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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik  
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

## **MINUTES OF THE 183<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE KEAC (APPROVED)**

**DATES:** March 10, 11 and 12, 2025

**LOCATION:** Main office, of the Kativik Regional Government, Kuujjuaq

### **PRESENT:**

#### **Appointed by the Kativik Regional Government (KRG)**

Michael Barrett

Minnie Grey

Theresa Chemaganish (by videoconference)

#### **Appointed by the Government of Canada**

Marc-Antoine Giroux (by videoconference on March 10)

Marie-Noëlle Fournier, Vice-Chairperson

Pierre-Yves Gagnon (by videoconference on March 11 and 12)

#### **Appointed by the Government of Québec**

André-Anne Gagnon, Chairperson

Jasmin Bergeron

Paule Halley

#### **Executive Secretary**

Benjamin Patenaude

#### **Environmental Analyst**

Nancy Dea (by videoconference on March 11 and 12)

#### **Environmental Legislation Analyst**

Christine Lambert (by videoconference on March 11 and 12)

### **GUESTS:**

Ahmed Kouki, Waste Management Coordinator, KRG

Mary Johannes, Mayor, Northern Village of Kuujjuaq

Émilie Dalpé-Turcotte, Land Use Planner, Renewable Resources, Environment, Lands and Parks  
Department, KRG

Daniel Gendron, Engineer, Abitibi–Témiscamingue and Nord-du-Québec Regional Branch, MELCCFP

Alexis Lemieux Périnet, Project Manager, Environmental Liabilities Branch, MELCCFP

Nathalie Girard, Regional Project Manager Marine Environmental and Hazards Response Service (Arctic  
Region), CCG

## **OBSERVERS:**

Claude Péloquin, Advisor, Regional Relations and Analysis, Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Billy Shecanapish, Environment Officer, Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach  
Philippe LeBlanc-Rochette, Environmental Coordinator, Makivvik Corporation

### **1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda**

The 183<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 3 p.m. on March 10, 2025, at the main office of the KRG in Kuujuaq. The Chairperson opened the meeting and invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. Modifications were made and the 183<sup>rd</sup> meeting took place in accordance with the agenda appearing in appendix.

### **2. Adoption of the minutes of the 181<sup>st</sup> meeting**

The members reviewed the minutes of the 181<sup>st</sup> meeting. The minutes were adopted following modifications.

### **3. Administration**

#### **a) Budget**

##### **i. Follow-up on items addressed at the 182<sup>nd</sup> meeting**

Updates were provided on the implementation of the cost-reduction measures identified at the 182<sup>nd</sup> meeting. These included travel expenses for KRG appointees as well as suspension of the lease for the executive secretary's housing and office space during his deferred-pay leave. The members were also informed that several accounting firms had been contacted and that the administrative subcommittee was continuing to review the submissions received to date with a view to retaining the most advantageous.

##### **ii. Expense report for the period from November 2024 to February 2025**

The members reviewed the expense report for the period from November 2024 to February 2025.

#### **b) Secretariat**

The members were given an update on the executive secretary's differed-pay leave and on the delegation of tasks and files during his absence.

#### **c) Members**

The members were informed that the KRG will assume the chairpersonship for 2025–2026. André-Anne Gagnon was thanked for her term as chairperson in 2024–2025.

#### **d) Active files since the 182<sup>nd</sup> meeting, correspondence and housekeeping**

The members reviewed the table showing the status of KEAC files since the last meeting and the list of correspondence.

e) Website

The members were given updates on the development of the impact assessment section of the KEAC website and on efforts to correct problems experienced accessing the secure member portal.

f) Annual report, 2024–2025

The members reviewed the content of the draft annual report for 2024–2025.

g) Action plan, 2025–2030

Following the 182<sup>nd</sup> meeting and review by the communications subcommittee, an updated version of the draft 2025–2030 Action Plan was presented and discussed.

#### **4. Meeting with community representatives**

The members met with Mary Johannes, Mayor of the Northern Village of Kuujuaq. The meeting opened with a presentation on the mandate, operations and activities of the KEAC. The presentation was followed by discussion on residual materials management in the community, including the creation of an eco-centre, the management of construction waste, and the treatment of non-serviceable vehicles.

