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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik  
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

**MINUTES OF THE 144TH MEETING OF THE KEAC  
(APPROVED)**

**DATES:** June 3 and 4, 2015

**LOCATION:** Aquarium du Québec, La petite ourse Pavilion, Quebec City

**PRESENT**

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

Michael Barrett, Chairperson  
Betsy Palliser, Vice-Chairperson

**Appointed by the Government of Canada:**

Claude Abel  
France Roussel

**Appointed by the Gouvernement du Québec:**

Paule Halley  
Sylvie Létourneau  
Julie Samson

**Executive Secretary:**

Benjamin Patenaude

**Environmental Analyst:**

Nancy Dea

**ABSENT**

Joseph Annahatak, Appointed by the KRG  
Line Choinière, Appointed by the Government of Canada

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

The 144th meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 9:15 a.m. on June 3, 2015, at the Aquarium du Québec in Quebec City. The chairperson invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. Modifications were made and the 144th 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 142nd and 143rd meetings as well as the May 7 conference call
3. Business arising from the 143rd meeting and correspondence
  - a) Abandoned outfitting camps
  - b) Mid-Canada Line clean-up project
  - c) Mining activities on lands adjacent to Category I lands
  - d) Feedback on the Federal Administrator's authorization of the Nunavik Nickel marine infrastructure project
  - e) MDDELCC working group on public participation – analysis of the KEQC website
4. Budget, secretariat and members
  - a) Budget
  - b) Five-year action plan, 2015–2020
  - c) Status of active KEAC files
  - d) KEAC annual report, 2014–2015
  - e) KEAC website
5. Environmental assessment in Nunavik
  - a) Revision of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 of the JBNQA
  - b) Nunavik environmental assessment procedures – information pamphlet
  - c) Social impact assessment of development projects subject to various procedures
  - d) Strengthening the provincial environmental assessment procedure
6. Modernization of the *Environment Quality Act*
7. Mining activity
  - a) Environmental assessment procedures applicable to the Hopes Advance iron mining project
  - b) Rare earth minerals project – Quest
  - c) Kuujjuaq mining development workshop, 2015
  - d) Status of the Asbestos Hill mine site
8. Work by the BAPE and the KEAC on the uranium industry
9. *Mining Act* – draft regulation
10. Plan Nord
  - a) Protected areas

- b) Documents on the status of the Plan Nord
- 11. Work progress on social acceptability – MERN

12. Residual materials management

- a) Community inspections – MDDELCC
- b) Extended producer responsibility pilot projects
- c) Aluminium can recycling in Nunavik

13. Miscellaneous

- a) Green Corner Article – *Makivik Magazine*
- b) Information on the Institut nordique du Québec

14. Dates and location of the next meeting

**2. Adoption of the minutes of the 142nd and 143rd meetings as well as the May 7 conference call**

The members reviewed the minutes of the 142nd and 143rd meetings, as well as the May 7 conference call, and provided feedback. The minutes of the 142nd meeting and the May 7 conference call were adopted as modified. The adoption of the minutes of the 143rd meeting was postponed to a later date.

**3. Business arising from the 143rd meeting and correspondence**

a) Abandoned outfitting camps

On May 8, 2015, the KEAC sent a letter to Jacob Martin-Malus, Director General of the Development and Regional Operations Branch of the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (forests, wildlife and parks, MFFP) to request that the KEAC be consulted by the MFFP working group on abandoned outfitting camps. On May 25, 2015, information received by the KEAC from Miles Smart, Associate Secretary-Treasurer of the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC) indicated that there were no new developments in this file. The HFTCC participates on the MFFP working group.

b) Mid-Canada Line clean-up project

On April 7, 2015, the KEAC received a response from the Federal Administrator, Ron Hallman, to the KEAC letter dated February 15, 2015, regarding the need to continue clean-up work at Mid-Canada Line sites in Nunavik. Mr. Hallman explained that, although he recognizes the importance of the file, it does not lie within the mandate of the Federal Administrator. He recommended that the file be brought to the attention of Jaime Pittfield, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of National Defence. On April 27, 2015, the Federal Administrator therefore transmitted to Mr. Pittfield the KEAC letter and a copy of the KEAC brief dated May 3, 2012, concerning the implementation of a third clean-up phase of Mid-Canada Line sites.

c) Mining activities on lands adjacent to Category I lands

On May 13, 2015, a new email was transmitted to Christyne Tremblay, 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) to enquire about how the MDDELCC processes mining activities occurring on lands adjacent to Category I lands. The KEAC had not received any response to its letter dated January 17, 2014.

