

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The 157th meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 9 a.m. on September 18, 2018, at the interpretation centre for Parc national Kuururjuaq in Kangiqsualujjuaq. The chairperson opened the meeting and invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. Modifications were made and the 157th 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 153rd, 155th and 156th meetings**
- 3. Administration**
 - a) Budget
 - b) Secretariat and human resources management
 - c) KEAC priorities
 - d) Annual report, 2017–2018
 - e) Website
 - f) Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach – Update following the 156th meeting
- 4. Update from the subcommittee on social impacts**
- 5. Environmental assessment in Nunavik**
 - a) Indigenous Advisory Committee – CEAA
 - b) Public consultation on the creation of monitoring committees – MERN
- 6. Federal and provincial environmental protection legislation**
 - a) Regulations under the *Environment Quality Act*
 - b) Regulation concerning compensation for the destruction of wetlands and bodies of water
 - c) *Fisheries Act*
- 7. Mining activities**
 - a) Aboriginal community consultation policy – MERN
 - b) Nunavik Abandoned Mineral Exploration Sites Rehabilitation Project
 - c) Asbestos Hill mine site, update
- 8. Residual materials management**
 - a) Funding announcement – Québec government
 - b) Nunavik Residual Materials Management working group
 - c) Aluminium can collection and recycling
 - d) Extended producer responsibility
 - e) Federal funding for residual materials management in Nunavik
 - f) First Nations of Québec Waste Management Symposium
 - g) Mid-Canada line radar sites
 - h) Plan Nord
 - i) Workshop on the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan
- 9. Public land use plans – MERN**
- 10. Québec Water Strategy 2018–2030**

11. Policy for Québec National Parks – MFFP

12. Miscellaneous

- a) Green Corner Article, *Makivik Magazine*
- b) Letter to Indigenous affairs ministers
- c) Request to meet with federal and provincial administrators
- d) 17th North American Caribou Workshop
- e) Kangiqsualujjuaq community tour

13. Dates and locations of the next meetings

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 153rd, 155th and 156th meetings

The members reviewed feedback on the minutes of the 153rd and 155th meetings. Both were adopted following modifications. An update was given on the revision of the minutes of the 156th meeting.

3. Administration

a) Budget

The members were informed that the request for an increase to the KEAC's operating budget had been approved and funds were received on August 8. To ensure that subsequent operating budgets remain equal to the amount received this year and to resolve the recurrent administrative delays experienced receiving annual funding, it was decided that the federal and provincial administrators should be contacted to enquire about the possibility of updating the funding agreement signed in 2005 between the KEAC and the provincial administrator.

The expense report for the period May to July 2018 was also presented.

b) Secretariat and human resources management

The members resumed discussion concerning the hiring of an archivist to organize KEAC files and documents, and structure archiving. It was decided that a representative of Université Laval should be contacted to enquire about its graduate placement services for this purpose.

The members also continued their discussion concerning a full-time environmental analyst position at the KEAC. It was decided the administrative subcommittee would examine the issue and propose options to meet the different needs expressed by the members.

c) KEAC priorities

The members reviewed a table presenting the status of KEAC files since the last meeting. It was decided that the table should be updated on a monthly basis in order to enable closer tracking of file developments.

d) Annual report, 2017–2018

The final draft of the 2017–2018 KEAC annual report was presented and adopted by the members following modifications.

e) Website

The members were informed that the changes proposed at the last meeting have been made to the KEAC website.

f) Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach – Update following the 156th meeting

On July 25, the KEAC contacted the provincial administrator of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA) about its letter dated March 26, 2018, concerning the application for judicial review and declaratory judgement filed by the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach since no response had been received. The KEAC received a simple acknowledgement of receipt on August 23.

4. Update from the subcommittee on social impacts

The work plan for the research project on the assessment of social impacts under the environmental assessment procedures applicable in Nunavik was presented to the members by the subcommittee. Once the members' feedback on the plan has been received by the subcommittee, a conference call will be organized to discuss next steps. Furthermore, to ensure the project can be implemented properly, the KEAC intends to contact the different development project assessment and review boards in order to obtain access to project proponent documents and other documentation prepared for the analysis of projects.

5. Environmental assessment in Nunavik

a) Indigenous Advisory Committee – CEAA

The new Indigenous Advisory Committee set up by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) was described to the members and they were updated on the member nomination process. It was decided that this matter would be brought to the attention of the Makivik Corporation and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

b) Public consultation on the creation of monitoring committees – MERN

On June 29, the KEAC transmitted feedback on the guide prepared by the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (energy and natural resources, MERN) concerning the creation of development project monitoring committees. In their correspondence, the members recognized in particular that the practices set out in the guide are complementary to the provisions of the JBNQA. However, they questioned certain approaches and definitions contained in the guide and raised concerns regarding how social impacts are addressed.

