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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF THE 175th MEETING OF THE KEAC (ADOPTED)

DATES: February 20, 21 and 22, 2023

LOCATION: Office of the Pituvik Landholding Corporation, Inukjuak

PRESENT:

Appointed by the Kativik Regional Government (KRG)

Michael Barrett

Appointed by the Government of Canada

Alexandre-Guy Côté, chairperson

Marie-Noëlle Fournier

Appointed by the Government of Québec

Vanessa Chalifour, vice-chairperson

Paule Halley (by videoconference)

André-Anne Gagnon

Executive Secretary

Benjamin Patenaude

Environmental Analyst

Nancy Dea

Environmental Legislation Analyst

Christine Lambert

ABSENT

Tunu Napartuk, KRG appointee

Raymond Mickpegak, KRG appointee

Caroline Girard, Government of Canada appointee

GUESTS:

Sarah-Lisa Kasudluak, President, Pituvik Landholding Corporation

Ricky Moorhouse, Municipal Manager, Northern Village of Inukjuak

Eric Atagotaaluk, Director, Pituvik Sarvaq Power Corporation

Frankie Jean-Gagnon, Wildlife Biologist, Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB)

OBSERVERS:

Billy Shecanapish, Environment Officer, Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach

Lindsay Richardson, Project Coordinator, Atmacinta Inc.

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The 175th meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 3 p.m. on February 20, 2023, at the office of the Pituvik Landholding Corporation in Inukjuak. The chairperson opened the meeting and invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. Modifications were made and the 175th meeting took place in accordance with the agenda appearing in appendix.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 174th meeting

The members reviewed the minutes of the 174th meeting. Adoption of the minutes was postponed to a later date due to the large number of changes to be made to the document. The members discussed certain adjustments to the layout of KEAC meeting minutes and the order of agenda items.

3. Administration

a) Budget

The members were informed that, due to recent changes to online security protocols used by the KEAC's financial institution, access to the KEAC's bank accounts has been impeded. The executive secretary is making every effort to resolve the problem.

b) Secretariat

i. Human resources

The members discussed annual performance assessments for the employees of the KEAC secretariat.

ii. Adoption of the human resources and remuneration management policy

The members discussed the final version of the new human resources and remuneration management policy. The members also met individually with secretariat staff to discuss the results of the position analyses and the new salary scale applicable to their respective duties.

iii. Archives

The environmental legislation analyst provided an update on developments regarding the KEAC file archiving project. A list of documents recommended for destruction by the consultant as well as the processing of KEAC administrative documents was discussed.

c) Members

The members were informed that, on April 1, 2023, Alexandre-Guy Côté will step down from his position as Government of Canada appointee and chairperson of the KEAC. Mr. Côté's contribution to the KEAC since his appointment in 2016 has been invaluable. The members expressed their recognition for his excellent service. As well, the members discussed that the rotating chairperson position would be assumed by the KRG in 2023–2024.

d) Active files since the 174th meeting, correspondence, and housekeeping

The members reviewed the table showing the status of KEAC files since the last meeting and the list of correspondence. The composition of the different KEAC subcommittees was also discussed by the members.

e) Website

The members were informed that the content for the secure portal for members was sent to the developer. The members also agreed to conduct an annual review of the content on the KEAC website.

Action item

- **Review the KEAC website and meet with the communications subcommittee to assess updates and changes.**

f) Meeting with the administrators

The members reviewed the list of items to be discussed with the federal and provincial administrators of Section 23 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA). It was decided that the members and staff would meet to finetune each item in advance of the meeting with the administrators.

g) Annual report, 2022–2023

The members discussed the draft version of the 2022–2023 annual report and requested some changes to formatting.

