



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

The 139th meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 9:15 a.m. on March 13, 2014, at the Hôtel-Musée des Premières Nations in Wendake, Québec. The chairperson opened the meeting and invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. The 139th meeting took place in accordance with the agenda below:

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

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 136th, 137th and 138th Meetings, as well as the Conference Call on February 10, 2014

### 3. Business Arising from the 138th Meeting and Correspondence

- a) Mining Exploration on Lands Adjacent to Category I Lands
- b) Aluminium Can Recycling in Nunavik
- c) Mid-Canada Line Clean-Up Project
- d) Working Group on Public Participation – MDDEFP
- e) Adoption of the Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan – KRG

### 4. Budget, Secretariat and Members

- a) Budget
- b) Funding Agreement Renewal
- c) Secretariat
- d) Members
- e) Annual Report 2012–2013
- f) Annual Report 2013–2014
- g) 2015–2020 Five-Year Action Plan

### 5. Environmental Assessment in Nunavik

- a) Revision of Schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 of the JBNQA
- b) Environmental Assessment Pamphlet
- c) Environmental Assessment Pilot Training Project
- d) Evaluation of Social Impacts for Development Projects subject to Different Procedures

### 6. Mining Activities

- a) *Act to amend the Mining Act*
- b) Abandoned Mineral Exploration Site Clean-Up Project – Update
- c) Environmental Assessment Procedures applicable to the Cape Hopes Advance Iron Mining Project
- d) Approval of the Nunavik Nickel Project – Marine Infrastructure at Deception Bay
- e) Public Consultations on Uranium Exploration and Exploitation

### 7. Residual Materials Management

- a) Project for the Treatment of Tar Barrels in Nunavik
- b) Electronics Recycling in Nunavik

### 8. Protected Areas in Nunavik

## 9. Secrétariat au développement nordique

## 10. Miscellaneous

a) KEAC Article in *Makivik Magazine*

b) Workshop on the Acquisition of Environmental and Social Knowledge – JBACE, Mistissini

c) Environmental Science Forum – February 19, 2014, in Quebec City

## 11. Dates and Location of the Next Meeting

### **2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 136th, 137th and 138th Meetings, as well as the Conference Call on February 10, 2014**

The members reviewed their comments on the minutes of the 136th, 137th and 138th meetings, as well as the conference call on February 10, 2014. The minutes from the 136th and 137th meetings were adopted. The adoption of the minutes from the 138th meeting and the conference call on February 10, 2014, was postponed to a later date.

### **3. Business Arising from the 138th Meeting and Correspondence**

#### **a) Mining Exploration on Lands Adjacent to Category I Lands**

On January 17, 2014, the KEAC sent 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 inquire about how the department deals with mineral exploration projects on lands adjacent to Category I lands. The MDDEFP acknowledged receipt of the letter on January 24 and informed the KEAC that it had been transferred to the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Water, Expertise and Environmental Assessment Branch, Jacques Dupont. The members are awaiting a response.

#### **b) Aluminium Can Recycling in Nunavik**

At the 138th meeting, the members decided to follow up with RECYC-QUÉBEC since past KEAC correspondence regarding the current state of aluminium can recycling in Nunavik remains unanswered. On March 11, 2014, an email was sent to the RECYC-QUÉBEC director of operational procedures, management and talent development, Real Brassard, to ensure the file is progressing. At present, it seems the certain Nunavik retailers are not refunding deposits on eligible aluminium cans.

#### **c) Mid-Canada Line Clean-Up Project**

On February 18, 2014, the KEAC transmitted a support letter and brief to the Deputy Minister of the MDDEFP, Clement d'Astous, regarding the initiation of a third phase of the Mid-Canada Line clean-up project. Copies of these documents were also sent to the KRG and the Department of National Defence.

#### **d) Working Group on Public Participation – MDDEFP**

On October 29, 2013, the KEAC received a letter from the Deputy Minister of the MDDEFP, Clement d'Astous, regarding the progress being made by the working group on public participation. At the 138th meeting, the members requested that a response be sent to the Deputy Minister asking that the KEAC be kept informed of developments and to indicate the KEAC's desire to be involved in future activities of the working group. A draft letter was presented and approved following revision by the members.

#### **e) Adoption of the Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan – KRG**

At the 138th meeting, one of the authors of the Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan, Véronique Gilbert, gave a presentation on the proposed objectives of the Plan. At the request of the members, an email was sent on March 5, 2014, to the MDDEFP to inquire about the status of the approval process for the Plan. The members were informed that the KRG should receive a response by the end of March following the prescribed administrative delay.

