

The Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach is located below the 55th parallel, near Schefferville. However, their ancestral territory, extends north, into Nunavik and as such the Northeastern Quebec Agreement recognizes several rights in this territory, including land management and hunting, fishing, and trapping rights.

It is imperative that any initiative to discuss protected areas in Nunavik, including IIPAs, and to ensure the participation of the Inuit and Naskapi nations, include these organizations from the very beginning. The KEAC recommends that you promptly contact representatives of the KRG, Makivvik and the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach to discuss your intentions regarding IIPAs.

Confusion in the protected areas processes

Recently, the KEAC has observed a multiplication of approaches to protected areas in Nunavik, which could lead to confusion for the population and stakeholders concerned.

The Quebec government newly launched a series of consultations concerning the Nature Plan 2030, many of whose targets directly or indirectly concern protected areas. In addition, local consultations led by the KRG, aimed at finalizing several protected area projects in Nunavik, are underway. Discussions have also been held on potential marine protected areas. While government stakeholders see these as distinct processes, this discrepancy is not necessarily clear to the local population and stakeholders. The KEAC recommends that, wherever possible, protected area initiatives be coordinated to limit confusion. When this is not possible, communications should clearly identify the specific objectives of the project, and its relationship with other ongoing projects.

As previously mentioned, the KEAC is attentive to the issue of protected areas in Nunavik and would like to learn more about the government's intentions regarding IIPA. We would like to thank your colleagues for accepting the Committee's invitation to give a presentation on the IIPA at our 178th meeting and look forward to meeting with you.

Best regards,



Raymond Mickpegak
Chairperson, KEAC

cc.

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