4. Meeting with representatives of the Northern Village of Inukjuak and the Pituvik Landholding Corporation

The members met with Sarah-Lisa Kasudluak, President of the Pituvik Landholding Corporation. She was accompanied by Ricky Moorhouse, Municipal Manager of the Northern Village of Inukjuak. The meeting opened with a presentation on the mandate, operations, and activities of the KEAC. The presentation was followed by a discussion on the remediation of an abandoned site near the Nastapoka River. Mr. Moorhouse explained that the site had been operated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada as a research station and that it contained stored fuel. Community residents frequently express concern about contamination that could be produced by the stored fuel and the impacts of this contamination on local beluga populations. Discussion then focused on caribou migration routes and concerns about the interaction between caribou and the muskox population introduced in the 1960s. Other topics covered included gradual permafrost melting and effects on community development, expansion of the municipal landfill site, green-energy projects, and the community's hydroelectric project. The meeting concluded with discussion on topics presented at the most recent edition of the Northern Lights Business and Cultural Showcase organized from February 7 to 11, 2023, in Ottawa.

5. Residual and hazardous materials management

a) *Regulation respecting the Development, Implementation and Financial Support of a Deposit-Refund System for Certain Containers*, MELCCFP

The members were informed that the *Regulation respecting the Development, Implementation and Financial Support of a Deposit-Refund System for Certain Containers* will come into force on February 28, 2023. The Regulation, which is under the responsibility of the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (environment, the fight against climate change, wildlife, and parks, MELCCFP) will also be applicable in Nunavik. The KEAC is therefore of the opinion that the Association québécoise de récupération des contenants de boissons (beverage container recovery, AQRCB) should begin talks with the KRG to ensure effective implementation of the Regulation. Following discussion with the KRG, the KEAC felt that it might be able to facilitate initial communications between the two organizations.

Action item

- **Draft a letter to the AQRCB to explain Nunavik realities, to propose strategies for implementing the system in the northern villages, and to promote effective communication with regional organizations.**

b) Follow-up on the report on the status and management of final waste, BAPE

The members discussed a draft letter addressed to the MELCCFP requesting an update from the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (environmental public hearings, BAPE) concerning recommendations presented in the consultation report on the status and management of final waste. As well, it was decided that this matter would be raised during the planned discussion with the provincial administrator of Section 23 of the JBNQA at the 176th meeting.

6. Presentation on and visit to the Innavik hydroelectric facility

Eric Atagotaaluk, Director of the Pituvik Sarvaq Power Corporation, delivered a presentation on the Innavik hydroelectric project. The presentation opened with an overview of Inukjuak's electricity generation requirements and the community's decision to develop alternatives to the current diesel-based system. He explained that the community is well situated for the development of a run-of-the-river hydroelectric system to replace the current diesel-powered electricity generation system operated by Hydro-Québec. He added however that, even once the hydroelectric facility is operational, the diesel-powered system would be retained as a back-up. Mr. Atagotaaluk then described the project partnerships, the characteristics, and locations of the project infrastructure, as well as the environmental considerations and community concerns raised during public consultations on the project. Mr. Atagotaaluk explained that the Innavik project received environmental authorization in 2019 and that construction is still underway. The presentation concluded with a description of the economic and social spinoffs of the project.

Following the presentation, the members were given a tour of the hydroelectric generating station and support infrastructure.

7. Environmental assessment in Nunavik

a) Update on the report concerning the study on the consideration given to social impacts

The environmental legislation analyst provided an update on the publication of the report concerning the study on the consideration given to social impacts under the impact assessment procedures applicable in Nunavik, on the presentation outlining the research project and its results, on the feedback received from KEAC members, and on the future direction of the project. The possibility of organizing a regional workshop, with participants to be identified by the KEAC, in parallel with posting of the report on the KEAC website was also discussed by the members.

8. Mining activity

a) Asbestos Hill mine site

The members were informed that a meeting with representatives of the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (natural resources and wildlife) is scheduled for March 13, 2023, to discuss the most recent characterization work undertaken at the Asbestos Hill mine site as well as implementation of the MELCCFP 2022–2025 action plan on the management of asbestos mine and tailing sites in Nunavik.

b) Phase 2 of the Nunavik Nickel mine project, Canadian Royalties Inc.