Some members indicated that the KEAC could deliver technical assistance to the KRG and the northern villages for certain pilot projects described in the Management Plan and the prioritization of certain projects in terms of practical considerations and financial feasibility. The members requested that, once approved and released, the Management Plan should be discussed at a future meeting.

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

##### **a) Budget**

The KEAC's budget forecast for the 2014–2015 fiscal year was presented. Following certain modifications, including the addition of the 2013–2014 surplus, the members asked that it be transmitted to the appropriate authorities.

##### **b) Funding Agreement Renewal**

At recent KEAC meetings, the members have discussed different scenarios regarding the KEAC's annual funding. In the 2015–2016 fiscal year, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) will replace the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) as the federal government organization responsible for funding KEAC operations. The members were informed that meetings between AANDC and the MDDEFP are being carried out to discuss the changes to the funding method proposed by AANDC.

##### **c) Secretariat**

The members discussed the possibility of hiring the environmental analyst on a full-time contract from April to September 2014.

##### **d) Members**

The members were informed of Henry Alayco's resignation. Mr. Alayco was appointed to the KEAC by the KRG on November 27, 2014, to replace Joseph Annahatak.

##### **e) Annual Report 2012–2013**

The members were informed that the KEAC annual report for 2012–2013 had been finalized, transmitted to the National Assembly and posted on the KEAC website. Copies were also transmitted to various government departments, organizations and individuals.

##### **f) Annual Report 2013–2014**

The members discussed the preparation of the 2013–2014 KEAC annual report. It was decided to set up a sub-committee to review the first draft when it becomes available.

## **g) 2015–2020 Five-Year Action Plan**

A meeting of the sub-committee responsible for the preparation of the five-year action plan (2015–2020) was held on February 10, 2014. The members were informed that the sub-committee is presently evaluating the KEAC's current and forecast activities and that the preparation of a first draft should begin shortly.

## **5. Environmental Assessment in Nunavik**

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

In January 2014, a working group made up of the MDDEFP, the KRG and the Makivik Corporation met in order to initiate the revision of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA), which determines the types of projects that are automatically subject to and exempt from impact studies. The members discussed the role of the federal government in the review of the schedules.

### **b) Environmental Assessment Pamphlet**

Following the 138th meeting, the sub-committee continued its revision of the pamphlet summarizing the four environmental assessment procedures applicable in Nunavik. The members were informed that the section of the pamphlet on the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* is presently under review by a member of the Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board. It was mentioned that the simplification of the information presented in the pamphlet is critical and remains a challenge.

### **c) Environmental Assessment Pilot Training Project**

On February 20, 2014, an environmental and social impact assessment training project was conducted in Kuujuaq. Representatives of community organizations from Tasiujaq, Aupaluk, Kangirsuk and Kuujuaq were in attendance. The project involved presentations on the content of environmental and social impact assessments, the JBNQA and legal framework of environmental and social impact assessments, the key actors and environmental and social impact assessment procedures, Inuit participation, social acceptability, as well as best practices. Round-table discussions and group exercises were also carried out. Participant feedback was very positive. The members feel that additional environmental and social impact assessment training projects should be delivered and that the environmental assessment pamphlet should be used as a supporting document.

### **d) Evaluation of Social Impacts for Development Projects subject to Different Procedures**

At the 138th meeting, the members requested that an examination be carried out of the factors touching on social impact assessment under the procedures applicable in Nunavik. It was suggested that the directives for project proponents under social impact assessments for past projects be checked against the requirements of the procedures as set out in Section 23 of the JBNQA.

## **6. Mining Activities**

### **a) Act to amend the Mining Act**

At the 138th meeting, the members asked that a representative of the Ministère des Ressources naturelles (natural resources, MRN) present the amendments made recently to the *Mining Act*. An MRN representative was contacted but will not be available to make a presentation before the 140th meeting. The members discussed to what degree the principles of sustainable development had been integrated into the current version of the *Mining Act* and their impact on mining activities and the regions covered under the JBNQA.

