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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF THE 168TH MEETING OF THE KEAC (ADOPTED)

DATES: June 16 and 17, 2021

LOCATION: By videoconference

PRESENT:

Appointed by the Kativik Regional Government (KRG)

Michael Barrett, Vice-Chairperson

Tunu Napartuk, Chairperson

-Vacant-

Appointed by the Government of Canada

Alexandre-Guy Côté

Caroline Girard

Appointed by the Government of Québec

Vanessa Chalifour

Paule Halley

André-Anne Gagnon

Executive Secretary

Benjamin Patenaude

Environmental Analyst

Nancy Dea

Policy Analyst

Annie Lamalice

ABSENT:

Melanie Laflèche, Government of Canada appointee

GUESTS:

Gilles Côté, President, Secrétariat international francophone pour l'évaluation environnementale (SIFÉE)

Julie Simone Hébert, Programs and Territorial Relations Department, Société du Plan Nord (SPN)

Patrice Roy, Advisor, Mining Claims Management Service, Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (energy and natural resources, MERN)

Timothy Gull, Senior Advisor, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

OBSERVERS:

Lindsay Richardson, Project Coordinator, Environment and Community Consultation, Atmacinta Inc.

Gordon Dominique, Advisor, Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach

Laurie Beaupré, Environmental Coordinator, Department of Environment, Wildlife and Research, Makivik Corporation

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The 168th meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 9 a.m. on June 16, 2021. The chairperson opened the meeting and invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. Modifications were made and the 168th meeting took place in accordance with the agenda appearing in appendix.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 166th and 167th meetings, and the conference call on April 14, 2021

The members reviewed feedback on the minutes of the 166th meeting and the minutes of the conference call on April 14, 2021. The minutes of the 166th meeting were adopted and the review of the minutes of the conference call on April 14, 2021, was postponed to a later date. The members were updated on the preparation of the minutes of the 167th meeting.

3. Administration

a) Budget

The members were updated on the development of a direct-deposit system for employee payroll. The expense report for March to May 2021 was also discussed.

b) Secretariat

An update was given with regards to the purchase of videoconference software licences for the analysts.

c) Members

The members were informed that Mary Pilurtoot, a KRG appointee, recently resigned from her position on the KEAC. Ms. Pilurtoot's work and contributions to the KEAC were recognized. The members discussed the possibility of having an interpreter present at future meetings in order to facilitate the participation of all appointees in their primary language.

d) Active files since the 167th meeting

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

e) Website

The policy analyst presented an update on the development of content for the new KEAC website and the use of different platforms for sharing KEAC files among the members.

f) Annual report, 2020–2021

The members were informed that the English-French version of the annual report for 2020–2021 is ready to be sent to the Québec National Assembly and that the preparation of the trilingual version is nearly complete. Only the KEAC's audited annual financial statements remain to be received.

g) Five-year action plan, 2020–2025

i. Communication plan

The environmental analyst presented an updated version of the communication plan for 2020–2025 as well as a cost estimate for developing the promotional brochure about the KEAC for meeting guests and targeted audiences in Nunavik.

h) Request from the Makivik Corporation

The members continued their discussion regarding the attendance of observers at the KEAC regular quarterly meetings as well as the nature and frequency of their attendance.

4. Environmental assessment in Nunavik

a) Presentation on the study on the consideration given to social impacts

The policy analyst and Gilles Côté, President of the SIFÉE, gave a presentation on the results of the second phase of the study on the consideration given to social impacts under the environmental assessment procedures applicable in Nunavik. The presentation opened with an overview of the study's first phase and a description of the methodology used for the second phase. Throughout the second phase, special attention has been focused on the cumulative impacts of projects. The presentation concluded with a preliminary overview of the report for the second phase of the study and a timeline for its completion.

5. Federal and provincial environmental protection legislation

a) Federal *Impact Assessment Act*

The policy analyst presented an update on the activities of the working group analyzing the implementation of the *Impact Assessment Act* in Nunavik. The members were informed that the working group recently completed its comparative analysis of the environmental assessment procedures applicable in Nunavik and prepared a list of questions and observations for both the Canadian Impact Assessment Agency (CIAA) and the different review boards.

