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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF THE 140TH MEETING OF THE KEAC (ADOPTED)

DATES: July 8 to 10, 2014

PLACE: Municipal offices, Northern Village of Akulivik

PRESENT:

Appointed by the Kativik Regional Government (KRG):

Michael Barrett
Betsy Palliser

Appointed by the Government of Canada:

Claude Abel, Chairperson
Line Choinière
Vacant

Appointed by the Gouvernement du Québec:

Paule Halley
Sylvie Létourneau, Vice-Chairperson
Julie Samson

Executive Secretary:

Benjamin Patenaude

Environmental Analyst:

Stéphanie Benoit

ABSENT:

Joseph Annahatak, KRG appointee

GUESTS:

Roch Gaudreau, Director, Mineral Titles and Systems Branch, MERN
Catherine Pinard, Assistant Director for Lands and Environment, Renewable Resources, Lands, Environment and Parks Department, KRG

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The 140th meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 9:30 a.m. on July 8, 2014, at the offices of the Northern Village of Akulivik. The chairperson opened the meeting and invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. The 140th meeting of the KEAC took place in accordance with the agenda below:

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of the 138th and 139th meetings as well as the conference call on February 10, 2014
3. Business arising from the 139th meeting and correspondence
 - a) Working group on public participation – MDDELCC
4. Budget, secretariat and members
 - a) Budget
 - b) Secretariat
 - c) Members
 - d) Annual report, 2013–2014
 - e) Five-year action plan, 2015–2020
5. Environmental assessment in Nunavik
 - a) Pamphlet – environmental assessment procedures
 - b) Assessment of the social impacts of development projects subject to different procedures
6. Mining activities
 - a) *Mining Act*
 - b) Abandoned mineral exploration site clean-up project in Nunavik, update
 - c) Kuujjuaq Mining Workshop, 2014
 - d) Uranium industry, work by the BAPE and the KEAC
7. Residual materials management
 - a) Recycling program for mercury lamps
 - b) Community infrastructure visit in Akulivik
 - i) Nunavik community inspections, 2013 – MDDELCC
 - c) Distribution of bio-degradable plastic bags in Nunavik
 - d) Aluminum can recycling in Nunavik
 - e) Abandoned camps, update
 - f) Mid-Canada Line clean-up project
8. Reactivation of the Plan Nord –Québec government
9. Protected Areas in Nunavik

10. *Master Plan for Land Use in the Kativik Region*

- a) By-laws for the implementation of the Master Plan
- b) Environmental by-laws for the Kativik Region

11. Miscellaneous

- a) Green Corner – *Makivik Magazine*
- b) Drinking water tank cleaning project – KMHB
- c) Workshop on the acquisition of knowledge – JBACE, Mistissini
- d) KEAC Website

12. Dates and location of the next meeting

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 138th and 139th meetings as well as the conference call on February 10, 2014

The members reviewed their comments on the minutes from the 138th and 139th meetings as well as the conference call held on February 10, 2014. The minutes of the 138th meeting and the conference call were adopted. The adoption of the minutes of the 139th meeting was postponed to a later date.

3. Business arising from the 139th meeting and correspondence

a) Working group on public participation – MDDELCC

On May 13, 2014, the KEAC received a letter from Clément D'Astous, Deputy Minister of the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (sustainable development, the environment and the fight against climate change, MDDELCC) regarding the working group on public participation. The letter was in response to a letter sent by the KEAC on March 31, 2014. In his letter, the deputy minister explained that the MDDELCC working group on public participation intends to schedule a meeting in the near future and a representative of the MDDELCC Northern and Mining Projects Environmental Assessment Branch should be in contact with the KEAC shortly in this respect. The members discussed the representatives to be delegated to participate at the meeting and contact with the MDDELCC regarding the organizational details of the working group's future meetings.