## **b) Abandoned Mineral Exploration Site Clean-Up Project – Update**

The coordinator of the clean-up project for abandoned mineral exploration sites in Nunavik, Nancy Dea, presented the latest results. According to a survey conducted in 2001 and 2002, 90 abandoned mineral exploration sites were confirmed. Of these sites, 18 were classified as requiring major clean-up work, 27 intermediate clean-up work, and 45 minor clean-up work. The project was launched in 2005 with focus on the clean-up of the 18 sites requiring major clean-up. To date, the clean-up of 14 of these sites has been completed. The work has been carried out with residents of Kuujuaq, Kawawachikamach, Aupaluk, and Kangiqsujaq. During the 2011–2012 season, clean-up work was conducted at one of the largest sites, near Aupaluk, leading to the removal of 147 tons of residual materials and 36 pieces of heavy equipment. The members were informed that the priority for the next five years will be to carry out work at the four remaining major clean-up sites and the sites requiring intermediate clean-up.

## **c) Environmental Assessment Procedures applicable to the Cape Hopes Advance Iron Mining Project**

On February 3, 2014, the KEAC received a response from CEAA President Ron Hallman to its letter dated December 6, 2013, regarding the environmental assessment procedures applicable to the proposed Cape Hopes Advance project. Mr. Hallman explained that the federal environmental assessment procedure under Section 23 of the JBNQA should not apply since the main component of the project (a mine) is under provincial jurisdiction. The components of the project under federal jurisdiction will be submitted to the procedure under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (2012). However, Mr. Hallman informed the KEAC that the CEAA had met with the Makivik Corporation and the MDDEFP to coordinate activities with the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC) so as to ensure Inuit participation in the environmental assessment procedure. Mr. Hallman concluded his letter by inviting the KEAC to facilitate discussions between these organizations.

On being informed that the CEAA had determined that the project did not require a review by a federal commission, the members indicated they did not understand the CEAA decision, since the project's impacts on the natural and social environments would be significant and deserved to be reviewed by a commission. They reiterated their concerns regarding the non-application of the federal environmental assessment procedure under Section 23 of the JBNQA, since it ensures Inuit participation. Furthermore, it would appear that clarifications need to be brought to the mechanisms provided under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (2012), specifically that regarding substitution and equivalencies between the various environmental assessment procedures applicable to similar projects. The members requested a meeting be set up with the federal administrator to permit the KEAC to express these concerns in person.

## **d) Approval of the Nunavik Nickel Project – Marine Infrastructure at Deception Bay**

At the 138th meeting, the members examined the different environmental assessment procedures applied to mining projects with a marine infrastructure component similar to the Nunavik Nickel project at Deception Bay. It was decided that a letter should be sent to the federal administrator with feedback on the format of the decision rendered by the CEAA for the authorization of the project, in particular the shortage of information included with this type of authorization.

## **e) Public Consultations on Uranium Exploration and Exploitation**

On March 3, 2014, the Minister of the MDDEFP, Yves-François Blanchet, gave an official mandate to the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (environmental public hearings office, BAPE) to hold public consultations on the exploration and exploitation of uranium in Québec. On March 12, 2014, the KEAC met with BAPE President Pierre Baril to discuss the mandate, the general structure of the consultations, and the KEAC's role concerns.

Mr. Baril informed the members that the Minister of the MDDEFP could, by law, mandate the BAPE to hold public consultations on all issues related to the environment. In the case of treaty lands, the BAPE will collaborate with

regional organizations to ensure compliance with the treaties. The public consultation mandate will begin on May 20, 2014, and end on May 20, 2015. In the coming weeks, the BAPE will appoint members to the commission conducting the consultations. A reference document entitled *Étude sur l'état des connaissances, les impacts et les mesures d'atténuation de l'exploration et de l'exploitation des gisements d'uranium sur le territoire québécois* (Réseau DIVEX, January 2014) will be posted on the BAPE website as of April 16, 2014. According to BAPE planning, the consultations will be organized in two phases. During the first pre-consultation phase, the BAPE will convey general information to the public on uranium exploration and exploitation, and a panel of experts will be present to address the questions and concerns of those in attendance. The questions and concerns raised then will be used to structure the second phase, i.e. the actual consultations which are planned for the fall of 2014.

For the portion of the consultations to be conducted in Nunavik, several points were discussed regarding general organization and the KEAC's role. These included the possibility of using different types of media to disseminate information to the public, material and human resource costs, as well as logistical issues. It was mentioned that the consultations should take place in the communities situated near areas where uranium exploration activities have occurred, since there is no uranium mine project planned in the short term in Nunavik.

The KEAC should play a central role in these consultations. It however has not yet been decided which organization will chair the consultations in Nunavik. The members decided to set up a sub-committee and to designate a representative to coordinate correspondence between the BAPE and the KEAC.