The working group's next meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2021, and the final report for this exercise should be completed by the end of 2021.

b) *Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework*, CIAA

The policy analyst presented an overview of the CIAA *Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework*. Its purpose is to support consistent application of provisions under the *Impact Assessment Act*, the *Fisheries Act*, the

Canadian Energy Act, and the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* concerning Indigenous traditional knowledge. It was decided to follow up on this matter once the new policy framework is ready for implementation.

6. Presentation on the *Northern Action Plan 2020–2023*, SPN

Julie Simone Hébert of the Programs and Territorial Relations Department at the SPN gave a presentation on the *Northern Action Plan 2020–2023*. The presentation opened with a description of the SPN's mandate, policies associated with the Action Plan, and a list of partners and their role in selecting projects for the region north of the 49th parallel. Ms. Hébert explained that the Action Plan covers several themes, such as energy sector development, local services and social infrastructure, enhanced human resources, promotion of the territory and culture, social responsibility, economic activity sectors, telecommunication improvements, as well as enhanced protection of the environment and biodiversity. These themes are organized under four main categories: optimized access to the region, development of a robust and diversified economic fabric, improved quality of life for the region's residents, and protection of the region's natural environment. Ms. Hébert next explained initiatives intended to promote health, culture, training and education in Nunavik and concluded with a description of regional governance in the context of northern development.

Following the presentation, discussion focused on the list of Nunavik partners, training programs for Nunavimmiut, communications and collaboration strategies with other government programs, residual materials management, development of a circular economy, as well as the impacts of Bill 65 and protection for an additional 30% of the Plan Nord territory. The members emphasized the importance of this file and will continue to monitor developments.

7. Mining activity

a) Asbestos Hill mine site

The environmental analyst presented an update on the current status of the Asbestos Hill mine site. The members were informed that the second phase of characterization work has yet to be carried out.

Action item

- **Invite MERN representatives to present an update at the 169th meeting, along with representatives of the Raglan Mine closure subcommittee.**

b) Presentation on the *Québec Plan for the Development of Critical and Strategic Minerals 2020–2025*

Patrice Roy, Advisor with the Mining Claims Management Service of the MERN, gave a presentation on the *Québec Plan for the Development of Critical and Strategic Minerals 2020-2025*. The presentation opened with a MERN description of strategic minerals, their industrial uses as well as their commercial potential. He explained that Québec is well positioned to be competitive in this market and, at the same time, ensure the sustainable and ethical development of these resources through a green and circular economy. The MERN also intends to work closely with its partners, which includes Indigenous peoples, and to comply with applicable environmental legislation and policies. Mr. Roy next outlined orientations and objectives under the Plan. These include building on the existing knowledge of critical and strategic minerals in the province, establishing partnerships with sectors in the regions that produce critical and strategic minerals, contributing to the introduction of a sustainable economy, and raising awareness concerning the importance of critical

and strategic minerals. Mr. Roy concluded his presentation with an overview of the financial resources allocated by government for the development of critical and strategic minerals.

Following the presentation, discussion focused on fostering a circular economy, the status of abandoned mineral exploration camps in Nunavik and the social impacts of mining projects on the region's communities.

8. Residual and hazardous materials management

a) Modernization of Québec deposit and selective collection systems

The environmental analyst presented a summary of the feedback provided during meetings of the working groups on the modernization of Québec deposit and selective collection systems. The feedback will be submitted to the Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (the environment and the fight against climate change, MELCC).

b) Consultation on the status and management of final waste, BAPE

The executive secretary presented an overview of the latest consultations on final waste management which were held on June 9 and 10, 2021, and co-chaired by the KEAC and the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (environmental public hearings committee, BAPE). The consultations consisted of three sessions to develop a better understanding of final waste issues in Nunavik from the perspective of regional organizations, northern villages and the general public. The members were informed that a meeting between the KEAC and the BAPE commission is scheduled for June 29, 2021.

c) Nunavik Residual Materials Working Group

The environmental analyst presented a summary of the latest meeting of the Nunavik Residual Materials Working Group which was held on June 15, 2021. A document describing the group's mandate, composition and operating methods is under review and will be sent to KEAC members when finalized.