4. Budget, secretariat and members

a) Budget

The KEAC expense report was presented for the period between February and May 2014. The members were informed that KEAC annual funding for the year 2014–2015 was received on June 11, 2014.

b) Secretariat

The members were informed that the environmental analyst will resign in September 2014. A request was made to review the budget to assess the possibility of hiring a new person for this position. The members discussed the possibility of opening a credit card account to facilitate the organization of KEAC meetings. It was suggested that guidelines governing the use of the credit card account be developed. Furthermore, the members requested that a list of tasks and correspondence be prepared for each meeting in order to assess the status of KEAC files.

c) Members

It was announced that the KEAC chairperson for the year 2014–2015 will be Claude Abel and Sylvie Letourneau will serve as vice-chairperson. The members thanked Michael Barrett for his term as chairperson in 2013–2014. The members were also informed that Joseph Annahatak was appointed to the KEAC in May to replace Henry Alayco as a KRG appointee. The members thanked Mr. Alayco.

d) Annual report, 2013–2014

The members were informed that the first draft of the KEAC annual report for 2013–2014 is nearly complete. The members requested that all feedback be submitted before the 141st meeting.

e) Five-year action plan, 2015–2020

An initial draft of the KEAC's 2015–2020 five-year action plan was prepared by the sub-committee in June 2014. The members reviewed their feedback on the initial draft and requested that a list of priority topics and a budget forecast be developed.

5. Environmental assessment in Nunavik

a) Pamphlet – environmental assessment procedures

Following the 139th meeting of the KEAC, the sub-committee responsible for producing the environmental assessment procedures pamphlet continued its work. The members expressed concerns about the need to simplify the content of the pamphlet and challenge posed by this exercise.

b) Assessment of the social impacts of development projects subject to different procedures

At the 139th meeting of the KEAC, it was suggested that an in-depth review be conducted of the assessment of social impacts of development projects under the various environmental assessment procedures applicable in Nunavik, i.e. the procedures established under Section 23 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA), the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. The members discussed that the study should describe and compare how social impacts are taken into account under the different procedures. As the study could require the contracting of a consultant, it was decided that this topic would be discussed at a future meeting of the KEAC following the budget review. The members reiterated the importance of social impacts assessment in environmental assessment procedures in Nunavik.

6. Mining activities

a) Mining Act

Roch Gaudreau, Director of Mineral Titles and Systems with the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (energy and natural resources, MERN) gave a presentation on the recently adopted Bill 70, *Act to amend the Mining Act*. Mr. Gaudreau began his presentation with a description of the general objectives of Bill 70 and their three main orientations, i.e. economic, environmental and social.

Mr. Gaudreau emphasized that maximizing economic spinoffs in Québec is a critical element of the economic orientation. Bill 70 requires all mining companies to demonstrate to the Québec government that they have taken steps to ensure the optimal redistribution of company profits in the region where the project occurs. This obligation is

included in the conditions of mining lease applications, which must include a comprehensive economic feasibility study of the project and an opportunity and market study on ore processing in Québec, if applicable.

Furthermore, a mining lease holder must begin mining work within five years of the date of the granting of the lease to ensure the productivity of the site and revenue. Another element of the economic orientation provides that, when a claim holder fails to carry out work within the prescribed period, he must pay to the Minister an amount equal to twice the minimum costs of the work that should have been carried out in order to renew his claim for another validity period.

Next, Mr. Gaudreau provided a description of the key element of the environmental orientation under Bill 70. The project proponent must develop a site restoration and rehabilitation plan for the entire mining site as well as provide a financial guarantee for the performance of restoration work. The plan and financial guarantee must be approved before a lease will be granted. The conceptual restoration plan presented during public consultations and the restoration plan approved by the Minister will be available to the public and posted on the GESTIM website. Moreover, the exploration work described in section 108 of the regulation requires the submission of a restoration plan. The plan and financial guarantee must be approved by the Minister before start of exploration work.

Regarding Bill 70's social orientation, Mr. Gaudreau provided detailed descriptions of seven main elements that aim to ensure balance between communities and mining companies, i.e. property owner rights, the transparency of exploration and mining activities, the public consultation process, reconciliation of land uses, follow-up committees, territories incompatible with mining activities, and Native community consultation.

Regarding property owner rights, Bill 70 stipulates that the ownership of any real and immovable mining right is distinct from ownership of the associated soil. A question was raised regarding the use of sand or gravel on Category I and II lands. Mr. Gaudreau replied that surface materials, such as sand and gravel, are State property. Extraction of these materials requires a lease granted by the MERN. Landholding corporation approval is required before the MERN will grant a lease. If the landholding corporation is the operator, it is exempted from the payment of rent and the royalties provided for under the *Mining Act*.