The members continued discussion on Phase 2 of the Nunavik Nickel mine project of Canadian Royalties Inc. and the application to modify the certificate of authorization issued in 2008 for the mine's initial development. It was noted that the project has undergone a significant number of changes since initial authorization and that, pursuant to paragraph 23.3.12 of the JBNQA, all developments listed in Schedule I are automatically subject to the assessment and review procedures provided under Section 23. The first item of Schedule I stipulates that "[a]ny significant additions, alterations or modifications to existing mining operations" must be subject to environmental impact

assessment. The members agreed that this matter should be raised with the provincial administrator of Section 23 of the JBNQA and that the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC) should be informed.

Action item

- **Send a letter to the provincial administrator regarding these KEAC concerns and copy the KEQC.**

9. Presentation by the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

Frankie Jean-Gagnon, a wildlife biologist with the NMRWB, delivered a presentation on her organization and its activities. The presentation opened with a brief description of the NMRWB and its creation under the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* (NILCA). She explained that the NMRWB was created to promote Inuit approaches to wildlife management and integrate them with conventional scientific knowledge. The presentation next described the composition of the NMRWB and its mandate. Under Article 5.2.3 of the NILCA, the NMRWB has the mandate to act as the main instrument for access to wildlife and related regulations in the Nunavik Marine Region. It also advises governments, the Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board and other bodies regarding mitigation measures and compensation to be required from commercial and industrial developers for damage caused to wildlife habitats in the territory covered by the NILCA. Ms. Jean-Gagnon also described the Research Trust Fund, the Community Research Fund and the NMRWB's responsibility for promoting and encouraging training for Nunavik Inuit in the fields of wildlife research and management. The presentation concluded with a description of the review process for projects in the Nunavik Marine Region.

Following the presentation, the members discussed border issues and jurisdiction along the Nunavik coast.

10. Federal and provincial environmental protection legislation

a) Federal *Impact Assessment Act*

The environmental analyst presented an update on the most recent series of meetings of the working group on the implementation of the *Impact Assessment Act* in Nunavik. The goal of the meetings has been to inform the different regional review bodies of recent discussions with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and the recommendations contained in the working group's 2022 report, as well as to present a strategy for implementing the recommendations. The members were informed that the working group will continue its work in the coming months to finalize its action plan in collaboration with regional stakeholders.

b) Provincial Environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure

The environmental legislation analyst provided an overview of recent exchanges with the MELCCFP concerning the draft omnibus regulation and the Environmental Assessment Registry under the *Environment Quality Act*. The members were informed that the MELCCFP intends to consult the KEAC on the *Regulation respecting the Environmental Impact Assessment and Review of Certain Projects*. The members expressed concern regarding the transparency of the procedure due to obstacles accessing information produced under the provincial procedure in Nunavik compared with access to information for projects carried out in the south.

11. Climate change

The analysts provided an overview of different government initiatives relating to climate change adaptation. The first presentation covered the Québec-government *Mobilization Strategy on Climate Change* and the measures implemented since the consultation held in August 2022. Although the Mobilization Strategy was officially launched on December 5, 2022, how it will be applied in Nunavik is still unclear and the current communication plan does not adequately reflect the region's distinct characteristics. This next presentation summarized the federal-government report *Canada in a Changing Climate: Regional Outlook Report*, specifically the section on Québec and the current

state of knowledge on the impacts of climate change. It was noted that this section sets out certain regional characteristics with regards to the effects of climate change and adaptive approaches. The final document presented was the draft *Nunavik Strategy Climate Change Adaptation Strategy* produced by the Makivvik Corporation. Developed in collaboration with local and regional stakeholders at a workshop in November 2019, the Strategy proposes four main objectives: advancing self-determination and equity for Nunavik Inuit; Inuit health and cultural preservation; community infrastructure protection and maintenance; as well as essential service delivery. It was mentioned that certain conclusions in the Strategy touch on sectors of KEAC activity and collaboration with the Makivvik Corporation was discussed.

