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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

January 31, 2025

The Honourable Patty Hajdu
Minister, Indigenous Services Canada
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Gatineau, QC
K1A 0H4

The Honourable Dan Vandal
Minister, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
25 Eddy Street
Gatineau, QC
K1A 0H4

Subject: Exclusion of Québec Inuit from Federal Northern and Indigenous Funding Programs Related to the Environment

Dear Ministers:

On April 8, 2020, the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) transmitted 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, located in northern Québec. Despite the population of these villages being more than 90% Inuit, they are unable to secure federal environmental funding linked to the environment and 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 the Government of Canada has committed to co-developing and investing in distinctions-based infrastructure plans, and to move forward with addressing critical infrastructure needs in First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities by 2030. Additionally, officials from the Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee (ICPC) are developing an Infrastructure Work Plan with the goal of addressing Inuit-specific challenges to federal infrastructure funding.

After discussion with Makivvik, member of the ICPC with CIRNAC, the KEAC understand the issue of waste management has not been addressed since the above-mentioned December 2020 correspondence.

Recently the Québec Government announced a \$20M investment to assist the province's isolated regions, including Nunavik, with waste management initiatives. Nonetheless, federal investments would also significantly help advance waste management in Nunavik, as well as provide the technical support that is implied with certain existing funding programs such as the First Nation Waste Management Initiative. Given

KEAC Secretariat
P.O. Box 930, Kuujuaq, QC J0M 1C0
Tel.: 819-964-2961, ext. 2287
E-mail: bpatenaude@krg.ca

the upcoming renewal and potential permanence of the First Nation Waste Management Initiative, the KEAC sees this as an opportunity to bring these issues forward and address them with federal representatives.

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

Best regards,



André-Anne Gagnon
Chairperson, KEAC

c.c.: Terence Hubbard, Federal Administrator, JBNQA
Markussi Qisiiq, Director, Renewable Resources, Lands, Environment and Parks Department, KRG
Adamie Delisle Alaku, Vice-president, Department of Environment, Fauna and Research, Makivvik