



ᑲᑎᑏᑦ ᑕᑎᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ ᑕᑎᑎᑦᑎᑦ
Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF THE 161ST MEETING OF THE KEAC (ADOPTED)

DATES: September 24 and 25, 2019

LOCATION: Northern Village of Kuujjuaraapik – municipal office / Co-op Hotel

PRESENT:

Appointed by the Kativik Regional Government (KRG)

Michael Barrett, Chairperson
Mary Pilurtoot

Appointed by the Government of Canada

Alexandre-Guy Côté
Megan Williams
-Vacant-

Appointed by the Government of Québec

Sylvie Létourneau (by conference call on September 24 and 25)
Julie Samson
Paule Halley

Executive Secretary

Benjamin Patenaude

Environmental Analyst

Nancy Dea

Policy Analyst

Annie Lamalice

ABSENT:

Laina Grey, Vice-Chairperson, Member appointed by the KRG

GUESTS:

Frédéric Brassard, Indigenous Affairs Advisor, Hydro-Québec
Sarah Gordon-Berthe, Nunavik Liaison Officer, Hydro-Québec
Vincent Desormeaux, Energy Transition and Indigenous Affairs Advisor, Hydro-Québec
Stephen Haayen, Fish Habitat Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Beverly Foster, Indigenous Relations and Partnership Manager, Canadian Coast Guard
Nathalie Girard, Senior Program Officer, Canadian Coast Guard

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The 161st meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 9 a.m. on September 24, 2019, at the office of the Northern Village of Kuujjuaraapik. The chairperson opened the meeting and invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. Modifications were made and the 161st 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 159th and 160th meetings

3. Administration

- a) Budget
- b) Secretariat
- c) KEAC priorities
- d) Annual report, 2018–2019
- e) KEAC archives
- f) Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach – Update
- g) Website
- h) Meeting with the JBNQA administrators
- i) Five-year action plan, 2020–2025

4. Environmental assessment in Nunavik

- a) Federal *Impact Assessment Act*
- b) Federal Indigenous Capacity Support Program
- c) Social impacts
- d) Environmental and social impact assessment guide

5. Environmental protection legislation for Nunavik

- a) Modernization of the Québec environmental authorization regime

6. Mining activities

- a) Asbestos Hill mine site
- b) Bill to amend the *Mining Act*

7. Residual and hazardous materials management

- a) Aluminium beverage can collection and recycling
- b) Federal environmental funding programs
- c) First Nations of Québec and Labrador Waste Management Symposium

8. Climate change

- a) Draft guide for project proponents on climate change and environmental authorization
- b) Consultations concerning the 2020–2030 plan on electrification and climate change

9. Miscellaneous

- a) Green Corner article – *Taqralik*
- b) Draft policy on wildlife sanctuaries – MFFP
- c) New Arctic Regions Initiative – Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard
- d) Presentation on renewable energy initiatives for Northern Québec – Hydro-Québec

10. Dates and location of the next meeting

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 159th and 160th meetings

The minutes of the 159th meeting were adopted following modifications. The adoption of the minutes of the 160th meeting was postponed to a later date.

3. Administration

a) Budget

The members were informed that the operating budget for the 2019–2020 fiscal year was received on August 26, 2019. The expense report for the period from June to August 2019 was also reviewed.

b) Secretariat

The members continued discussion regarding KEAC employee evaluations.

c) KEAC priorities

The members reviewed a table showing the status of KEAC files since the last meeting.

d) Annual report, 2018–2019

The final version of the 2018–2019 KEAC annual report and the distribution list were presented and adopted following modifications.

e) KEAC archives

The members discussed the work and costs involved to have a specialized firm create a records and archiving management system. It was agreed that digital archiving of the files located at the office of the KEAC secretariat in Kuujjuaq represents a first step in this process.

Action item:

- Examine the contents of the KEAC files and explore options for streamlining online access.

f) Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach – Update

On September 11, 2019, letters were sent to the federal and provincial administrators of Section 23 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA) to follow up on the status of the application for judicial review and declaratory judgement submitted by the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach.

g) Website

The members were informed of recent measures taken to improve the security of the KEAC website.