#### **5. Land use planning and occupancy**

a) Presentation on the draft KRG sustainable land use planning bylaw

Émilie Dalpé-Turcotte, Land Use Planner with the KRG Renewable Resources, Environment, Lands and Parks Department, gave a presentation on the draft sustainable land use planning bylaw. The presentation opened with an overview of the bylaw's underlying legislative context. Next, a brief description of the recent update to the *Kativik Regional Master Plan* and proposed amendments to the *Act respecting Northern Villages and the Kativik Regional Government* was provided. The presentation then continued with a description of the factors which led to the creation of a Kativik Region-specific regulatory scheme. It was explained that the current provincial legislation does not cover all activities, works and land uses in the region. Given the region's vast size and remoteness, monitoring and enforcement measures are difficult to implement. The KRG bylaw seeks to overcome these problems by taking into account the region's distinct characteristics with the support of a regional land use planning committee.

Following the presentation, discussion focused on project screening, the adoption of the by-law, mineral exploration monitoring, constraint area and review procedure modifications, conditions of authorization, as well as coordination between review bodies and government departments on matters relating to land use planning.

b) Proposed amendments to the Program for the Awarding of Land in the Domain of the State for Renewable Electricity Generation and its analytical framework, MRNF

An overview was given on revisions proposed by the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (natural resources and forests, MRNF) to the Program for the Awarding of Land in the Domain of the State

for Renewable Electricity Generation and its analytical framework. It was explained that the revisions apply to two distinct documents. The first document covers the awarding program which aims to make accessible and reserve public lands for the development of renewable electricity. The second document covers the modernization of the analytical framework. The latter document is an internal document used by the MRNF to ensure that renewable electricity projects are compatible with other land uses. It was noted that the analytical framework takes into account the *Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory* but not specific adjustments for Nunavik realities. As well, discussion focused on the KEAC letter to the MRNF dated February 21, 2025, on this topic.

- c) Indigenous component of consultations concerning the reflection on the future of the forests, MRNF

An overview was provided of meetings attended by the KEAC concerning the development of the strategy for the future of the forests.

## **6. Presentation on the marine spill environmental response program, CCG**

Nathalie Girard, Regional Project Manager with the Marine Environmental and Hazards Response Service (Arctic Region) of the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG), delivered a presentation on marine spill response programming. The presentation opened with an overview of CCG programs and services as well as the marine environmental and hazards response (MEHR) program for the Arctic region. It was explained that the program applies to ship-source marine spills, fuel handling facilities, marine pollution, and spills originating from unknown sources outside Canadian waters. Ms. Girard provided a description of Arctic region teams and assets, explained program responses for marine spills, and summarized the incident reporting system. In particular, community equipment caches for responding to marine spills have been established and training initiatives for community representatives concerning proper and safe equipment use are ongoing. The presentation concluded with an overview of training provided under the MEHR program for the creation of community-based coastal marine response teams responsible for managing pollution incidents in the Arctic region.

Following the presentation, discussion focused on collaboration between the MEHR program and other government bodies for spill responses as well as on regulatory agreements between jurisdictions north and south of the 60<sup>th</sup> parallel and Transport Canada. Issues relating to the remoteness of the Canadian Arctic and the monitoring of foreign vessel traffic in the Northwest Passage were also discussed.

## **7. Conservation and biodiversity**

- a) Sustainable-use protected areas, MELCCFP

The members were informed that, on February 5, 2025, the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (environment, fight against climate change, wildlife and parks, MELCCFP) gave a presentation to the KRG on sustainable-use protected areas. One concern raised by the KRG during the presentation touched on the types of conservation areas in Nunavik and how their different statuses relate to one another. The MELCCFP representatives explained that sustainable-use protected areas are not intended to replace northern conservation areas and that the two different statuses are complementary. For example, a sustainable-use protected area could be planned next to or even integrated into a northern conservation area, in order to establish incremental variations in permitted activities according to the sector. The MELCCFP also pointed out an important difference between the statuses:

northern conservation areas are not protected areas while sustainable-use protected areas are considered equivalent to category VI protected areas under the classification used by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

b) Plan Nature 2030, MELCCFP

An overview was given of the meeting held on February 26, 2025, concerning the MELCCFP Plan Nature 2030. The MELCCFP plans to create a working group that will establish indicators and objectives to be incorporated into the action plan under the Plan. The final version of the Plan is expected to be released in the fall of 2025.

