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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

**MINUTES OF THE 147TH MEETING OF THE KEAC
(ADOPTED)**

DATES: March 9, 10 and 11, 2016

LOCATION: Nunavik Research Centre, Kuujjuaq

PRESENT:

Appointed by the Kativik Regional Government (KRG)

Michael Barrett, Chairperson

Appointed by the Government of Canada

Thessa Girard-Bourgoin

Jean-Yves Savaria

Alexandre-Guy Côté (interim replacement for Claude Abel)

Appointed by the Gouvernement du Québec

Paule Halley

Sylvie Létourneau

Julie Samson (by conference call on March 9 and 10)

Executive Secretary

Benjamin Patenaude

Environmental Analyst

Nancy Dea

ABSENT:

Joseph Annahatak, appointed by the KRG

Betsy Palliser, Vice-Chairperson, appointed by the KRG

Claude Abel, appointed by the Government of Canada

GUESTS:

Jean-Marc Séguin, Mining Coordinator, Makivik Corporation (by conference call on March 11)

Cynthia Brin d'Amour-Côté, Technical Director, Nunavik Mineral Exploration Fund (March 11)

Mélanie Lemire, Professor, Université Laval

OBSERVER:

Monica Nassak, Environmental Technician, KRG

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The 147th meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 2:30 p.m. on March 9, 2016, at the Nunavik Research Centre in Kuujjuaq. The chairperson opened the meeting and invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. Modifications were made and the 147th 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 145th and 146th meetings and the conference call held on January 11, 2016
3. Business arising from the 146th meeting and correspondence
 - a) Mid-Canada Line clean-up project
 - b) Feedback on the authorization delivered by the federal administrator concerning the Nunavik Nickel marine infrastructure project
 - c) Environmental assessment procedures applicable to the Hopes Advance iron mining project
 - d) Northern residual materials management techniques – Université du Québec à Chicoutimi
4. Budget, secretariat and members
 - a) Budget
 - b) Secretariat
 - c) Members
 - d) Follow-up on actions related to current files
 - e) KEAC annual reports
 - f) KEAC website
5. Environmental assessment in Nunavik
 - a) Environmental assessment procedures guide
 - b) Revision of the environmental assessment regime in Nunavik
 - c) Social impacts and social acceptability
 - d) KEQC secretariat
6. Abandoned outfitting camps
7. Mining activities
 - a) Mining activities on lands adjacent to Category I lands
 - b) Status of the Asbestos Hill mine site
 - c) Aboriginal community consultation policy specific to the mining sector – MERN
 - d) Raglan mining forum
 - e) Presentations on mining development in Nunavik
8. Green paper on social acceptability – MERN
9. Health survey in Nunavik
10. Residual materials management
 - a) Residual materials management – information campaign

- b) Contaminated site – request for assistance from the Northern Village of Kuujjuaq
- c) Extended producer responsibility pilot projects

11. Miscellaneous

- a) Green Corner Article – *Makivik Magazine*

12. Dates and location of the next meeting

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 145th and 146th meetings and the conference call held on January 11, 2016

The members provided feedback on the minutes of the 145th and 146th meetings. The adoption of the minutes was postponed to the next meeting. The minutes of the conference call held on January 11, 2016, were adopted with some minor adjustments. The members also discussed ways to improve the revision of minutes.

3. Business arising from the 146th meeting and correspondence

a) Mid-Canada Line clean-up project

As requested by the members at the 146th meeting, a letter was transmitted in February 2016 to John Turner, associate deputy minister of the Department of National Defence, expressing KEAC concerns regarding federal-government participation in work under the third phase of the Mid-Canada Line clean-up project. A copy of the KEAC brief entitled *Work Necessary to Complete the Mid-Canada Line Clean-Up Project (2012)* was enclosed with the letter. The brief contains a description of the clean-up activities completed to date and recommendations on eventual work to ensure the safety of land users and environmental protection at the 35 abandoned sites in Nunavik. The Mid-Canada Line sites continue to be a source of worry for the Inuit and Naskapi communities that use these territories for the practice of traditional activities. The communities remain determined to have the sites completely rehabilitated.

The members discussed the different options for encouraging the concerned stakeholders to move forward and complete the third phase of the Mid-Canada Line clean-up project.

b) Feedback on the authorization delivered by the federal administrator concerning the Nunavik Nickel marine infrastructure project

At the 146th meeting, the KEAC expressed interest in learning more about the guidelines applied by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) under its project authorization procedures, in particular those used for the Nunavik Nickel marine infrastructure project at Deception Bay. The executive secretary informed the members that he had contacted a CEAA representative regarding this matter in February 2016. The members decided to create a subcommittee on this topic and to set up a meeting between the KEAC and the CEAA.