A question was raised regarding infrastructure development projects taking place near the Category I lands of Aupaluk under the Cape Hopes Advance Iron Mining Project. Mr. Gaudreau stated that landholding corporations may request to modify the boundaries of their Category I lands to protect sites of cultural and natural importance from development projects. Notwithstanding, the rights that existed prior to the signing of the agreement must be respected. Exploration and mining activities on these lands are subject to the environmental and social protection regime under Section 23 of the JBNQA. Any new claim application on Category I lands will be authorized only with the approval of the concerned landholding corporation.

Bill 70 sets out guidelines to ensure the transparency of exploration and mining activities. With regards to the transparency of exploration activities, the claim holder must submit an annual report on the work performed in order to have the claim renewed.

The claim holder must also inform the local municipality, the property owner and the property leaser within 60 days following the registration of a claim. If the claim is within the boundaries of a municipality, the claim holder must inform the municipality of any work it intends to carry out at least 30 days in advance. Both these measures are applicable for Category I lands and could apply for Category II lands. In this respect, an administrative agreement between the Makivik Corporation and the Québec government would permit this measure to be legally applied in Nunavik.

Furthermore, any claim holder who discovers radioactive mineral substances during exploration work must report the discovery within 90 days to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. Regarding the transparency of mining

activities, a lease holder must submit an annual report to the MERN on the quantity of extracted ore, its value, the duties paid according to the *Mining Tax Act*, and contributions paid during the preceding year. These figures are also made available to the public, along with the lease holder's approved site rehabilitation and restoration plan and the total amount of the required financial guarantee.

The public consultation process is required before a lease will be granted. Applicants wishing to carry out an industrial activity or engage in commercial exporting activity are required to hold a public consultation in the region where the project is situated and, at the request of the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, the applicant is obliged to provide documents or information relating to the public consultation. Bill 70 obliges lease holders to create follow-up committees with local-community representatives within 30 days of the granting of a lease. The follow-up committee is responsible for monitoring the impacts of the project from its beginning to the completion of restoration and rehabilitation work.

Regarding the reconciliation of land uses, Bill 70 sets forth a condition under which the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources may refuse to grant or may terminate a lease for the use of sand, gravel or building stone when in the public interest or to preclude conflicts with other uses of the territory. An area incompatible with mining is one where the viability of other activities would be compromised by impacts generated by mining. Areas incompatible with mining are withdrawn from mining development. The Québec government is currently preparing the guidelines for areas incompatible with mining. Once the guidelines are established, regional county municipalities will be able to integrate these areas into their land use and development plans.

Bill 70 emphasizes the importance of consultations with Native communities. In fact, the rights and interests of Native communities are an integral part of reconciling mining activities with other land uses. A question was raised regarding mining companies that do not inform Native communities about their exploration activities. Mr. Gaudreau informed the members that the Native community consultation policy, which is under preparation, will respond to this problem. The policy will be submitted for consultation in the spring of 2015.

b) Abandoned mineral exploration site clean-up project in Nunavik, update

At the 139th meeting of the KEAC, the KRG consultant responsible for coordinating the abandoned mineral exploration clean-up project in Nunavik, Nancy Dea, presented the results of the work performed in the summer of 2013. The members were informed that the project would continue in the summer of 2014 and should focus on the restoration of six sites described in the project activity report for 2013.

c) Kuujjuaq Mining Workshop, 2014

The Executive Secretary presented a report on the 2014 Kuujjuaq mining workshop. The workshop was organized by the Nunavik Mineral Exploration Fund from April 29 to May 1, 2014, in Kuujjuaq. The purpose of the workshop was to encourage dialogue between representatives of local and regional organizations and the mining industry on matters related to resource development in Nunavik, the development of mining policy, and links with local entrepreneurs.

The presentations given focused on the institutions and legal framework of mining projects in Northern Québec, vocational training for Inuit for jobs in the mining sector, local entrepreneurial opportunities, Québec-government initiatives regarding mining development, and mining projects proposed by mining companies. The 2014 workshop also included discussion panels on the challenges posed by mining development and climate change, as well as Inuit employment experiences in the mining industry.