## **7. Residual Materials Management**

### **a) Project for the Treatment of Tar Barrels in Nunavik**

The project manager of the rehabilitation project at two tar-barrel storage sites in Kuujjuarapik, Nancy Dea, presented the results contained in the KRG report prepared in February 2014. The project took place between October 2011 and October 2012 and focused on the rehabilitation of two storage sites in Kuujjuarapik where large quantities of barrels of tar had been stockpiled for over 45 years. A total of 2112 barrels and approximately 1280 m<sup>3</sup> of contaminated soil as well as small quantities of hazardous waste were removed from the site and shipped to southern Québec for treatment and disposal. Nearby water bodies were also tested, and the results showed no contamination.

### **b) Electronics Recycling in Nunavik**

At the 138th meeting, the topic of electronics recycling was raised during the presentation on the draft *Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan*. At that time, the need to develop a pilot project for electronics recycling was discussed. Waste electronic devices in Nunavik are currently being disposed of in community landfills, even though recycling programs for waste electronics already exist in southern Québec and the costs of processing and disposal are included in the purchase prices of most devices. The members discussed the possibility of having a consultant prepare a proposal for the development of a waste electronics management program for Nunavik.

## **8. Protected Areas in Nunavik**

The members were informed that meetings of a working group composed of the MDDEFP, the MRN, the Makivik Corporation and the KRG have taken place regarding the creation of protected areas in Nunavik. The current objective of the working group is to establish a protected area for the Kovik River. The members were also informed that a meeting of the working group is planned for the end of March 2014 to take the initial steps needed to create this protected area and to discuss fieldwork planned for the summer of 2014.

## **9. Secrétariat au développement nordique**

The Associate Secretary General, Bernard Lauzon, and Director of Coordination and Office Administration, Joanne Laberge, of the Secrétariat au développement nordique (northern development, SDN) delivered a presentation on their organization, specifically the committee of parliamentary officials responsible for northern development, the SDN's mission and organizational structure, as well as discussion groups, committees, approaches, initiatives, and investments in the project.

Mr. Lauzon explained that the SDN is currently setting priorities with different departments and organizations for the creation of a list of partners. Among these priorities, the SDN intends to undertake several projects related to infrastructure development, training centre construction, tourism development initiatives, and national parks. With regards to Nunavik, there are plans to renovate marine infrastructure, to create parks, and to continue the clean-up of the Mid-Canada Line sites. The SDN is currently prioritizing objectives for these projects.

The members mentioned that the principles of sustainable development were generally excluded from the description of SDN objectives. The social acceptability and impacts of mining claims and exploration projects close to communities are additional concerns. The members were informed that the next meeting of the SDN working group is scheduled for early April 2014. The members agreed that the KEAC should continue to monitor future SDN activities.

## **10. Miscellaneous**

### **a) KEAC Article in *Makivik Magazine***

The article to be submitted for the "Green Corner" in the spring 2014 issue of *Makivik Magazine* will focus on the environmental and social impact assessment pilot training project conducted in Kuujuaq on February 20, 2014. It was suggested that the article for the summer 2014 issue should focus on rare plant inventories conducted in Nunavik by the MDDEFP.

### **b) Workshop on the Acquisition of Environmental and Social Knowledge – JBACE, Mistissini**

The members were informed that the environmental analyst will participate in the Workshop on the Acquisition of Environmental and Social Knowledge being organized by the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment (JBACE). The workshop is scheduled to take place during the week of March 17, 2014, in Mistissini. It was mentioned that the workshop is of particular interest as it could help the KEAC develop new approaches for dealing with certain files.

### **c) Environmental Science Forum – February 19, 2014, in Quebec City**

On February 19, 2014, as part of scientific meetings organized under the banner of the Environmental Science Forum, the MDDEFP held a day of conferences on the challenges posed to conservation in Nunavik and in particular re-conciliating natural heritage, culture and development. The goal of the Forum was to examine different issues related to conservation in Nunavik in light of the numerous fundamental changes predicted to occur in the region. Various presentations were delivered by specialists and were followed by a round-table discussion during which questions from participants were addressed. Certain KEAC members were in attendance. The members recognized the importance of this event since the continued acquisition and transmission of knowledge on Nunavik should help guide the future development of the region.

## 11. Date and Location of the Next Meeting

The 140th meeting is scheduled to take place the week of July 7, 2014, in Akulivik.



Benjamin Patenaude  
Executive Secretary  
October 1, 2014