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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik  
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

**MINUTES OF THE 141ST MEETING OF THE KEAC  
(ADOPTED)**

**DATES:** October 1 and 2, 2014

**LOCATION:** Gene H. Kruger Building, Université Laval, Quebec City, Room GHK-2376

**PRESENT**

**Appointed by the Kativik Regional Government (KRG):**

Michael Barrett  
Betsy Palliser  
Joseph Annahatak

**Appointed by the Government of Canada:**

Claude Abel, Chairperson

**Appointed by the Gouvernement du Québec:**

Paule Halley  
Sylvie Létourneau, Vice-Chairperson  
Julie Samson

**Executive Secretary:**

Benjamin Patenaude

**Environmental Analyst:**

Stéphanie Benoit (October 2 exclusively)

**ABSENT:**

Caroline Girard, Government of Canada appointee  
Line Choinière, Government of Canada appointee

## 1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The 141st meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 9 a.m. on October 1, 2014, in the Gene H. Kruger Building at Université Laval. The Chairperson opened the meeting and invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. The agenda was adopted and the 141st 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 139th meeting
3. Business arising from the 140th meeting and correspondence
  - a) Working Group on Public Participation – MDDELCC
  - b) Mid-Canada Line clean-up project
  - c) Abandoned camps, update
  - d) Status of active KEAC files
4. Uranium industry, work by the BAPE and the KEAC
5. Budget, secretariat and members
  - a) Budget
  - b) Secretariat
  - c) Members
  - d) Annual report 2013–2014
  - e) 2015–2020 five-year action plan
6. Environmental assessment in Nunavik
  - a) Revision of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 of the JBNQA
  - b) Pamphlet – environmental evaluation procedures
  - c) Assessment of the social impacts of development projects subject to different procedures
7. Mining activities
  - a) *Mining Act*
  - b) Environmental assessment procedure applicable to the Hopes Advance Iron Mining Project
  - c) Mining exploration on lands adjacent to Category I lands
  - d) Comments on the authorization delivered by COFEX-North for Nunavik Nickel marine infrastructure
8. Pilot project for the recycling of electronics in Nunavik
9. Re-activation of the Plan Nord – Québec government
10. Protected areas in Nunavik
11. Miscellaneous
  - a) Green Corner – *Makivik Magazine*
  - b) Nunavik drinking water tank cleaning project – KMHB

c) KEAC website

12. Dates and location of the next meeting

## **2. Adoption of the minutes of the 139th meeting**

The members reviewed and made modifications to the draft minutes of the 139th meeting, which were then adopted.

## **3. Business arising from the 140th meeting and correspondence**

### **a) Working Group on Public Participation – MDDELCC**

On September 15, 2014, a representative 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) was contacted and asked about future meetings of the MDDELCC working group on public participation. A response was received on September 16, 2014, in which the representative explained that the working group's next meeting is scheduled for late October or early November 2014 and requested that the KEAC identify members to participate at this meeting. The members identified two KEAC representatives to participate at this meeting.

### **b) Mid-Canada Line clean-up project**

On August 19, 2014, the KEAC received a letter from Anick Lavoie, Regional Director of the Analysis and Expertise Branch of the MDDELCC in response to the KEAC letter transmitted on February 18, 2014, regarding the initiation of a third phase of the Mid-Canada Line clean-up project. Ms. Lavoie explained that the MDDELCC is preparing a characterization of the Pointe Louis XIV (Cape Jones) radar site. This characterization should help identify the type, degree and cost of the restoration work. Ms. Lavoie informed the KEAC that the MDDELCC would send a letter to the responsible officials within the Department of National Defence to arrange a meeting to discuss the federal government's financial contribution to the third phase of the Mid-Canada Line clean-up project. This meeting is planned for the fall of 2014. The members indicated that a KRG representative should attend the meeting as an observer and asked to obtain a copy of the meeting minutes. The members requested that Ms. Lavoie be contacted in this regard.

### **c) Abandoned camps, update**

At the 140th meeting of the KEAC, the members requested that a representative of the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (forests, wildlife and parks, MFFP) be contacted to give a presentation on the status of abandoned camps in Nunavik. An email to this effect was sent on August 28, 2014. A response received on September 2, 2014, explained that the file regarding abandoned camps is currently under review by the MFFP and has not been completed. Once the review is complete, an MFFP representative will contact the KEAC to schedule a presentation.

The members recognized the importance of the continued development of this file and requested that a letter and photographs of select sites be sent to the Deputy Minister of the MFFP to emphasize the urgency of the situation. It was indicated that the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee should cc'd on this letter.