d) Feedback on the Federal Administrator's authorization of the Nunavik Nickel marine infrastructure project

On April 21, 2015, the KEAC sent a letter to the Federal Administrator, Ron Hallman, to share its feedback on the administrative documents used by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency for the approval of the Nunavik Nickel marine infrastructure project at Deception Bay. The KEAC in particular pointed out the absence of a project description, administrative references and a clear presentation of the terms and conditions applicable to the project's initial approval, as well as the modifications made to the project's new certificate of authorization.

e) MDDELCC working group on public participation – analysis of the KEQC website

At the 143rd meeting, the members requested that the website of the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC) be reviewed prior to the next meeting of the MDDELCC working group on public participation in order to assess what improvements could be made to enhance public participation and access to information under the provincial environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure under Section 23 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA). The KEAC environmental analyst presented the results of the review and the members discussed various aspects of the KEQC website that could be improved. The KEAC feedback could be transmitted to the next meeting of the MDDELCC working group on public participation.

The members were informed that the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment (JBACE) had produced a letter on social acceptability in the James Bay territory for improvements to public participation under the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure.

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

a) Budget

The KEAC expense report for March and April 2015 was presented. The issue of administrative charges on the KEAC credit card was discussed. The members provided some feedback on the KEAC credit card policy.

On April 14, 2015, the KEAC annual funding application for 2015–2016 was transmitted electronically to the Deputy Minister of the MDDELCC. On April 15, 2015, an acknowledgement of receipt was received. The members were informed that an MDDELCC representative contacted the executive secretary to inform the KEAC that the funding application was currently being reviewed by the Conseil du trésor (treasury board) and that, in light of measures recently implemented by the Québec government, the approval process could take longer this year. The members mentioned that the KEAC funding application should be transmitted in advance to ensure that funding is received earlier. They also indicated that an adequate reserve in the form of a surplus is necessary to permit the continued operation of the KEAC due to these delays.

To improve KEAC financial management and budget preparation, the members asked the executive secretary to have various accounting software identified and compared.

b) Five-year action plan, 2015–2020

The KEAC five-year action plan for 2015–2020 was adopted during a conference call on May 7, 2015. The members decided to transmit copies of the action plan to the KRG and the Makivik Corporation, as well as to the federal and provincial administrators as soon as the English version is available. The document will also be posted on the KEAC website.

c) Status of active KEAC files

Following the 143rd meeting, a table describing the status of active KEAC files was developed and presented.

d) KEAC annual report, 2014–2015

A draft of the 2014–2015 KEAC annual report was presented. It was decided to postpone review to a later date.

e) KEAC website

Following a meeting of the sub-committee in charge of KEAC website revision work, the members were informed that the consultant is ready to proceed with the work. The members indicated that the completion of this file should be a priority and accepted that a review be undertaken of the terms used on the new website with the consultant's assistance. Statistics on KEAC website usage were also presented.

## **5. Environmental assessment in Nunavik**

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

At the 143rd meeting, the members discussed the apparently limited participation of the federal government in the review of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 of the JBNQA. The members asked that the JBACE be contacted regarding the role of the federal government in the review of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 22 of the JBNQA. When contacted, a JBACE representative explained that the federal government's involvement is less than that of the provincial government. The JBACE is of the opinion that the federal government should be more involved. The members were informed that discussions between the Cree, the provincial government and the federal government were recently initiated. The issue of a change in the classification of grey zone projects under Section 23 was also raised. The next meeting of the working group on the revision of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 of the JBNQA should take place in September 2015.

b) Nunavik environmental assessment procedures – information pamphlet

Following the 143rd meeting, the members continued their review of the information pamphlet on environmental assessment procedures applicable in Nunavik. The members reiterated that the information on the environmental assessment procedures should be simplified and suggested that flowcharts be used. The members again stressed that a focus group composed of representatives of different regional organizations should be set up to validate the contents of the document and evaluate its relevancy and clarity.

c) Social impact assessment of development projects subject to various procedures

The members reviewed the work plan developed for a study on the assessment of the social impacts of development projects subject to various environmental assessment procedures. The possibility of hiring a consultant to carry out the study was discussed. The work involved and the scope of the process remain however to be defined more precisely.

