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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

October 6, 2021

Stéphane Bouchard
Assistant Deputy Minister for Urban and Land Use Planning
Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation
10 Pierre-Olivier-Chauveau St.
Quebec City QC G1R 4J3

SUBJECT: Feedback on preparation of the Québec strategy for urban and land use planning

Dear Sir:

The Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) was created pursuant to Section 23 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement*. It is a consultative body to responsible governments in matters relating to environmental and social protection in Nunavik. As such, 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. When developing and updating laws and regulations applicable north of the 55th parallel, the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation (municipal affairs and housing, MAMH) should therefore include the KEAC in its consultations. This is particularly true regarding preparation of the Québec strategy for urban and land use planning.

While land management and occupation in Nunavik are activities that fall under the KEAC mandate, the KEAC only learned of the MAMH's current consultation process through a third party. The KEAC understands that the purpose of the strategy is to update land use planning practices by integrating the principles of: quality of life, health and equity; resilience and responsible use of resources; protection of the natural environment and cultural heritage; attractiveness, vitality and complementarity, as well as community engagement, expertise and exemplary State leadership. The strategy is also intended to contribute to the amendment of the *Act respecting Land Use Planning and Development*, which does not apply in Nunavik. Instead, in Nunavik it is the *Act respecting Northern Villages and the Kativik Regional Government* which would need to be amended to provide for legislative tools and mechanisms containing principles of sustainable land management in order to contribute to more coherent and sustainable land use planning to protect the natural environment, the northern villages and the Kativik Region.

The *Master Plan for Land Use in the Kativik Region* and the master plans for the 14 northern villages set out permitted land uses throughout the region. They may, for example, limit development in areas prone to landslides, erosion and flooding for reasons of public safety. Development may also be prohibited in areas recognized for their

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historical, cultural, aesthetic or ecological significance. The Regional Master Plan also integrates the recently created parks and protected areas network, as well as changes linked to the Plan Nord.

Land use planning in Nunavik presents many challenges. For this reason, the KEAC encourages the MAMH to incorporate into the strategy mechanisms adapted to Nunavik. The KEAC would also like to express its support for the document transmitted to the MAMH by the KRG on September 21, 2021, containing preliminary observations and feedback on the strategy and describing the realities of Nunavik. Specifically, the KEAC feels that the following points merit serious consideration:

- Ensure that government-funded land use projects integrate climate change into plans and specifications and that they comply with recommendations promoting sustainable development decision-making in northern communities;
- In order to promote collaboration and partnership between the government and local and regional authorities, and given the size of the region, expand the KRG's mandate concerning protection of the environment and cultural heritage;
- Guarantee government support for ecological assessment of the natural environments near municipalities and throughout the region;
- Improve and expand waste management infrastructure to meet the needs of the region's residents and ensure that provincial waste-management funding programs, laws and regulations take into account regional disparities;
- Integrate the objective to safeguard 30% of the Plan Nord territory;
- Take into account the role of subsistence harvesting activities (hunting, fishing and trapping) to meet the food-supply needs of the region's residents and limit the impacts of industrial and tourism activities on subsistence harvesting areas;
- Ensure adequate funding for the KRG, in its capacity as a municipality, so it may enforce compliance with designated land uses.

Even though land use planning is a government responsibility, the KEAC believes that it is important to develop collaborative relationships between local and regional stakeholders, concerned government departments, and the region's residents in order to promote sustainable development of the communities and Nunavik. The KEAC intends to continue monitoring preparation of the strategy and would like to be kept informed of developments and future consultations.

Sincerely,
[signature]

Tunu Napartuk
Chairperson

c.c. Véronique Gilbert, KRG

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