Following each presentation, workshop participants were invited to express their opinions and concerns. In general, the issues raised by participants focused on protection of the natural and social environments, the negative impacts of mining activities, vocational training and employment opportunities in Nunavik, the responsibility of mining

companies to restore sites, the treatment of waste generated by mining activities, joint ventures with local entrepreneurs, as well as shortcomings in the public consultation process. The members emphasized that a mining policy should be developed for Nunavik and recognized the initiatives of the Makivik Corporation in this regard.

d) Uranium industry, work of the BAPE and the KEAC

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (environmental public hearings, BAPE) and the KEAC on upcoming consultations regarding the uranium industry. As well, the KEAC presented a request for financial assistance to the MDDELCC and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) to cover the additional costs generated by this mandate. The MDDELCC has already rejected the KEAC request; it is still to be reviewed by AANDC.

The first phase of public consultations for Nunavik took place on June 12–13, 2014, in Kuujuaq with representatives of regional organizations and local organizations from Kangiqsualujuaq, Kuujuaq and Kawawachikamach. The members reviewed the general proceedings of the consultations and discussions with the BAPE. It was in particular mentioned that the BAPE had presented an inappropriate video on the uranium industry that was not sufficiently non-technical.

The members discussed the second phase of the consultations which is scheduled for September 2014 in Quebec City and Kangiqsualujuaq. The component scheduled for Quebec City will consist of presentations by specialists on topics raised during the first phase of the consultations. The KEAC special commission will have special status allowing it to intervene at any moment. The component scheduled for Kangiqsualujuaq will take the form of an information workshop lead mainly by the KEAC special commission. A panel of specialists will be present to address the questions and concerns raised by the public in Nunavik. The members discussed the issue of non-technical reference materials on uranium and KEAC participation at the sessions planned in Quebec City.

The members were informed that the third phase of the consultations is planned for late November or early December 2014 in Kuujuaq, Kangiqsualujuaq and Kawawachikamach.

7. Residual materials management

a) Recycling program for mercury lamps

Several community organizations in Kuujuaq have contacted the KRG about the proper management and disposal of mercury lamps as they are currently switching over to fluorescent bulbs. In response to these enquiries, a RECYC-QUÉBEC representative was contacted by the Executive Secretary on June 26, 2014. The representative explained that RECYC-QUÉBEC is currently developing a collection program for southern Québec in accordance with an agreement signed in June 2012 with the Association of responsible Consumers. The collection program should be launched towards the end of 2014. Furthermore, the representative explained that RECYC-QUÉBEC has attempted to implement the initial stages of this program in Northern Québec without much success. The representative invited the KEAC to assist in the renewed development of this program for Nunavik by facilitating communication between RECYC-QUÉBEC and regional organizations. The members requested that RECYC-QUÉBEC be informed that the KRG is currently developing a pilot program in three communities for the collection and recycling of electronic devices.

b) Community infrastructure visit in Akulivik

i) Nunavik community inspections, 2013 – MDDELCC

Following inspections of residual materials disposal sites in Ivujivik and Akulivik in June 2013, a team of representatives of the MDDELCC regional office and the KRG returned to Akulivik in September 2013 to implement a system for the temporary storage and treatment of residual materials found at the municipal garage. The work undertaken by the team focused on storing and disposing of used tires, fuel drums, used vehicle batteries, unserviceable vehicles and other residual materials found around the site. The team also made recommendations to the Northern Village of Akulivik regarding residual materials and insisted on the sorting and labelling of drums containing hydrocarbons and vehicle fluids as well as the proper storage of used vehicle batteries. The members were informed that an agreement for the collection and shipment of used tires to recycling facilities in southern Québec is currently under development.

c) Distribution of bio-degradable plastic bags in Nunavik

On June 18, 2014, an inspection of the different businesses in Kuujuaq was conducted to see if local merchants were complying with the municipal by-law requiring the use of bio-degradable plastic bags. The majority of Kuujuaq merchants are compliant with the by-law and the results of the inspection were presented to the Council of the Northern Village of Kuujuaq. It was mentioned that the municipality should send a letter to local merchants to remind them about the by-law.

d) Aluminum can recycling in Nunavik

On May 13, 2014, a meeting was held with the district manager of the North West Company, Paul Dalby, to discuss the current state of aluminium can recycling in Nunavik and to remind him of about refundable containers regulations in Québec. Following the meeting, the district manager informed the Executive Secretary that the North West Company is sourcing a can compactor and will begin to accept empty beverage cans at its stores. The members expressed concern that regulations are not being followed and asked that authorities be contacted once the current situation has been assessed.

e) Abandoned camps, update

The annual meeting of the MDDELCC and the KRG was held in May 2014 in Kuujuaq. The topic of abandoned camps was on the agenda. A representative of the MDDELCC regional office informed the meeting that the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (forests, wildlife and parks, MFFP) intends to resume the site identification survey of abandoned camps in Northern Québec performed in 2008 as it is believed the number of abandoned camps has since increased.