One aspect of the study could involve a comparison of the different environmental assessment procedures to examine how social impacts are considered under each procedure. It was indicated that a clear definition of social impacts would need to be defined first. The members asked that an MDDELCC sociologist be invited to deliver a theoretic and general presentation on social impacts and the social acceptability of development projects.

d) Strengthening the provincial environmental assessment procedure

The members discussed the need for the review bodies established under Section 23 of the JBNQA to remain independent in order to avoid potential conflicts of interest and to strengthen environmental assessment procedures. It was decided that a draft letter addressed to the Deputy Minister of the MDDELCC would be prepared regarding the need for KEQC independence to be maintained and for the organization to have its secretariat in Nunavik. Based in Nunavik, the secretariat is better able to represent the region, is better placed to support members appointed from the region, and is more accessible to the general public seeking information on provincial environmental assessments.

## **6. Modernization of the *Environment Quality Act***

On March 27, 2015, the KEAC received an invitation from the office of the Minister of the MDDELCC, David Heurtel, to participate in special consultations for the review and modernization of the environmental assessment procedure under the *Environment Quality Act*. After a pre-consultation held on April 10, 2015, in Montreal, the MDDELCC announced it would submit a Green Paper to the National Assembly in the summer. Consultations on the Green Paper are planned this summer or fall. Subsequently, the Green Paper will be revised and used to draft a bill to modify the *Environment Quality Act*.

The members recognized the importance of this file and expressed interest in participating in the consultations once the Green Paper is available. The members questioned to what degree the revisions would apply in Nunavik and how the environmental assessment procedure under Section 23 of the JBNQA would be affected.

## **7. Mining activity**

a) Environmental assessment procedures applicable to the Hopes Advance iron mining project

The members continued to discuss the possibility of drafting letters to the Provincial Administrator and the Federal Administrator regarding KEAC concerns about the environmental assessment procedures being applied to the Hopes Advance iron mining project near Aupaluk. It was decided to postpone discussion of this topic to a later date.

b) Rare earth minerals project – Quest

The members discussed various elements of the rare earth minerals project proposed by Quest Rare Mineral Ltd. It was pointed out that, since the project will be carried out in Nunavik and Labrador, the project would be subject to several review procedures. The members were informed that communications have been established between the review bodies and regional organizations concerning environmental and social assessment of the project.

c) Kuujjuaq mining development workshop, 2015

The executive secretary presented a summary of the 2015 mining development workshop organized by the Nunavik Mineral Exploration Fund on April 27, 28 and 29 in Kuujjuaq. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together representatives of the Québec government, the mining sector and regional organizations to encourage open dialogue about mining development in Nunavik, to provide Nunavik residents with an opportunity to participate in and learn about mining development, and to generate business opportunities for local businesses.

d) Status of the Asbestos Hill mine site

The members were informed that Glencore had recently submitted an application for financial assistance for remediation work at the abandoned Asbestos Hill mine site located northwest of the Raglan mine. Asbestos Hill was in operation from 1972 to 1984. Over time, tailings have become exposed to poor weather conditions and may pose

a threat to the natural environment. It was asked that the environmental analyst contact a representative of the regional office of the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (energy and natural resources, MERN) to obtain information about the status of the restoration project and the extent of the possible impacts of the tailings, as well as relevant documents on this file.

## **8. Work by the BAPE and the KEAC on the uranium industry**

Since the KEAC's 143rd meeting, the commissions of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) and the KEAC completed the drafting of the report on uranium industry issues in Québec. The final version of the BAPE report should be available shortly and will be submitted to the Minister of the MDDELCC. The minister will have 60 days to make the document public.

The members discussed the possibility of scheduling a final meeting between the commissions of the BAPE, the KEAC and the JBACE to debrief on the joint project and identify areas to improve in the event of a future joint mandate. The possibility of a joint review with the BAPE was also discussed.

The members discussed details of the expense report to be submitted pursuant to the financial agreement entered into with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to carry out the mandate and the public consultations.

## **9. Mining Act – draft regulation**

On May 6, 2015, a bill to amend the *Regulation respecting Mineral Substances other than Petroleum, Natural Gas and Brine* was published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*. The bill follows up on amendments made to the *Mining Act* in December 2013 regarding in particular the terms and conditions applicable to public consultations initiated by the proponents of metal mining projects with a production capacity of less than 2,000 metric tonnes daily and the terms and conditions applicable to follow-up committees that must be set up by mining lease holders to be responsible for fostering the involvement of local communities in all project stages. The general public may transmit feedback during the prescribed 45-day period prior to the regulation's adoption. The members reviewed the draft regulation and decided that a letter would be prepared detailing KEAC feedback.