6. Federal and provincial environmental protection legislation

a) Regulations under the *Environment Quality Act*

The members were informed that the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (sustainable development, environment and the fight against climate change, MDDELCC) had postponed indefinitely its review of most of the draft regulations stemming from the adoption of the act to amend the *Environment Quality Act*. In this context, a presentation by the MDDELCC on the draft regulations, as discussed at previous meetings, will not be possible. It was also noted that a draft regulation concerning strategic environmental assessment may be introduced shortly and it may be possible for the KEAC to obtain a presentation from the MDDELCC.

b) Regulation concerning compensation for the destruction of wetlands and bodies of water

On August 22, the KEAC sent a letter to Jean-Pierre Laniel of the MDDELCC to express its concerns following his presentation on the regulation concerning compensation for the destruction of wetlands and bodies of water. A response from Mr. Laniel was received on September 11 in which he recognized KEAC concerns about the inapplicability of the regulation in Nunavik and explained that, although the regulation was conceived especially to respond to issues in urban areas of southern Québec, the principle of “no net loss” applies throughout the province. The MDDELCC has suggested it might be possible to develop another regulation for northern regions and involve the KEAC in consultations at the appropriate time. It was decided that the KEAC would monitor this file.

c) *Fisheries Act*

The members discussed the revision currently being conducted on the *Fisheries Act*. It was decided that, as the revision is still in its initial phase, the KEAC would monitor this file.

7. Mining activities

a) Aboriginal community consultation policy – MERN

On September 11, the KEAC contacted François Dupuis, director of the Indigenous Affairs Branch of the MERN, to follow up on its letters dated February 8 and April 4 concerning the Aboriginal community consultation policies specifically for the mining sector as well as for the MERN. A response was received from Mr. Dupuis on September 12 in which he expressed his apologies for the delay and assured the KEAC that the MERN would transmit a response shortly.

b) Nunavik Abandoned Mineral Exploration Sites Rehabilitation Project

A summary of the current status of the Nunavik abandoned mineral exploration sites rehabilitation project was presented. It was decided that MERN and MDDELCC representatives would be contacted to request a presentation on how the two government departments monitor current mineral exploration camps. Furthermore, during a field trip organized on September 20, the members visited a few abandoned mineral exploration sites near Kangiqsualujuaq and were made aware of the quantity and diversity of waste and hazardous material that had been illegally abandoned.

c) Asbestos Hill mine site, update

The members were informed that the timeline for the preparation of the MERN action plan for the restoration of former asbestos mines in Québec is being re-evaluated. It was decided that MDDELCC and MERN representatives would be contacted to request a presentation at a future KEAC meeting on the efforts needed to identify the parties responsible for the restoration and monitoring of the Asbestos Hill mine site and, in this manner, improve understanding of the respective responsibilities of the two government departments in relation to the monitoring of mining activities.

8. Residual materials management

a) Funding announcement – Québec government

The members were informed that the Québec government recently announced it had allocated funding for residual materials management initiatives in northern regions.

b) Nunavik Residual Materials Management working group

The members were informed that the Nunavik residual materials management working group has scheduled its next meeting for October 24 and that one of the items to be addressed is the adoption of the group's mandate. It was decided that a proposed mandate and a list of issues would be developed and submitted to the working group in order to help move work forward.

c) Aluminium can collection and recycling

The members were informed that RECYC-QUÉBEC has not received a response to its letter dated November 3, 2017, addressed to the Northwest Company concerning its obligation to receive used aluminium cans at its stores and refund deposits paid by customers, and encouraging the Northwest Company to comply with the applicable provincial legislation. It was decided that the KEAC would conduct the necessary follow-up to have the company change its practices.

d) Extended producer responsibility

On September 5, the KEAC sent a letter to Nicolas Girard, director general of the Fonds d'action québécois pour le développement durable (FACDD), regarding amendments to be made to the *Regulation respecting the Recovery and Reclamation of Products by Enterprises* and their implementation in Nunavik. The Québec government has allocated funds to the FACDD to implement a program aimed at increasing the number of refrigerators and freezers that can be recycled properly, including the safe removal and processing of halocarbons contained in cooling circuits. In its letter, the KEAC pointed out to Mr. Girard that all types of household appliances are widely used in Nunavik. However, as there are no treatment facilities in the region and the protocols contained in the Regulation could be useful in Nunavik, dialogue should be established with the KRG.

