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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

Kuujuuaq, May 26, 2017

Consultation – Consultation Policy
Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs
Office of the Associate Deputy Minister, Forests
5700, 4th Avenue West, A-405
Québec City (Québec)
G1H 6R1

SUBJECT: The MFFP's Draft Consultation Policy for Sustainable Forest Development and Forest Management Orientations

Dear Minister Blanchette,

Pursuant to its mandate in Section 23 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA), the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) includes among its files environmental strategies and regulations applicable to Nunavik which also includes forest management. In fact, paragraph 23.5.34 of the JBNQA states that “the Department of Lands and Forests (now known as the MFFP), shall when preparing a management plan for Crown forests and forestry operations, forward such management plan to the KEAC for its consideration and comments before approving said management plan”.

In 2004 the KEAC submitted a position paper to the Commission d'étude sur la gestion de la forêt publique québécoise (public forests management task force) and in 2011 to the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP, Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks) regarding Québec's consultation on sustainable forest management. The recommendations made in this position paper are still relevant.

It is important to underline the fact that nearly one half of Nunavik's territory lies south of the tree line. Although at present, no active forestry industry exists in Nunavik, the effects of climate change and projected mining infrastructure development has increased the need to protect the region's fragile ecosystem and biodiversity. Nunavik's forests are also important for the subsistence practices of the region's aboriginal inhabitants.

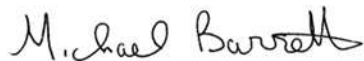
KEAC Secretariat
P.O. Box 930 Kuujuuaq QC J0M 1C0
Tel.: 819-964-2961, ext. 2287
Fax: 819-964-0694
Email: bpatenaude@krq.ca

As in its previous position papers, the KEAC proposes that Nunavik must develop its own regional forest management plan and participate actively in integrated land and natural resource planning. Québec's new Consultation Policy for Sustainable Forest Development and Forest Management places a particular emphasis on consulting with Aboriginal communities. The KEAC recognizes the MFFP's initiative and encourages their continued effort to remain transparent and inclusive when consulting the regions' Cree, Inuit and Naskapi inhabitants on issues related to forest management. Furthermore, the KEAC understands the policy does not act as a substitute for the JBNQA and that they, as well as other regional entities, continue to be consulted in accordance with their respective mandates and expertise.

Nunavik has a variety of fragile ecosystems with certain sectors possessing remarkable timber stands. In other words, timber stands are essential to maintaining biodiversity and should be protected and managed in a sustainable way in partnership with the region's Aboriginal peoples.

To conclude, the KEAC as set forth in its mandate, will continue to be active in matters relating to forestry management and development in Nunavik. Furthermore we expect to be kept informed as to future policies and consultations relative to file.

Respectfully yours,



Michael Barrett
Chairperson, KEAC

cc.

Jennifer Munick, President, Kativik Regional Government