c) Draft climate change adaptation plan for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, MELCCFP

The members were informed that, on January 25, 2025, the MELCCFP contacted the KEAC with an announcement regarding the development of a draft climate change adaptation plan for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The plan was among the objectives contained in the 2024–2028 action plan under the Plan Nature. The MELCCFP is seeking feedback from Inuit and First Nations on climate change issues affecting wildlife, plants and ecosystems. An information session was organized for Indigenous organizations on February 12, 2025, to present highlights of the adaptation plan. The adaptation plan does not create any new projects; rather, it serves as an internal document for prioritizing and allocating government funds.

d) 2023–2028 Action plan, Société du Plan Nord

The members were given an overview of the 2023–2028 action plan of the Société du Plan Nord (SPN), specifically regarding the creation of northern conservation areas. The action plan presents the SPN's intention to undertake the identification of 10 northern conservation areas in the region north of the 49th parallel beginning in 2027. At present, no additional information is available. Discussion also focused on the different types of protected areas, their statuses in Nunavik, as well as how they line up with SPN objectives.

**Action item**

- **Contact the protected areas advisory committee for additional information on the different types of conservation areas found in Nunavik.**

**8. Environmental assessment in Nunavik**

a) Modernization of Section 23 of the JBNQA

A draft letter was presented concerning modernization of Section 23 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA). The letter's main themes include an overview of the work conducted over the last 40 years in relation to the modernization process, issues related to community participation in the assessment and review procedures under Section 23, as well as consideration of strategic environmental assessments and cumulative impact assessment. The members discussed the possibility of requesting an update on this file from the JBNQA signatory organizations and the importance of aligning the section and its schedules with

present-day realities. It was decided that the members would continue their reflections on this matter. They discussed the approach to be adopted for future work.

#### **Action items**

- **Organize a meeting to continue discussion of this matter.**
- **Enquire about Section 23 modernization work at the next meeting with the federal and provincial administrators.**

#### **b) Update from the Nunavik Impact Assessment Working Group**

The members were informed that the Nunavik Impact Assessment Working Group will host workshops in different communities in 2025 and 2026. The purpose of the workshops will be to bring together community representatives with a view to increasing awareness of impact assessments and promoting discussions on community participation in and preparedness for public consultations.

#### **c) Strange Lake rare earth mining project**

An update was provided on the progress of the various review processes applicable to the Strange Lake rare earth mining project. It was explained that there have been no major developments with regards to the JBNQA provincial review procedure. On the federal side, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada in collaboration with the governments of Newfoundland and Labrador as well as Nunatsiavut have launched the project's impact assessment phase. For its part, the community of Kangiqsualujjuaq is carrying out studies on land use planning and occupancy as well as socio-economic development. The community is also planning meetings with the project proponent and the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach.

#### **Action item**

- **Contact the provincial administrator of Section 23 of the JBNQA to follow up on the KEAC letter transmitted on December 20, 2024, concerning public participation and the multiplication of impact assessment procedures for the Strange Lake rare earth mining project.**

### **9. Environmental protection legislation**

#### **a) *Bill 81, An Act to amend Various Provisions relating to the Environment*, MELCCFP**

An update was provided on *Bill 81, An Act to amend Various Provisions relating to the Environment*. It was explained that KEAC feedback was submitted on February 4, 2025, and the Bill was adopted on February 11, 2025. The minutes of the parliamentary proceedings are available on the website of the National Assembly.

### **10. Mining activity**

#### **a) *Bill 63, An Act to amend the Mining Act and Other Provisions*, MRNF**

A summary was provided of the information session hosted by the MRNF on January 21, 2025, concerning *Bill 63, An Act to amend the Mining Act and Other Provisions*. The amendments are scheduled to take effect in May 2025. The KEAC has raised questions and concerns about the authorization process for impact-

causing exploration activities, communication between project proponents and communities, as well as conditions relating to the authorization, building, monitoring and removal of structures on mining claims in Nunavik.