A response from Mr. Girard received on September 7 explained that, although the Regulation has still not been adopted, he supports the idea that it should be applicable in Nunavik. He acknowledged and accepted the KEAC proposal to discuss the matter with the KRG.

e) Federal funding for residual materials management in Nunavik

The members were informed that the KEAC should receive shortly a response to its letter dated February 23, 2018, concerning the exclusion of Québec Inuit from federal environmental programs for Indigenous communities and organizations.

f) First Nations of Québec Waste Management Symposium

The members were informed that the First Nations of Québec Waste Management Symposium is scheduled to be held on October 29, 30 and 31 in St. Eustache, Québec. It was decided that the environmental analyst would attend the symposium and present a summary at the next meeting.

g) Mid-Canada line radar sites

The members were informed that the MDDELCC should soon receive the results of the 2018 characterization study of the Mid-Canada line radar sites and that the MDDELCC intends to schedule a meeting with concerned parties to discuss the future direction of the proposed clean-up project.

h) Plan Nord

On September 10, a representative of the Société du Plan Nord (SPN) was contacted to enquire about possible KEAC participation on the SPN's waste-to-energy program working group and to plan a discussion on this matter at a future meeting. The representative confirmed he would attend a future KEAC meeting and explained that the SPN is currently developing a pre-feasibility study for its greenhouse project in Kuujuaq and that a presentation would soon be delivered to community residents.

i) Workshop on the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan

The environmental analyst presented a summary of the workshop on the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan which was held on July 4 and 5 in Montreal. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together Aboriginal organizations and federal government representatives to discuss the results of the action plan and share feedback on how the action plan could be improved. As the only Nunavik representative in attendance, the environmental analyst expressed KEAC concerns regarding federal contaminated sites in the Northern Village of Kuujuaq, on Akpatok Island and at Killiniq.

9. Public land use plans – MERN

The members were informed that the MERN had recently launched public consultations on an updated version of the general document on public land use plans developed pursuant to the *Act respecting the Lands in the Domaine of the State*. The purpose of the updated document is to promote transparency and the participation of the general public and Aboriginal communities, and to improve consistency in land use planning throughout the province. The members also discussed that there is no public land use plan for Nunavik. It was decided that a letter would be sent to the MERN concerning this matter and to provide KEAC feedback on the document submitted for public consultation.

10. Québec Water Strategy 2018–2030

The environmental analyst presented a summary of the *Québec Water Strategy 2018–2030* released by the MDDELCC. The Strategy in particular provides for the creation of a Québec water committee. The members noted that the MDDELCC recognizes the contributions of the KRG and the KEAC to water management in Nunavik. It was decided that the KEAC would monitor this file.

11. Policy for Québec National Parks – MFFP

On August 17, the KEAC received a letter from Isabelle Tessier, director of the national parks branch of the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (forests, wildlife and parks, MFFP) in response to its letter dated May 28, 2018, concerning the *Policy for Québec National Parks*. Ms. Tessier explained that the policy remains general for the moment as concrete actions have yet to be defined. The MFFP will continue to seek the participation of Aboriginal organizations. It was decided that the KEAC would monitor this file.

12. Miscellaneous

a) Green Corner Article, *Makivik Magazine*

The members were updated on the publication of upcoming issues of *Makivik Magazine*. It was decided that the next article for the Green Corner would address the issue biomedical waste treatment.

b) Letter to Indigenous affairs ministers

On August 24, the KEAC sent a letter to the federal and provincial ministers responsible for Indigenous affairs to voice KEAC concerns regarding the recurrent problem it has experienced of not being directly invited by different government departments to participate in consultation processes organized by government bodies on policies, legislation and regulations within its mandate.

c) Request to meet with federal and provincial administrators

On July 27, a letter was sent to the federal and provincial administrators of the JBNQA to request meetings. It was decided that a list of matters to be discussed with the administrators should be prepared for these meetings. Since no responses had been received from the administrators, follow-up will be conducted.

d) 17th North American Caribou Workshop

The members were informed that the 17th North American Caribou Workshop is scheduled to be held from October 29 to November 1 in Ottawa. It was decided that the executive secretary would attend the workshop and present a summary at the next meeting.

e) Kangiqsualujjuaq community tour

On September 19, the members met with Charlie Munick, director of Parc national Kuururjuaq, and visited park facilities. They were also given a guided tour of the community of Kangiqsualujjuaq.

13. Dates and locations of the next meetings

It was decided that the 158th meeting of the KEAC would be held on December 5 and 6 in Quebec City. The dates and location of the 159th meeting will be confirmed at a later time.



Benjamin Patenaude
Executive Secretary
March 15, 2019