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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik  
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

January 31, 2025

Adamie Delisle-Alaku  
Vice-president  
Department of Environment, Wildlife and Research  
Makivvik  
P.O. Box 179  
Kuujuuaq, QC  
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**SUBJECT: Access to Federal Funding for Waste Management Initiatives in Nunavik**

Dear Mr. Delisle-Alaku,

The First Nations Waste Management Initiative (Initiative) was originally announced in 2016 offering \$409 million to First Nations communities across Canada to improve solid waste management. However, Nunavik communities were excluded from this funding. As you know, waste management is an important environmental issue for the region and, as a result, the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) has corresponded with the Government of Canada on several occasions to address this shortcoming. On April 8, 2020, the KEAC sent a letter to the Ministers of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), explaining the unique municipal-like status of the 14 northern villages of Nunavik. Despite the population of these villages being more than 90% Inuit, they are unable to secure federal environmental funding intended for Indigenous communities and for villages north of 60. The letter notably requested that Inuit communities of Nunavik and the Kativik Regional Government be considered eligible for funding through the First Nation Waste Management Initiative, as well as future federal programs relating to the management of residual and hazardous materials in the region.

In its December 15, 2020, response, ISC noted that the Government of Canada is committed to co-developing and investing in distinctions-based infrastructure plans and moving forward to address critical infrastructure needs in First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities by 2030. In addition, representatives of the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) are developing an infrastructure work plan to address Inuit-specific challenges to federal infrastructure funding.

After discussions with Makivvik representatives, the KEAC understands that the issue of waste management has not been raised with ICPC since the December 2020 correspondence mentioned above.

Given the high cost of waste management projects in Nunavik, financial support is often found by combining several provincial funding programs available to the KRG or the communities. Accessing funds from many sources means additional work for already limited human resources, who must complete funding applications, activity reports and budgeting for each program on an annual basis, each with a different

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deadline. The Quebec government recently announced a \$20 million investment to help isolated regions of the province, including Nunavik, implement waste management initiatives. Nevertheless, federal investments would also significantly advance waste management in this region, as well as providing the technical support that is implicit in some existing funding programs, such as the Initiative.

The KEAC also brought this issue to the table during meetings of the Québec First Nations Regional Waste Management Committee. This group also noted the eligibility discrepancy in its letter to the CIRNAC in March 2021 regarding the Initiative's renewal. In his response, ISC Quebec Regional Director General, Mr. Luc Dumont, stated that although the initiative would be renewed, "Project eligibility remains essentially unchanged. With respect to the needs of Québec's Inuit communities, the Government of Canada is committed to developing, through the ICPC a work plan that will address the specific challenges of these northern communities".

Waste management in Nunavik presents unique challenges but also potential for unique solutions. Projects implementation must involve stakeholders on all levels: community, government and enterprise. Given the upcoming renewal and potential permanence of the Initiative, the KEAC see this is an opportunity for Makivvik to bring these issues forward and address them with federal representatives, who also seem to reciprocate the timing for this occasion.

Please do not hesitate to contact the KEAC's Secretariat, should you require further information.

Best regards,



André-Anne Gagnon  
Chairperson, KEAC