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

The executive secretary informed the members that a letter dated February 25, 2016, had been transmitted to the provincial administrator of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA)*, Christyne Tremblay, with carbon copies to Ron Hallman and Peter Jacobs, respectively federal administrator of the JBNQA and chairperson of the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC). The letter outlines KEAC concerns regarding the application of three environmental assessment procedures for the Hopes Advance iron mining project situated close to the Inuit community of Aupaluk as well as the differences between provincial and federal directives and rules regarding validity periods. Moreover, the letter questions the application of the procedure under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* over the federal procedure contained in the JBNQA since the later more fully takes into account the social impacts of assessed projects, in particular given the direct role played by Inuit in the procedure. In this context,

the letter enquires into the provincial administrator's view concerning the substitution or equivalency mechanisms under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. The letter also contains recommendations to mitigate the difficulties faced by the residents of Aupaluk in relation to the project.

d) Northern residual materials management techniques – Université du Québec à Chicoutimi

At the 146th meeting, it was brought to the attention of the KEAC that the Chaire en éco-conseil at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi had received Québec-government funding through the 2011–2015 action plan under the Québec Residual Materials Management Policy in order to study adapted northern residual materials management techniques. The first phase of the study is focusing on residual materials and the lack of related data, and the second phase on data collection and tentative solutions for concerned communities, in particular in Nunavik. To gain a better understanding of the measures advocated by the Chaire en éco-conseil, the KEAC transmitted a letter in February to Hélène Côté (research coordinator with the Chaire en éco-conseil) advocating consultations with regional organizations and the establishment of an information-sharing network. Since the KEAC has been active for several years in the process to improve residual materials management in Nunavik, the letter indicated the KEAC would like to be kept informed of the progress of the study and recommendations concerning methods for reducing the quantity of residual materials in Nunavik. The members discussed the allocation of funding for knowledge-acquisition research as well as a call-for-tenders mechanism. The KEAC again expressed interest in inviting a representative of the Chaire en éco-conseil to the next meeting.

4. Budget, secretariat and members

a) Budget

The KEAC's expense report for the period from November 1, 2015, to January 31, 2016, was presented. The members reviewed and then approved the letter concerning 2016–2017 budget forecasting. The members were informed that the federal government has been talking with 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) in order to revise the funding procedures of various organizations established under the JBNQA. The members also discussed forecast expenditures until the end of the 2015–2016 financial year.

b) Secretariat

The executive secretary confirmed that the relocation of the office of the secretariat within the KRG building in Kuujjuaq, as announced at the last meeting, was complete.

The members discussed the upcoming temporary leave of the environmental analyst. It was decided to offer a contract to Stéphanie Benoit who has already worked for the KEAC.

c) Members

The KEAC welcomed Alexandre-Guy Côté as the federal-government's interim replacement of Claude Abel. The members were informed that the KEAC had received a letter from Betsy Palliser regarding her resignation as KRG appointee and Thessa Girard-Bourgoin indicated she was resigning from the KEAC. The KEAC thanked both of these former members for their active involvement in the organization.

The members undertook a review of the implementation of the KEAC mandate and its many files. They discussed the different roles of members and staff, as well as the importance of prioritizing certain agenda topics in accordance with the KEAC five-year action plan.

d) Follow-up on actions related to current files

Following up on the 146th meeting of the KEAC, an updated table describing the status of active KEAC files was presented.

e) KEAC annual reports

The members were informed that the 2014–2015 annual report had been distributed to the parties and that drafting of the text for the 2015–2016 annual report had been started. The production timetable was also discussed.

f) KEAC website

The environmental analyst presented the new website development process and provided an update. The members in particular discussed when the site would be brought online and its regular updating.

5. Environmental assessment in Nunavik

a) Environmental assessment procedures guide

The members provided feedback on the latest version of the guide on the environmental assessment procedures applicable in Nunavik. They proposed several modifications to the draft electronic version and postponed the approval of the document to an upcoming telephone conference. The creation of a discussion group of Nunavik community representatives to review the final version of the guide was postponed.

b) Revision of the environmental assessment regime in Nunavik

In November 2015, the KEAC transmitted to David Heurtel, Minister of the MDDELCC, a letter concerning the members' interest in establishing discussions to strengthen the provincial environmental assessment regime applicable in Nunavik. While awaiting the Minister's follow-up, the members noted the importance of participating in the government's current revision of *Environment Quality Act* and to study the potential impacts in Nunavik of any related amendments. The members discussed the revision of the schedules of Chapter II of the *Environment Quality Act* and public participation in procedures applied in Nunavik. Further discussion of the topic was postponed to the next meeting.