Action item:

- Obtain statistics regarding visitor traffic on the website and present at the next KEAC meeting.

h) Meeting with the JBNQA administrators

On September 9, 2019, invitation letters were sent to the federal and provincial administrators of Section 23 of the JBNQA to request their attendance at the next KEAC meeting. The members discussed the agenda for the upcoming meeting.

Action item:

- Finalize the list of items to be discussed with the administrators and send it before the next meeting.

i) Five-year action plan, 2020–2025

The members reviewed the most recent version of the 2020–2025 action plan.

Action item:

- Integrate the members' feedback and present the final version at the next KEAC meeting.

4. Environmental assessment in Nunavik

a) Federal *Impact Assessment Act*

The policy analyst presented a summary of the new federal *Impact Assessment Act*.

Action item:

- Request a presentation on the new Act.

b) Federal Indigenous Capacity Support Program

The members reviewed a KEAC funding application to be submitted to the Indigenous Capacity Support Program of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. The Program is intended to assist Indigenous organizations to participate in the new assessment and authorization system under the *Impact Assessment Act*. For the purpose of the application process, a resolution was unanimously adopted by the KEAC members.

c) Social impacts

The subcommittee responsible for the social impacts study provided an update to the members.

Action item:

- Reserve funding to continue the study.

d) Environmental and social impact assessment guide

The members were informed that the revised version of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Guide is now available on the KEAC website.

Action item:

- At the next KEAC meeting, review the contents of the Guide in light of the new *Impact Assessment Act*.

5. Environmental protection legislation for Nunavik

a) Modernization of the Québec environmental authorization regime

The members were informed that the next and last meeting of the co-creation table for the north will be held on September 27, 2019, in Québec City.

Action item:

- The subcommittee members will attend the co-creation table meeting and present a summary at the next KEAC meeting.

6. Mining activities

a) Asbestos Hill mine site

The members were informed that on June 25, 2019, representatives of the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (energy and natural resources, MERN) and Glencore conducted a preliminary inspection of the Asbestos Hill mine site. The MERN has recently hired a consultant to prepare a baseline study and initial characterization of the site. Once the study is complete, the Québec government will be able to identify necessary actions at the site.

b) Bill to amend the *Mining Act*

On September 19, 2019, the KEAC received an invitation from the MERN to participate in a pre-consultation process on the MERN's proposed amendments to the *Mining Act*. The amendments include the creation of an assessment and authorization procedure for mineral exploration projects, changes to sections pertaining to environmental monitoring committees for mining projects, and the protection of Aboriginal areas of interest. The members were also informed that the Québec Mines et Énergie conference will be held from November 18 to 21, 2019, in Québec City.

Action items:

- The KEAC will participate in the pre-consultation process and a letter containing the members' feedback will be sent.
- The policy analyst will attend the Québec Mines et Énergie conference and present a summary at the next KEAC meeting.

7. Residual and hazardous materials management

a) Aluminium beverage can collection and recycling

The members were informed that representatives of the KRG, the Northwest Company and RECYC-QUÉBEC held a meeting to discuss strategies that would permit the Northwest Company to accept aluminum beverage cans and refund the deposit at its stores in Nunavik. Due to current provincial regulations, the Northwest Company requires support and an accommodation from RECYC-QUÉBEC. The members were also informed that Xerox recently changed its policies and will no longer assume the cost for shipping and recycling ink and toner cartridges from remote areas due to increased shipping costs.

Action items:

- A letter will be sent to RECYC-QUÉBEC to request that it assist the Northwest Company to comply with provincial regulations respecting the deposit refund for aluminum beverage cans.
- Identify alternative options for the shipping of used ink and toner cartridges and present them at the next KEAC meeting.

b) Federal environmental funding programs

The members discussed the possibility of referring the ongoing problem of exclusion of Nunavik Inuit communities from federal environmental funding programs to the Deputy Ministers' Oversight Committee at Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. The members were given an update on the renewal of the federal action plan concerning the rehabilitation of contaminated sites in northern regions.