Action item

- **Send a letter to the Makivvik Corporation to explore potential collaborative actions regarding climate change adaptation**

12. Water management

The environmental legislation analyst provided an overview of recent activities of the Nunavik Drinking Water Research Committee. The overview was followed by a discussion among the members regarding matters related to water governance and management in Nunavik.

13. Miscellaneous

a) Green Corner article – *Taqralik*

It was decided by the members that the next article for the Green Corner column in *Taqralik* would cover the KEAC study on the consideration given to social impacts in the impact assessment and authorization processes applicable in Nunavik.

b) Blue Economy regulatory review, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

The environmental legislation analyst presented highlights of the Blue Economy regulatory review by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

c) Federal government interministerial roundtable on Indigenous issues in Québec

The members were informed that the federal government intends to organize a series of roundtable meetings with different Indigenous organizations in the coming months. The purpose of the meetings will be to provide federal employees in Québec with a more complete understanding of Indigenous realities and best practices for consultations with Indigenous groups in Québec. It was proposed that one of these meetings should focus on organizations created under the JBNQA and the *Northeastern Québec Agreement*, including the KEAC.

d) Federal government working group evaluating northern and Arctic environmental sustainability

The environmental analyst presented a summary of a meeting organized on February 22, 2023, by the federal government working group evaluating northern and Arctic environmental sustainability. The working group is aiming to consolidate different federal-government environmental programs, including the Northern Contaminants Program, with a view to ensuring the monitoring, assessment and sustainable management of land and resources in the north. The working group, with representatives from different northern regions, will provide feedback to ensure the effectiveness of northern and arctic environmental sustainability. The members agreed that the KEAC should continue to participate at working group meetings to ensure that the Nunavik context is taken into account.

14. Dates and locations of meetings in 2023–2024

It was decided that the 177th and 178th meetings will be held on September 19, 20 and 21, 2023, in Tasiujaq and on December 12 and 13, 2023, in Montreal, respectively. The 179th meeting will be held during the week of February 26, 2024, while the location remains to be determined at a later date.



Benjamin Patenaude
Executive Secretary
May 30, 2023

Appendix - Agenda of the 175th meeting

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 174th meeting

3. Administration

- a) Budget
- b) Secretariat
 - i. Human resources
 - ii. Adoption of the human resources and remuneration management policy
 - iii. Archives
- c) Members
- d) Active files since the 174th meeting, correspondence, and housekeeping
- e) Website
- f) Meeting with the administrators
- g) Annual report, 2022–2023

4. Meeting with representatives of the Northern Village of Inukjuak and the Pituvik Landholding Corporation

5. Residual and hazardous materials management

- a) Regulation respecting the Development, Implementation and Financial Support of a Deposit-Refund System for Certain Containers, MELCCFP
- b) Follow-up on the report on the status and management of final waste, BAPE

6. Presentation on and visit to the Innavik hydroelectric facility

7. Environmental assessment in Nunavik

- a) Update on the report concerning the study on the consideration given to social impacts

8. Mining activity

- a) Asbestos Hill mine site
- b) Phase 2 of the Nunavik Nickel mine project, Canadian Royalties Inc.

9. Presentation by the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board

10. Federal and provincial environmental protection legislation

- a) Federal Impact Assessment Act
- b) Provincial environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure

11. Climate change

12. Water management

13. Miscellaneous

- a) Green Corner article – *Taqralik*
- b) Blue Economy regulatory review, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- c) Federal government interministerial roundtable on Indigenous issues in Québec
- d) Federal government working group evaluating the northern and Arctic environmental sustainability program

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