c) Social impacts and social acceptability

To follow up on the presentation delivered at the 146th meeting by Carl Ouellet, a sociologist with the MDDELCC, on social impacts and social acceptability in relation to development projects in Québec, the members had directed the executive secretary to prepare a comparison of the different legal frameworks for the environmental assessment regimes applicable in southern Québec and throughout the north (including Nunavik and other northern regions of Canada) based on the social impacts covered. The members discussed different approaches that could be taken to prepare the comparison. The KEAC is critical of the fact that social impacts receive less attention under some environmental assessment procedures. In line with its mandate, the KEAC will closely monitor this matter and agreed to continue discussion at a later meeting.

d) KEQC secretariat

In July 2015, the KEAC transmitted a letter to Marie-Josée Lizotte of the MDDELCC to emphasize the importance of maintaining the KEQC secretariat in Nunavik. In January 2016, the KEAC was informed that the KEQC secretariat would be temporarily transferred to offices of the MDDELCC in southern Québec and that the KEQC executive secretary would be an MDDELCC employee. The members discussed the independence of KEQC activities in relation to these close ties with the MDDELCC.

6. Abandoned outfitting camps

With a view to obtaining an accurate picture of the current state of abandoned outfitting camps (permanent and mobile) in Nunavik and related regulations, in November 2015 the KEAC invited a representative of the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (forests, wildlife and parks, MFFP) to deliver a presentation at a future KEAC meeting. The KEAC also extended an invitation to representatives of the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee to attend the meeting as guests in order to promote discussion on the topic. Since an MFFP response has yet to be received, the members agreed to prepare a letter on the importance of discussion about the environmental impacts of abandoned outfitting camps and solutions to ensure their rehabilitation.

7. Mining activities

a) Mining activities on lands adjacent to Category I lands

The members discussed the letter received from the MDDELCC in December 2015 and the MDDELCC administrative interpretation of mining activities on Category I and adjacent lands. The KEAC is of the opinion that the proposed revision of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 of the JBNQA could help clarify the procedure applicable for mining activities on Category 1 and adjacent lands, and move the file forward.

b) Status of the Asbestos Hill mine site file

The environmental analyst provided follow-up on the access to information request relating to rehabilitation work carried out at the Asbestos Hill mine site. Further to the MDDELCC response, she was able to present a summary of the correspondence between the MDDELCC and Asbestos Corporation Ltd., as well as the activity report by Falconbridge (now Glencore). The members also examined the chronology of activities at the Asbestos Hill mine site and at the site of the Deception Bay facilities between 1957 and 1985, the activities of regional organizations and government between 1978 and 2015, as well as the rehabilitation work performed from 1992 through 2001.

Located in the Ungava Trough sector in Nunavik, the Asbestos Hill mine was owned and operated by Asbestos Corporation Ltd. from 1972 to 1984. Following the mine's closure another mining company, today known as Glencore, acquired the property around the site and the port facilities through a rehabilitation program agreement at the end of the 1990s. The Asbestos Hill mine site continues to be a concern for the neighbouring Inuit communities since erosion has exposed mine tailings and waste that were previously buried. As well, the studies provided for in the rehabilitation program regarding the impacts of asbestos tailings on water, soil and air quality at the site and in the surrounding area have never been undertaken.

The members asked the environmental analyst to plot a few possible actions for the KEAC. Further discussion of the topic was postponed to a later meeting.

c) Aboriginal community consultation policy specific to the mining sector – MERN

At the end of 2015, the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (energy and natural resources, MERN) proposed a draft Aboriginal community consultation policy specific to the mining sector. At that time, the KEAC indicated its interest in taking part in related consultations. In February, the KEAC was informed that the MERN had agreed to meet the KEAC and present the draft policy. The presentation may take place in March. The members would like the KEAC to be represented at the meeting and they provided feedback on the draft policy.

d) Raglan mining forum

The executive secretary provided the members with information regarding the Raglan mining forum that will take place on March 14, 15 and 16, 2016, in Kangiqsujuaq. The following topics will be covered: environmental system management, air quality monitoring, environmental monitoring of the territory's biodiversity, water quality monitoring,

as well as the rehabilitation and closure of mining sites. The members discussed the pertinence of a KEAC presence at the forum. It was decided the executive secretary would represent the KEAC.

e) Presentations on mining development in Nunavik

The members welcomed two guests. Jean-Marc Séguin of the Makivik Corporation described MERN geoscientific knowledge acquisition activities carried out in 2014-2015, specifically related to non-consolidated deposit inventories, geological mapping, and geophysical aerial surveying. The results are to be presented at the annual Québec mines symposium. Mr. Séguin informed the members that the Makivik Corporation and the landholding corporations of Nunavik would like to receive the results before they are shared with mining companies and before mining claims are granted. Mr. Séguin also provided updates on the progress of different mining projects in the region as well as initiatives by the Makivik Corporation to keep communities informed of nearby mineral exploration projects and obtain their feedback. Cynthia Brin d'Amour-Côté of the Nunavik Mineral Exploration Fund presented the mandate and activities of her organization, in particular regarding technical training.