## **11. Drinking water management**

An update was given on the drafting of the document on drinking water governance.

## **12. Residual materials management**

### **a) Presentation on the status of objectives under the *Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan*, KRG**

Ahmed Kouki, Waste Management Coordinator at the KRG, gave a presentation on the status of objectives under the *Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan 2021–2027* (NRMMP). The presentation started with an overview of the NRMMP's contents as well as its measures, objectives, and orientations. Next, the presentation described implementation of the selective collection program. It was explained that the program focuses primarily on residential recycling. An agreement signed by the KRG, Éco Entreprise Québec and the Northern Village of Kuujuaq has led to the development of a geotechnical study including a pilot project scheduled for the summer of 2025. A similar project is also underway for the community of Tasiujaq. The KRG plans to expand this initiative to other communities by 2027. It expects to have established the program and necessary infrastructure in each community by 2030.

A description was given of the legal framework and the preparation of municipal bylaws concerning the operation and handling of materials, such as construction waste at municipal landfill sites. The bylaws also prohibit certain types of materials in municipal landfills and set disposal fees for the disposal of some items. As well, an online platform has been created for construction companies working in Nunavik to keep construction materials from being wasted. The presentation concluded with a description of communication tools for community residents, municipal workers and construction companies covering the handling, preparation, disposal and admissibility of different types of residual materials.

Following the presentation, discussion focused on waste at campsites beyond village boundaries, the treatment of non-serviceable vehicles, research on alternatives to open-air burning, as well as funding sources for waste management initiatives under the NRMMP.

### **b) Update on the Mid-Canada Radar Line clean-up project**

The members received an update from Daniel Gendron, an engineer with the MELCCFP regional branch for Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Nord-du-Québec, on the Mid-Canada Radar Line clean-up project. Mr. Gendron was accompanied by Alexis Lemieux Périnet, a project manager with the MELCCFP Environmental Liabilities Branch. The MELCCFP representatives first provided a description of the pilot project planned for the seven smallest sites. Responsibility for the clean-up of these sites has been delegated to Inuit, Naskapi and Cree organizations with funding from the MELCCFP. The pilot project will also serve to develop an approach for the clean-up of the remaining 34 sites, which is to be funded through an agreement between the governments of Canada and Québec. With regards to the pilot project, the Cree, Naskapi and KRG are preparing work plans and budgets. Clean-up work is expected to begin during the summer of 2025.

The presentation continued with a description of the clean-up plans for the remaining 34 sites. It was explained that an exemption application was submitted to the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission in the fall of 2024 for review. Information was also presented regarding meetings held with Cree, Naskapi and Inuit representatives in 2024 and 2025, including a request for the creation of a clean-up project steering committee that is currently under consideration by the MELCCFP.

The members emphasized that direct community involvement and effective communication must be essential components of the project.

- c) Inadmissibility of Québec Inuit communities from federal funding programs for waste management initiatives

An overview was provided of letters transmitted to the Makivik Corporation and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada on January 30, 2025, concerning the inadmissibility of Québec Inuit communities from federal funding programs for waste management initiatives. A response was received by the KEAC from Patty Hadju, the Minister of Indigenous Services on February 25, 2025. The response explained that waste management initiative funding does not expire before the 2027–2028 fiscal year and that, as a result, the minister's department is unable to renew or expand the funding program. Notwithstanding, the Inuit–Crown Partnership Committee is continuing to work with treaty organizations to obtain a better understanding of Inuit community needs and priorities and to ensure federal programs, guided by the co-developed *Inuit Nunangat Policy* and Cabinet directive, could better respond to Inuit-identified needs and challenges. The Minister also suggested that the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund may represent another option. The Fund includes \$1 billion in direct funding, at least 10% of which has been earmarked for Indigenous-led projects. The Fund is intended to accelerate the construction, rehabilitation and expansion of essential infrastructure including solid waste systems.

#### **Action item**

- **Transmit a copy of Minister Hadju's letter to the KRG.**

- d) Remediation work at Killiniq

A summary was provided of a meeting held on February 3, 2025, with Government of Nunavut representatives concerning remediation work at the former community of Killiniq. It was explained that Killiniq appears on the Government of Nunavut list of contaminated sites. The federal department responsible for the remediation work is however uncertain of next steps as different components of the site involve several different federal departments. It was mentioned that transparency and communication between stakeholders is needed.