The members were informed that the MFFP intends to adopt a new procedure for permit allocation and renewal by April 2015. Under the new procedure, only camp owners with active sites will be able to renew their permits. The members recognized that significant progress is being made on this file and requested that an MFFP representative be invited to deliver a presentation on the current status of abandoned camps in Nunavik and MFFP intentions to restore these sites.

f) Mid-Canada line clean-up project

On July 3, 2014, a representative of the MDDELCC regional office was contacted regarding the current status of the Mid-Canada line clean-up project renewal following a letter sent by the KEAC in February 2014. A response was received from the MDDELCC regional office on July 4, 2014, in which the KEAC was informed it should receive a

response to its letter from the deputy minister of the MDDELCC shortly. At present, additional information is not available; however, it appears that the file is progressing within the MDDELCC. The members recognized the importance of continuing the Mid-Canada Line clean-up project and asked to be kept informed of developments.

8. Reactivation of the Plan Nord – Québec government

The members were informed that the Québec government intends to reactivate the Plan Nord. They raised questions with regards to the re-organization of the Secrétariat au développement nordique (northern development, SDN) and creation of a ministerial committee. Questions were also raised with regards to the intended formation of an inter-ministerial committee. The members expressed ongoing interest in the activities of the SDN and asked that the topic be re-assessed at a future meeting of the KEAC.

9. Protected Areas in Nunavik

In June 2013, the KRG and the Makivik Corporation submitted to the MDDELCC a community consultation report regarding the establishment of protected areas in Nunavik, in particular the designation of the Kovik River as a biodiversity reserve. In November 2013, a working group met to identify and prioritize the creation of biodiversity reserves in the region. The members were informed that the working group is currently developing a schedule for the next steps.

The members met with representatives of the municipality and landholding corporation of Akulivik to discuss recent developments regarding the protection of the Kovik River. The representatives were informed of the initial steps taken towards protecting the Kovik River and the activities of the working group. On June 18, 2014, the Québec government announced that it would suspend the granting of new mineral titles in the area around the Kovik River. The representatives were also informed that a team of specialists would begin field studies on water quality, plants, fish, and cultural heritage resources in the proposed area during the summer of 2014. The community representatives recognized the importance of protecting the Kovik River and are satisfied with the current progress of the working group.

10. Master Plan for Land Use in the Kativik Region

a) By-laws for the implementation of the Master Plan

Catherine Pinard, Assistant Director for Lands and Environment for the Renewable Resources, Lands, Environment and Parks Department, gave a presentation on developments related to the revision of the *Master Plan for Land Use in the Kativik Region* and the drafting of by-laws for its implementation. Ms. Pinard began her presentation by reviewing what a master plan is and how it is used as land use planning tool. The main objectives are to divide the land in different zones and to identify what land uses are permitted in each zone to avoid conflicting activities, minimize negative impacts on the environment, maximize economic spinoffs, develop sustainable infrastructure and protect areas of interest.

Ms. Pinard described the long-term perspective of the *Master Plan for Land Use in the Kativik Region* and its importance as the main regional land use planning tool. She also described the powers granted to the KRG under the *Act respecting Northern Villages and the Kativik Regional Government* (Kativik Act) to regulate land use and environmental protection. Ms. Pinard then gave a description of the guiding principles identified in the Master Plan, most of which are based on conservation of wildlife and the Inuit way of life. These include: wildlife and habitat protection, respect for Inuit culture, as well as minimizing disturbances to subsistence harvesting activities. In urban planning, land uses (i.e. zones) are usually described in terms of “areas of use” and include residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, and conservation areas. In the Master Plan, land division is described in terms of subsistence

areas which are ranked either as essential or important, multiple use areas and urban areas which do not fall within KRG jurisdiction. The Master Plan are also identified areas of interest.