d) Single-use plastic shopping bags

The members were updated on the KRG request to collaborate on the implementation of measure no. 16 under the *Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan*, which concerns a ban on single-use plastic shopping bags in Nunavik. The action will be carried out through a three-step plan: a letter sent by the KRG to the northern villages encouraging them to adopt a bylaw similar to the bylaw in effect in Kuujuaq; a letter sent by the KEAC to retailers in each community encouraging them to introduce alternatives to the use of plastic shopping bags; and an awareness campaign for the general public.

e) Discussion on the Mid-Canada Line radar sites clean-up project with the MELCC

On May 18, 2021, the KEAC contacted Daniel Gendron of the MELCC Regional Analysis and Expertise Branch – Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Nord-du-Québec concerning a possible discussion on the current status of the Mid-Canada Line radar site clean-up project. A response was received on June 11 in which Mr. Gendron explained that the MELCC is organizing a future meeting with the concerned parties and the would be better positioned to discuss the project with the KEAC at its 169th meeting.

Action item

- **Invite Mr. Gendron to the KEAC's 169th meeting.**

f) Québec First Nations Waste Management Committee

The environmental analyst presented a summary of the most recent meeting of the Québec First Nations Waste Management Committee which was held on June 1, 2021. The members were informed that the First Nations Waste Management Initiative has been renewed for seven years with resources for First Nation communities to improve waste management programs and infrastructure. Although Nunavik communities are not eligible for this assistance, the situation has been recognized by Indigenous Services Canada and referred to the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee, on which the Makivik Corporation has a seat.

Action item

- **Follow up with the Makivik Corporation regarding discussion of this topic by the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee.**

g) Spill and contaminated soil management

The members were informed that the MELCC is developing a new action plan for spill and contaminated soil management under the policy for the protection of soil and contaminated-site restoration. The KRG recently prepared a brief for the MELCC on the status of spills and contaminated sites in Nunavik. A discussion also took place on the topic of updating and reprinting the *Spill Response and Contaminated-Site Remediation Guide for Nunavik*, which was produced by the KEAC in 2016.

The members were also informed that the KEAC is continuing to collaborate with the KRG on the development of a guide for the maintenance of heating-oil tanks in Nunavik.

Action item

- **Send a letter to the MELCC in support of the KRG brief.**
- **Update the *Spill Response and Contaminated-Site Remediation Guide for Nunavik*.**

h) Clean-up of mobile outfitting camps in Nunavik

The environmental analyst presented an update on the status of the clean-up of mobile outfitting camps in Nunavik by the Makivik Corporation.

9. Climate change

a) *2030 Plan for a Green Economy*, Québec government

The policy analyst presented a summary of the presentation on the *2030 Plan for a Green Economy* organized by the MELCC for Nunavik regional organizations on May 26, 2021. The Plan establishes the government's main orientations related to electrification and the fight against climate change from 2021 to 2030. The Plan will be revised in five years. Several measures apply directly to Nunavik, such as support for Inuit community leadership for climate adaptation initiatives and renewable energy project planning.

Action item

- **Send a letter to the MELCC underlining the KEAC's interest in this file and to invite a representative to give a presentation at the 170th meeting.**

10. Conservation and biodiversity

- a) MFFP policy on relations with Aboriginal nations and communities

The members provided feedback on a draft letter regarding the policy of the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (forests, wildlife and parks, MFFP) on relations with Aboriginal nations and communities. The policy analyst then presented an overview of the information session on the policy that was held on May 4, 2021.

Action item

- **Send the letter before June 18, 2021.**

11. Water management

- a) Discussion paper on the *Blue Economy Strategy*, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

On June 14, 2021, the KEAC sent a letter to the secretariat for the *Blue Economy Strategy* at Fisheries and Oceans Canada with its feedback on the discussion paper. The letter opens with a description of Nunavik and how the Blue Economy relates to the region's distinct characteristics. It underscores the fragility of arctic ecosystems and how conserving these should be an integral part of development initiatives. The letter next describes the effects of climate change and adaptation initiatives in the region, the combined use of scientific methods and Indigenous traditional knowledge to enhance understanding of marine navigation routes in arctic waters, as well as issues related to maritime security. The letter concludes by stating that the development of marine economic sectors in Nunavik should prioritize conservation objectives, the informal Inuit economy and maritime security.