8. Green paper on social acceptability – MERN

In February 2016, the MERN made public a green paper containing five guidelines regarding social acceptability. The members discussed the preliminary documentation and, more specifically, mechanisms under different existing assessment procedures for taking into account project impacts. They expressed an interest in transmitting feedback on this topic once the dates of consultations by parliamentary committee are made known. The executive secretary was directed to monitor this file.

9. Health survey in Nunavik

The members welcomed Mélanie Lemire, the Nasivvik Research Chair in Ecosystem Approaches to Northern Health at Université Laval. Focused on contaminants in traditional foods, Ms. Lemire delivered a presentation on the Qanuillirpita Health Survey planned for 2017. The survey is intended to update the state of knowledge on physical and psychosocial aspects of the regional population according to different factors, lifestyles and the environment. The documentation on this topic essentially comes from a first major survey (Éric de Wally, 1992) conducted in accordance with different health determinants in Nunavik and a second major survey conducted in 2004 in all 14 northern villages. Ms. Lemire set out the context, sampling methodology and questions asked under the two surveys, as well as related weaknesses. She next described the proposed approach for the new survey. Specifically, data will be collected according to indicators comparable with other northern regions in order to document new health issues in Nunavik, establish possible positive actions and contribute to the development of related public policies. Among the themes presented, it would seem that various issues related to water quality will be covered in the questionnaire submitted to participants. Ms. Lemire concluded her presentation with the provisional schedule of activities up to the start of the survey in August 2017.

Various related topics were raised by the members. One member pointed out that drinking water quality has long been a concern of the KEAC. The KEAC in particular participated in the funding of a study on household drinking water tank cleaning in Nunavik. The members informed Ms. Lemire that they would like to be kept informed of the activities of the research team.

10. Residual materials management

a) Hazardous materials management – information campaign

As proposed at the 146th meeting, the KEAC is studying the possibility of re-releasing three guides, published in 2008–2009, on hazardous materials management for regional organizations, the northern villages and the general public. The members proposed some minor modifications to the revised versions presented by the environmental analyst and reviewed the cost estimates for the project. The guides will again be produced in Inuktitut, English and

French. A trilingual summary poster of the *Spill Response and Contaminated-Site Remediation Guide for Nunavik for Municipalities and Regional Organizations* has also been designed. The environmental analyst emphasized the importance of these guides for the different regional organizations. She provided information to the members on funding sources for technical hazardous materials training, in particular measures for the treatment and rehabilitation of hazardous material spill sites in the communities. The members agreed to have the topic included on the agenda of the next meeting.

b) Contaminated site – request for assistance from the Northern Village of Kuujjuaq

The environmental analyst provided an update on the request for assistance received by the KEAC in March 2016 from the Northern Village of Kuujjuaq concerning a contaminated site requiring major rehabilitation work. The northern village received a notice of non-compliance from the MDDELCC in February 2016 following an inspection conducted in October 2015 by a representative of the regional branch who observed a few breaches of current rules. The MDDELCC has demanded that the northern village transmit a plan of the corrective measures it has taken or that it will take in order to comply with the law. The members are concerned about the environmental impacts of the barrels containing hazardous materials that have been at the site for several decades. The members asked the executive secretary to conduct research to identify possible sources of funding to permit the northern village to carry out the necessary rehabilitation of the site.

c) Extended producer responsibility pilot projects

The environmental analyst informed the members that the KRG had released in the fall of 2015 a report on the residual materials collected under extended producer responsibility pilot projects in three communities (Kuujjuaraapik, Salluit and Kuujjuaq). She provided a few examples of the quantities and types of materials collected, project logistics, as well as the hazardous materials management support and training delivered to the communities. One member emphasized the outstanding collaboration of the five producer associations which, with the KRG, have decided to implement pilot projects in three other northern villages (Kangirsuk, Kangiqsujaq and Inukjuak) in 2016.

11. Miscellaneous

a) Green Corner Article – *Makivik Magazine*

The members decided that the next article for the Green Corner in *Makivik Magazine* would focus on the KEAC, its mandate and its new website. The purpose is to ensure that the KEAC's priority issues, administrative publications, briefs and position papers are more widely known by the general public.

12. Dates and location of the next meeting

It was decided that the dates and location of the 148th meeting would be set at a later date.



Benjamin Patenaude
Executive Secretary
December 13, 2016