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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik  
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

November 20, 2018

Mario Gosselin  
Associate Deputy Minister for Lands  
Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles  
5700–4<sup>e</sup> Avenue Ouest, E 330  
Quebec City, QC  
G1H 6R1

**SUBJECT: KEAC feedback on public land use planning in Nunavik by the MERN**

Dear Sir:

The Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) was created pursuant to Section 23 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA)* and is governed by the *Environment Quality Act* and the *James Bay and Northern Québec Native Claims Settlement Act*. The KEAC is a consultative body to responsible governments in matters relating to environmental and social protection in Nunavik. It is the preferential and official forum for the Government of Canada, the Gouvernement du Québec, the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) and the northern villages. The KEAC considers the regimes established under the JBNQA in a broad and inclusive manner and, therefore, addresses topics of concern to the residents of Nunavik, including land use planning and occupancy.

The KEAC has reviewed the document entitled *Pour un développement harmonieux et durable du territoire public – L'approche d'affectation du territoire public – Projet* published in June 2018. While the KEAC welcomes the improvements made to the document, involving mainly further references to social acceptability and public consultation, it would like to share some other feedback.

The KEAC understands that the management and sustainable development of public lands is under the jurisdiction of the Québec government and, to this end, the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (energy and natural resources, MERN) uses the tools provided for in the *Act respecting the Lands in the Domain of the State* and public land use plans. Public land use plans define territorial units and identify their purpose taking into account land use, conservation

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and development. The KEAC understands that, for several years, the MERN has been collaborating with the KRG on a public land use plan for Nunavik. The KEAC would therefore like to be informed of the MERN's intentions in this respect, in particular the timetable for the preparation of such a plan.

Following major consultations, the KRG developed in 1998 the *Master Plan for Land Use in the Kativik Region*, which covers the territory north of the 55th parallel outside of municipal boundaries. The Master Plan identifies three main types of land use: subsistence activities (essential and important areas), multiple uses and urban. The KRG will shortly undertake to update the Master Plan in accordance with its powers under the *Act respecting Northern Villages and the Kativik Regional Government* that allow it to regulate trades, businesses and industries of all kinds in the territory. In this context, the KEAC would like to recommend that the MERN continue to consult with the KRG and take into consideration the Master Plan while developing a public land use plan for the Nord-du-Québec region so that it incorporates use of the territory by Inuit and Naskapi for their traditional activities.

Considering the importance of harmonizing cultural, traditional, recreational and industrial activities in the territory, the KEAC recommends that the MERN, with a view to improving transparency, provide regular updates to regional bodies and specifically the KRG, upstream of the development of the public land use plan for Nunavik.

Sincerely,



Alexandre-Guy Côté  
Chairperson

c.c. Jennifer Munick, Chairperson, KRG