- b) Drinking water quality in Nunavik

The members were informed that the KRG requires a formal request for information to discuss this matter with the KEAC.

Action item

- **The chairperson will submit a request for information to the KRG and invite representatives to the KEAC's 169th meeting.**

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- c) Wastewater treatment in Nunavik

The members were informed that ECCC is presently developing a regulatory framework for Nunavik regarding wastewater treatment and that the KRG is contributing to this work.

d) Presentation on the Canada Water Agency

Timothy Gull, Senior Advisor at ECCC, gave a presentation on the discussion paper entitled *Toward the Creation of a Canada Water Agency*. The presentation opened with an overview of the status and governance of freshwater resources in Canada. He explained that factors such as climate change, urban expansion and agricultural activities contribute greatly to the deterioration of freshwater bodies. Climate change is contributing to increased flooding and droughts as well as greater water level variation, which generates disaster relief costs for Canadians and their governments as well as threatening food security and water-dependent industries. In northern Canada, climate change is contributing to decreased ice thickness, permafrost thawing and increased evaporation during the summer months. Next, Mr. Gull described the federal government's approach through the creation of the Canada Water Agency and the determination of its scope and mandate. Indigenous stakeholders will play a key role in the Agency's engagement process and will assist in developing policies that suit their needs. The presentation concluded with a description of the federal government's engagement strategy.

12. Miscellaneous

a) Green Corner – *Taqralik*

Potential topics for the next two Green Corner articles in *Taqralik* were presented. The first proposes a reintroduction to the KEAC via its new website. The second would cover the mobile outfitting camp clean-up project in Nunavik being carried out by the Makivik Corporation.

13. Dates and location of the next meeting

It was decided that the 169th meeting will be held on September 29 and 30, 2021, by videoconference.



Benjamin Patenaude
Executive Secretary
September 29, 2021

Agenda of the 168th Meeting

- 1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Adoption of the minutes of the 166th and 167th meetings, and the conference call on April 14, 2021**
- 3. Administration**
 - a) Budget
 - b) Secretariat
 - c) Members
 - d) Active files since the 167th meeting
 - e) Website
 - f) Annual report, 2020–2021
 - g) Five-year action plan, 2020–2025
 - i. Communication plan
 - h) Request from the Makivik Corporation
- 4. Environmental assessment in Nunavik**
 - a) Presentation on the study on the consideration given to social impacts
- 5. Federal and provincial environmental protection legislation**
 - a) *Federal Impact Assessment Act*
 - b) *Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework*, CIAA
- 6. Presentation on the *Northern Action Plan 2020-2023*, SPN**
- 7. Mining activity**
 - a) Asbestos Hill mine site
 - b) Presentation on the *Québec Plan for the Development of Critical and Strategic Minerals 2020–2025*
- 8. Residual and hazardous materials management**
 - a) Modernization of Québec deposit and selective collection systems
 - b) Consultation on the status and management of ultimate waste, BAPE
 - c) Nunavik Residual Materials Working Group
 - d) Single-Use plastic shopping bags
 - e) Discussion on the Mid-Canada Line radar site clean-up project with the MELCC
 - f) Québec First Nations Waste Management Committee
 - g) Spill and contaminated soil management
 - h) Clean-up of mobile outfitting camps in Nunavik
- 9. Climate change**
 - a) *2030 Plan for a Green Economy*, Québec government

10. Conservation and Biodiversity

- a) MFFP policy on relations with Aboriginal nations and communities

11. Water management

- a) Discussion paper on the *Blue Economy Strategy*, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- b) Drinking water quality in Nunavik
- c) Wastewater treatment in Nunavik
- d) Presentation on the Canada Water Agency

12. Miscellaneous

- a) Green Corner – *Taqralik*

13. Dates and location of the next meeting