Action items:

- Contact the Makivik Corporation to obtain additional information on its meeting with the Deputy Ministers' Oversight Committee and on how the KEAC can refer the exclusion problem faced by Nunavik Inuit communities to the Committee.
- Invite representatives of the federal Northern Contaminated Sites Program to the next meeting.
- Draw up a list of current contaminated sites in Nunavik.

c) First Nations of Québec and Labrador Waste Management Symposium

The members were informed that the third First Nations of Québec and Labrador Waste Management Symposium is scheduled to be held on October 23 and 24, 2019, in Pikogan, Québec.

Action item:

- The environmental analyst will attend the symposium and present a summary at the next KEAC meeting.

8. Climate change

a) Draft guide for project proponents on climate change and environmental authorization

On August 8, 2019, the KEAC sent its feedback on the draft guide for project proponents on climate change and environmental authorization prepared by the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (environment and the fight against climate change, MELCC). To date, no response has been received.

b) Consultations concerning the 2020–2030 plan on electrification and climate change

As discussed at the last meeting, an MELCC representative was contacted on July 31, 2019, regarding the KEAC's intention to participate in consultations proposed for Nunavik concerning the Québec government's 2020–2030 plan on electrification and climate change. The members were informed that the MELCC will participate as an observer in the event being organized by the Makivik Corporation and the KRG on November 19–21, 2019, in Kuujuaq.

Action item:

- The executive secretary will attend the consultations and present a summary at the next KEAC meeting.

9. Miscellaneous

a) Green Corner article – *Taqralik*

Action item:

- The next article for the Green Corner in the 121st edition of *Taqralik* (formerly *Makivik Magazine*) will address the issue of domestic energy efficiency and conservation.

b) Draft policy on wildlife sanctuaries – MFFP

On August 1, 2019, the KEAC was invited by the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (forests, wildlife and parks, MFFP) to participate in a consultation on the draft Québec policy on wildlife sanctuaries. As there are no wildlife sanctuaries in Nunavik, the KEAC contacted the MFFP on August 28, 2019, in order to decline the invitation.

c) New Arctic Regions Initiative – Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard

Steven Haayen, a fish habitat biologist with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), gave a presentation on the new Arctic Regions Initiative. He was accompanied by Beverly Foster, Indigenous Relations and Partnership Manager, and Nathalie Girard, Senior Program Officer, both with the Canadian Coast Guard. Mr. Haayen first provided background information and a description of the purpose of the initiative. He explained that, due to the changing annual sea ice conditions that is a result of climate change, maritime traffic and development in Canada's arctic regions is expected to increase and create a need to balance economic development initiatives and conservation. The DFO has maintained an ongoing collaborative relationship with the Canadian Coast Guard and northern communities, and it is currently preparing an Arctic science strategy. Mr. Haayen provided a summary of the DFO's community engagement strategy and concluded with a description of the future direction of the initiative.

Action item:

- Send KEAC feedback on the initiative following receipt of clarifications on the programs and services currently offered in Nunavik.

d) Presentation on renewable energy initiatives for Northern Québec – Hydro-Québec

Frédéric Brassard, Indigenous Affairs Advisor with Hydro-Québec, gave a presentation on Hydro-Québec's renewable energy initiatives for Northern Québec. He was accompanied by Sarah Gordon-Berthe, Nunavik Liaison Officer, and Vincent Desormeaux, Energy Transition and Indigenous Affairs Advisor, both with Hydro-Québec. Mr. Brassard first provided an overview of Nunavik's off-grid networks and Hydro-Québec's approach to complementing these networks with renewable energy sources. He explained that in order for Hydro-Québec to consider a renewable energy project it must be reliable and supported by the community, and demonstrate a reduction in costs as well as greenhouse gas emissions. Projects must then meet the requirements set out by the Régie de l'énergie du Québec (energy board). The Innalik hydroelectric power project in the community of Inukjuak is a good example. Mr. Brassard concluded by explaining that the current diesel-generated power supply in Nunavik could be supplemented with renewable energy sources without changing distribution grids. However, local power plant infrastructure and storage capacities would have to be adapted.

10. Dates and location of the next meeting

The 162nd meeting will be held on December 10 and 11, 2019, in Gatineau, Québec.



Benjamin Patenaude
Executive Secretary
March 26, 2020