#### **d) Status of active KEAC files**

Following the 140th meeting of the KEAC, a table describing the status of active KEAC files was created and presented. The members of the various sub-committees were asked to keep the Executive Secretary informed of the status of their projects.

#### **4. Uranium industry, work by the BAPE and the KEAC**

Following the 140th meeting of the KEAC, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada approved the KEAC application for financial assistance to carry out public consultations on the uranium industry in Québec. The second phase of the consultations took place between September 8 and 23, 2014, in Quebec City and on September 25, 2014, in Kangiqsualujjuaq. The sessions in Quebec City consisted of presentations given by specialists on a variety of related subjects and served as an opportunity for commission members of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (environmental public hearings, BAPE) and the KEAC to address questions and receive information from specialists. At the session in Kangiqsualujjuaq, members of the general public of Nunavik asked questions and addressed their comments directly to the experts present.

With regards to the third and final phase of public consultations, the members suggested that, in order to prepare the communities, simplified reference documents could be prepared. It was also mentioned that the BAPE must be made aware of the KEAC's expectations and recommendations concerning the final report on the consultations. The members asked to receive and review the table of contents for the final report. The members recommended that an overview should eventually be prepared of the KEAC's comments regarding the public consultations on the uranium industry for the purpose of future joint mandates. Finally, it was suggested that the KEAC special commission establish a collaborative working relationship with the special commission of the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment to coordinate the implementation of the next steps under the uranium industry mandate.

#### **5. Budget, secretariat and members**

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

The KEAC expense report for the period between June and August 2014 was presented. The members continued to examine the possibility of opening a credit card account for the KEAC. The members expressed the importance of establishing guidelines for the proper use of a credit card and it was recommended that a policy governing credit card use be developed.

##### **b) Secretariat**

Following the 140th meeting of the KEAC, the current state of the KEAC budget for 2014–2015 was reviewed in order to assess the possibility of hiring an environmental analyst. An analyst could be assigned to work on different KEAC files. It was mentioned that the KEAC's current workload should be assessed before a decision is made to hire a consultant.

##### **c) Members**

The members were informed that, on July 31, 2014, Caroline Girard was appointed to the KEAC by the Government of Canada to replace Thessa Girard-Bourgoin. The members asked whether Ms. Girard's appointment is temporary or permanent. The members welcomed Joseph Annahatak appointed by the KRG to replace Henry Alayco.

#### **d) Annual report 2013–2014**

The final draft of the 2013–2014 KEAC annual report was presented for review. Its adoption was postponed until the next KEAC meeting. The members were informed that the Chairperson's message in this annual report places emphasis on the creation of protected areas in Nunavik and recognizes the efforts of the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau (KMHB) to implement a drinking water tank cleaning project for social housing units in Nunavik.

#### **e) 2015–2020 five-year action plan**

The members discussed their comments on the draft 2015–2020 action plan and requested that a budget forecast be prepared for this period.

### **6. Environmental assessment in Nunavik**

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

In January 2014, a working group composed of representatives of the MDDELCC, the KRG, and the Makivik Corporation met to discuss the initial stages of the revision of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA). The members were informed that a second meeting of the working group is scheduled for November 2014. The members discussed improvements that could be made, in particular regarding the application of the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure for mining exploration activities and road infrastructure projects.

#### **b) Pamphlet – environmental assessment procedures**

At the 140th meeting of the KEAC, the members provided comments on the environmental assessment procedure pamphlet project, specifically on the section describing the procedure under the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement*. The members emphasized the need to make the information in the pamphlet more accessible to the general public and requested that a representative of the Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board be contacted in this regard.

#### **c) Assessment of the social impacts of development projects subject to different procedures**

At the 140th meeting of the KEAC, the members discussed the possibility of carrying out a study on how social impacts are addressed under environmental assessments for projects subject to the different procedures. The members discussed the possibility of establishing a work plan to assess the feasibility of this project.

### **7. Mining activities**

#### **a) Mining Act**

At the 140th meeting of the KEAC, Roch Gaudreau, Director of the Mineral Titles and Systems Branch of the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (energy and natural resources, MERN), gave a presentation on the recently adopted *Mining Act*. The members were informed that a similar presentation was delivered for the KRG Council in September 2014 and that it contained more specific information on Nunavik.

