphlet

At the 136th meeting, a draft pamphlet on the four environmental assessment procedures applicable in Nunavik was reviewed. The pamphlet is intended to accompany pilot project training for Nunavik Inuit on environmental assessment procedures. A subcommittee was created to finalize the pamphlet.

c) Pilot Training Project on Environmental Assessment in Nunavik

An update was presented concerning the pilot training project on environmental assessment procedures. The members were informed that some of the funding might be paid by AANDC. Subject to confirmation of this funding, the members would like the pilot training project to be delivered in the early months of 2014.

## 6. Mining Activities

a) Presentation of the KEAC Brief on Bill 43, *Mining Act*

On September 30, 2013, two members of the KEAC presented to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources at the National Assembly in Quebec City a brief on the proposed amendments to the *Mining Act*. The KEAC brief addressed issues related to mining development in Nunavik, including the principles of sustainable development in mining projects, mining infrastructure development, mining claims, access to information, public consultation, and protected areas.

## 7. Residual Materials Management

a) Brief on the draft *Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan*

A commission was set up by the KRG to hold public consultations in Kuujjuaq and Inukjuak on the draft *Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan*. The consultations took place in September. The members of the commission included representatives from Quaqtaq, Inukjuak, the Makivik Corporation, regional businesses, as well as the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services.

On September 19, 2013, the executive secretary presented KEAC comments on the Plan at the consultations organized in Kuujjuaq. The comments were submitted in the form of a brief. The members requested that the authors of the Plan deliver a presentation at a future KEAC meeting.

## b) Household Hazardous Residual Materials Awareness Campaign

On July 18, 2013, information on household hazardous residual materials was distributed in Akulivik and Puvimituq. These were the last two communities scheduled to receive this information.

## 8. Transportation Plan for the Nord-du-Québec Region (Presentation)

Isabelle Lemieux-Leblanc from the regional office of the Ministère des Transports (transportation, MTQ) gave a presentation on the Québec Sustainable Mobility Strategy and how it covers transportation infrastructure development projects in Northern Québec in the context of climate change. Anick Guimond as well as the director of the MTQ regional office, Philippe Lemire, were also in attendance.

The presentation covered the following topics: the MTQ mission, the types of transportation infrastructure under MTQ jurisdiction, the development of transportation infrastructure in Nunavik, future development projects, and the new Québec Sustainable Mobility Strategy including the steps that will need to be taken in Nunavik for its implementation. The MTQ representatives also informed the KEAC of their department's intentions to hold public consultations on the Sustainable Mobility Strategy in early 2014.

A member raised the issue of the shared use of airport and marine infrastructure by mining companies in order to reduce the multiplication of similar facilities in the region. Another member suggested that mining companies could expand existing infrastructure to permit their shared use.

A question was raised regarding the extension of the railroad from Schefferville to Kuujuaq and the intention of mining companies to use it for the transportation of ore. An MTQ representative responded that such an extension is impossible at present due to the geographic characteristics of the sector as well as the costs associated with the project.

A comment was made with regards to road development, specifically the re-use of mining roads and the extension of existing roads to provide access to different communities in Nunavik. An additional comment was raised with regards to improved public transportation in the region's larger communities due to population growth.

The members asked to receive the documents that will be used at the public consultations in early 2014.

## 9. Protected Areas – Biodiversity Reserves

The members were informed that the third park in Nunavik, Parc national Tursujuq, was officially created on July 18, 2013.

With respect to protected areas and bio-diversity reserves, in June 2013 the KRG transmitted the report *Protected Area Planning in Nunavik*. The report was produced through community consultations between March 2011 and November 2012. The consultations focused in particular on the eleven protected areas proposed by the Government of Québec in 2008. The general conclusion of the consultations was that the communities support nine of the eleven proposed protected areas with minor modifications to their boundaries in certain instances. Furthermore, a motion was made during the consultations to designate the Kovik River and its drainage basin as a biodiversity reserve. The members were informed of the proposal for a working group composed of representatives of the MDDEFP, the Makivik Corporation and the KRG to work on the creation of these protected areas and biodiversity zones.

## 10. KEAC Website

On August 28, 2013, a conference call was held by the members of the sub-committee on the development of the KEAC website to discuss new layouts and the site map. The text appearing on the current website is also under revision.

## 11. Miscellaneous

### a) MDDEFP and KRG Community Inspections

In June 2013, representatives from the regional office of the MDDEFP and the KRG conducted inspections in Salluit, Ivujivik and Akulivik. The results and recommendations of the inspections were transmitted to the communities concerned. In general, the recommendations pertain to safety and staffing at landfill sites, as well as the management of scrap metal, unserviceable vehicles and fuel drums. The members asked to receive the inspection report once it becomes available.

### b) KEAC Articles in *Makivik Magazine*

The members discussed the importance of continued KEAC articles in *Makivik Magazine*. It was suggested that the next article should address the residential drinking water tank cleaning program recently initiated by the KMHB.

### c) Le Nord pour tous – SDN

Following a review of recent developments, the members asked that a letter be transmitted to the Secrétariat au développement nordique (northern development, SDN) to recognize its creation and to express the KEAC's interest in contributing to future activities. The members also discussed the possibility of inviting an SDN representative to deliver a presentation at a future meeting.

### d) Consultations on Energy Production in Québec.

Consultations on issues related to energy production in Québec were held from September 4 to October 11, 2013. The objective of the consultations was to give the general public the opportunity to express their views on energy consumption and production as well as the development of alternative energy sources. Although the KEAC did not participate in the consultations, the members asked to be kept informed of the results.

### e) Announcements by the Government of Québec

On September 12 and 13, 2013, the Québec premier visited Kuujuaq and Kangiqsualujuaq. She in particular announced the official opening of Parc national Kuururjuaq.

### f) The KEQC Secretariat

The members discussed the future of the secretariat of the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC) since it seems to be having difficulty filling its executive secretary position. The members were informed that talks are ongoing between the MDDEFP and the KRG to transform the position, which is currently a part-time position, into a full-time position. The new position is expected to be posted before the end of the year.

## 12. Dates and Locations of Next Meetings

It was decided to hold the 138th meeting in Kuujuaq during the week of January 20, 2014, the 139th meeting in Montreal during the week of March 10, 2014, and the 140th meeting in Akulivik during the week of July 7, 2014.



Benjamin Patenaude  
Executive Secretary  
October 28, 2014