Ms. Pinard explained that the KRG has currently entered a phase where they are developing zoning by-laws and updating the Master Plan. A question was raised with regards to public consultations for the development of zoning by-laws. Ms. Pinard responded by explaining that the Kativik Act is unclear regarding how zoning by-laws are to be adopted in the Kativik Region; however, consultation with the communities is a necessity. A question was raised with regards to the “compatible” and “incompatible” territories described in the new *Mining Act*. Ms. Pinard explained that this is a new power given to municipal regional counties under the new *Mining Act*, and the KRG will also have the possibility to identify such territories in its Master Plan, as long as they comply with the guidelines to be adopted by the Québec government. Ms. Pinard provided a description of the aim and orientations of the zoning by-laws and underscored that these must be carefully studied. Finally, Ms. Pinard explained how the zoning by-laws, once implemented, should affect the authorization of development projects in Nunavik.

b) Environmental by-laws for the Kativik Region

Ms. Pinard continued her presentation by describing the environmental by-laws currently under development for the Kativik Region. Ms. Pinard explained that the KRG did a review of federal and provincial environmental protection laws to identify areas in which the KRG has powers to adopt additional by-laws. The members were informed that according to the *Act respecting Hunting and Fishing Rights in the James Bay and New Québec Territories*, the KRG can pass certain by-laws related to wildlife protection at the request of a community. The KRG, as a municipality, also has the ability to pass by-laws to protect bodies of water and regulate development in their vicinity until the provincial government adopts regulations.

Ms. Pinard explained that the Kativik Act and the *Cultural Heritage Act* allude to the protection of cultural heritage sites which could be used in the creation of parks. A comment was made with regards to areas with potential and actual cultural heritage sites and that development within a perimeter of 100 m of these areas is prohibited. Ms. Pinard described the possibility of developing environmental by-laws to regulate the use of noisy vehicles, potentially including aircraft, which could disturb wildlife such as caribou in their calving grounds. There are also by-laws related to waste disposal, however the establishment of fuel depots could be regulated more firmly.

Ms. Pinard concluded with a brief description of the approval process for new by-laws. The members expressed concerns regarding how the reactivation of the Plan Nord by the Québec government could affect the public consultation process and the creation of protected areas in Nunavik.

11. Miscellaneous

a) Green Corner – *Makivik Magazine*

The members discussed potential topics for the next Green Corner article to be published in *Makivik Magazine*. It was suggested that the next article should address the issue of toxic spills, specifically the negative impacts on human health and the environment, and the procedures to follow should spills occur.

b) Drinking water tank cleaning project – KMHB

During the summer of 2013, the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau (KMHB) implemented a pilot project for the cleaning of water tanks in Nunavik’s social housing units. The 2013 pilot study was carried out in Kuujjuaq, Kangiqsujuaq, Quaqtac and part of Puvirnituc and served as an opportunity to test equipment and train local workers. The members were informed that the water tank cleaning project is scheduled to continue during the summer of 2014. Following its completion, water quality testing will be undertaken in the tanks cleaned during the

2013 pilot project to determine the effectiveness of the program. The members expressed interest in obtaining the results of the water quality testing and a copy of the final report once they are available.

c) Workshop on the acquisition of knowledge – JBACE, Mistissini

On March 19 and 20, 2014, the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment (JBACE) organized a workshop on the acquisition of environmental and social knowledge. The purpose behind the workshop was to identify the tasks required to complete the JBACE's strategic plan, to encourage the free-exchange of information through discussion forums, and to develop a coordinated program for the acquisition and transmission of knowledge on environmental and social issues. The workshop consisted of conferences as well as sub-group discussions on the constraints regarding the diffusion and simplification of knowledge, transparency and information sharing, community empowerment, and the development of an information management system. The members recognize the importance of such a workshop and request to obtain a copy of the minutes once they are available.

d) KEAC Website

Following the 139th meeting of the KEAC, an initial version of the sections "topics of interest" and "environmental procedures" on the main page of the KEAC website was developed and reviewed by the sub-committee. The members discussed of possibility of conducting a final review of these sections and discussed the delegation of tasks for this file and the timetable.

12. Dates and location of the next meeting

The 141st meeting of the KEAC is scheduled to take place on October 1 to 3 in Quebec City.



Benjamin Patenaude
Executive Secretary
March 25, 2015