#### **b) Environmental assessment procedure applicable to the Hopes Advance Iron Mining Project**

On September 8, 2014, an invitation was sent to François Boulanger of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) requesting his attendance at the 141st meeting of the KEAC to discuss the environmental assessment procedure applicable to the Hopes Advance Iron Mining Project. A response from the CEAA was

received on September 29, 2014, indicating that Mr. Boulanger is currently unavailable. It was suggested that the KEAC draft a letter to the CEAA President stating the KEAC would again like to meet with a CEAA representative to discuss the different environmental assessment procedures applicable to the Hopes Advance project. The members would like to obtain from the federal administrator more information on the decision not to apply the federal procedure provided under Section 23 of the JBNQA for the assessment of the Hopes Advance project. The members would also like to discuss how to reduce the number of federal procedures in order to improve environmental and social impact assessment and review and respond to Inuit concerns in this regard. It was decided that letters will be sent to the federal and provincial administrators to inform them of KEAC concerns regarding the Hopes Advance project.

### **c) Mining exploration on lands adjacent to Category I lands**

Following the 140th meeting of the KEAC, the members were informed that the MDDELCC has asked the MERN about how it deals with mineral exploration projects on lands adjacent to Category I lands. The MDDELCC is awaiting a response from the MERN. It is also awaiting an opinion from its legal department. It was decided to postpone discussion of this topic to a future KEAC meeting.

### **d) Comments on the authorization delivered by COFEX-North for Nunavik Nickel marine infrastructure**

Following the 139th meeting of the KEAC, the members decided a letter should be transmitted to the federal administrator requesting an explanation of the terms contained in the authorization for the Nunavik Nickel marine infrastructure project at Deception Bay. The members expressed their concern regarding the format of the certificate of authorization issued by the Environmental and Social Impact Review Panel (COFEX-North) for this project, specifically the descriptions of the project and the applicable conditions. The members requested that a draft letter be prepared.

## **8. Pilot project for the recycling of electronics in Nunavik**

The members were informed of correspondence between the KRG and the Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA) regarding a pilot project for the recycling of electronics in Nunavik. At present, the pilot project focuses on Kuujuaq, Salluit and Kuujuarapik. The EPRA has shipped specialized containers to these communities for the collection and transportation of waste electronics. The members were also informed that the KRG has corresponded with organizations responsible for recycling other residual materials such as light bulbs, paint and used oil. The KRG intends to meet with representatives of these organizations in order to better understand their mandates and to assess the feasibility of implementing another recycling pilot project for these products in Nunavik. The members requested that a RECYC-QUÉBEC representative be invited to give a presentation at a future KEAC meeting. The members were also informed of the progress being made regarding the adoption of the *Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan*.

## **9. Re-activation of the Plan Nord – Québec government**

On September 30, 2014, the Québec government announced that it was preparing a bill concerning the creation of the Société du Plan Nord to replace the Secrétariat au développement nordique (northern development). The members intend to monitor this file.

## **10. Protected areas in Nunavik**

In September 2014, a presentation was given to the KRG Council regarding the creation of an aquatic reserve to protect the Kovic River and its watershed. The presentation was well received by the KRG Council. The members were informed that the next two national parks to be created in Nunavik are Baie-aux-Feuilles and Cape Wolstenholm. Consideration is also being given to including Douglas Harbour in Parc national des Pingualuit.

## **11. Miscellaneous**

### **a) Green Corner – *Makivik Magazine***

The text for the next Green Corner column in *Makivik Magazine* was presented. This article addresses the issue of hazardous spills and the recommended actions of Nunavik residents in case of such a spill. It was decided that the next Green Corner column will deal with the pilot project for the recycling of electronics in Nunavik.

### **b) Nunavik drinking water tank cleaning project – KMHB**

On September 23, 2014, the KEAC contacted a KMHB representative to enquire about the status of the drinking water tank cleaning project for social housing units in Nunavik and to obtain copies of reports as well as test results once they become available. A response received on September 24, 2014, explained that the KMHB experienced difficulty finding personnel to perform this work. Consequently, water in the cleaned tanks was not tested. The KMHB nonetheless intends to undertake visual inspections of the cleaned tanks in the coming year. The KMHB representative explained that work had been completed in Kuujjuaq, Quaqtaq, Tasiujaq and Umiujaq. In Inukjuak, Puvirnituq and Salluit, at least 70% of the work has been completed. Work in Akulivik, Aupaluk, Ivujivik, Kangiqsualujjuaq, Kangiqsujuaq and Kangirsuk has not yet been started. A comment was made regarding the cleaning of new water tanks before they are installed.

### **c) KEAC website**

Following the 140th meeting of the KEAC, a revision of the section on environmental assessments on the KEAC website was undertaken. It was decided that the next website development step will be to integrate members' comments on this section.

## **12. Dates and location of the next meeting**

The 142nd meeting of the KEAC is scheduled to take place on November 19, 20 and 21, 2014, in Kuujjuaq.



Benjamin Patenaude  
Executive Secretary  
May 7, 2015