## **10. Plan Nord**

### **a) Protected areas**

Further to the reactivation of its Plan Nord, the Québec government created a working group consisting of the concerned government departments, First Nations and Inuit, regional organizations, research agencies, as well as environmental and mining sector groups to discuss conservation measures to protect 50% of the Plan Nord territory from industrial development by 2035. The members discussed the possible participation of the KEAC on this working group and suggested that, for the moment, developments in this file should be monitored.

It was recalled that the working group includes representatives of the KRG, the Makivik Corporation, the MDDELCC, the MFFP and the MERN. It was set up in 2013 and is working specifically on the protection of 20% of Nunavik by 2020 via protected areas. KEAC members were informed that the working group has in particular focused efforts to have the Kovik River included in the protected area network.

### **b) Documents on the status of the Plan Nord**

The members were informed that the Société du Plan Nord published an action plan and reference framework to monitor progress being made on the Plan Nord. The members provided feedback on the document. The KEAC has

been actively interested in the Plan Nord since its beginnings and participated on some working groups during the implementation of the first edition.

## **11. Work progress on social acceptability – MERN**

The members were informed that, following up on its focus on the social acceptability of natural resource development projects, the MERN had recently published a vision paper to foster dialogue among participants at round tables on this topic. The general public has been invited to submit feedback on the MERN document. Given the KEAC workload, it was decided the KEAC would not submit feedback. The members nonetheless recognize the importance of this file and asked to be kept informed of developments since it could improve the assessment of social impacts under the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure contained in Section 23 of the JBNQA.

## **12. Residual materials management**

### **a) Community inspections – MDDELCC**

The members were informed that the MDDELCC intends to conduct community inspections in September 2015 and will focus on borrow pits and quarries in most Nunavik communities. The KRG environmental specialist and technician, for their part, will conduct inspections of the landfills in Puvirnituk and Inukjuak. The members were also informed that landfill in Inukjuak is growing closer to the community. The municipality is in the process of identifying a new location for its landfill.

### **b) Extended producer responsibility pilot projects**

The members were informed that collection sites for waste electronics have been established in Puvirnituk, Kuujuaq and Salluit. On May 1, 2015, a meeting took place between the KRG and the five organizations responsible for the processing and recycling of products covered under the *Regulation respecting the Recovery and Reclamation of Products by Enterprises*. Under an agreement negotiated between the KRG and these organizations, a specialized technician is scheduled to visit Kuujuarapik, Salluit and Kuujuaq in the fall of 2015 to organize the collection of the residual materials covered under the Regulation, including used batteries, electronics, paints, vehicle oils and liquids, and fluorescent tubes and lamps. Specifically, the specialized technician will be present to offer technical support and training to the employees of the communities involved in the program. It was mentioned that information on the program should be made available in Inuktitut, English and French in each community.

### **c) Aluminium can recycling in Nunavik**

The members were provided background information on the steps taken by the KEAC to promote the recycling of aluminium cans in Nunavik. The environmental analyst recently contacted a representative of Boissons Gazeuses Environnement (BGE) about the possibility of financial assistance for the aluminium can recycling program in Nunavik communities. The representative informed the environmental analyst that BGE provides financial assistance for the purchasing of compactors, information campaigns and the shipping of waste aluminium cans. The members were informed that the Northwest Company is in the process of purchasing a compactor for its store in Kuujuaq, and intends to purchase compactors for its stores in Inukjuak and Kuujuarapik. The members discussed the possibility of developing an information poster for Kuujuaq residents to encourage aluminium can recycling.

### **13. Miscellaneous**

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

It was decided that the next article for the Green Corner in *Makivik Magazine* would address the problem of litter abandoned on the land in Nunavik. The following article will develop the issue of aluminium can recycling and encourage Nunavik residents to recycle their aluminium cans.

#### **b) Information on the Institut nordique du Québec**

On April 22, 2015, the KEAC received an invitation to participate in an information forum at Université Laval in Quebec City on May 20, 2015, regarding the creation of the Institut nordique du Québec. The purpose of the forum was to bring together members of the research community and present the objectives of the Institute as well as address research strategies and issues related to northern development. The members were informed that the construction of the Institute's facilities has not started. The Institute will promote collaboration between research stakeholders based on six main research aims: well-being and the development of northern communities, health and nutrition, the functioning of ecosystems and environmental protection, infrastructure and technology, energy and natural resources, as well as training and knowledge and technology transfer.

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

It was decided that the 145th meeting of the KEAC would take place in Kangiqsualujjuaq during the week of September 21, 2015, that the 146th meeting would take place during the week of November 30, 2015, in Quebec City, and that the 147th meeting would take place in February 2016 in Kuujjuaq.



Benjamin Patenaude  
Executive Secretary  
December 3, 2015