### **13. Miscellaneous**

- a) Green Corner article in *Tarralik*

The members were informed that the KEAC Green Corner article concerning Nunavik residual materials management initiatives would be published in the 135<sup>th</sup> edition of *Tarralik*. It was also mentioned that the article concerning the new Impact Assessment section on the KEAC website had been submitted and that



the next article would present the CCG marine spill response program.

b) Regulations under the *Canada Shipping Act*

A summary was presented of the meeting held on November 25, 2024, involving the KEAC, the Makivik Corporation and Transport Canada. Two regulations are currently under review in order to enhance marine safety and emergency response measures for hazardous and noxious substances that could be released by accident into the marine environment. Nunavik communities and organizations were not consulted about these regulations. It was mentioned during the discussion that the roundtable bringing together Inuit Nunangat and Transport Canada could also be used to communicate new regulatory information to Nunavik organizations. It was also mentioned that the Makivik Corporation and Fisheries and Oceans Canada intend to map areas requiring enhanced protection measures.

c) Draft regulation concerning the reporting of building energy data

An overview was presented on the draft regulation concerning the reporting of building energy data. It was explained that the regulation is tied to Québec government objectives under the *2030 Plan for a Green Economy* targeting a 50% reduction in building heating emissions by 2030. On February 21, 2025, the KEAC participated in a meeting with representatives of the MELCCFP, the KRG and the Nunavik Housing Bureau (NHB). KEAC feedback was transmitted by letter on March 7, 2025.

The members were informed that Université Laval, in collaboration with NHB and the KRG, is conducting a study on various aspects of heating oil delivery and consumption in Nunavik to assist the MELCCFP to adapt and implement the regulation in the region. It was proposed that the KEAC monitor development of the study.

#### **14. Next meetings of the KEAC**

It was decided that the 184<sup>th</sup> meeting would be held on June 3 and 4, 2025, in Quebec City, the 185<sup>th</sup> meeting during the week of September 21, 2025, in Kuujuaapik, and the 186<sup>th</sup> meeting during the week of December 1, 2025, in Kawawachikamach.

A possible meeting in September with the James Bay Committee on the Environment and the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee to highlight the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the JBNQA was also discussed.



Benjamin Patenaude  
Executive Secretary  
December 3, 2025

## **Appendix – Agenda of the 183<sup>rd</sup> meeting**

### **1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda**

### **2. Adoption of the minutes from the 181<sup>st</sup> meeting**

### **3. Administration**

- a) Budget
  - i. Follow up on items addressed at the 182<sup>nd</sup> meeting
  - ii. Expense report for the period from November 2024 to February 2025
- b) Secretariat
- c) Members
- d) Active files from the 182<sup>nd</sup> meeting, correspondence and housekeeping
- e) Website
- f) Annual report, 2024–2025
- g) Action plan, 2025–2030

### **4. Meeting with community representatives**

### **5. Land use planning and occupancy**

- a) Presentation on the draft KRG sustainable land use planning bylaw
- b) Proposed amendments to the Program for the Awarding of Land in the Domain of the State for Renewable Electricity Generation and its analytical framework, MRNF
- c) Indigenous component of consultations concerning the reflection on the future of the forests, MRNF

### **6. Presentation on the marine spill environmental response program, CCG**

### **7. Conservation and biodiversity**

- a) Sustainable-use protected areas, MELCCFP
- b) Plan Nature 2030, MELCCFP
- c) Draft climate change adaptation plan for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, MELCCFP
- d) 2023–2028 Action plan, Société du Plan Nord

### **8. Environmental assessment in Nunavik**

- a) Modernization of Section 23 of the JBNQA
- b) Update from the Nunavik Impact Assessment Working Group
- c) Strange Lake rare earth mining project

### **9. Environmental protection legislation**

- a) *Bill 81, An Act to amend Various Provisions relating to the Environment*, MELCCFP

## **10. Mining activity**

- a) *Bill 63, An Act to amend the Mining Act and Other Provisions*, MRNF

## **11. Drinking water management**

## **12. Residual materials management**

- a) Presentation on the status of objectives under the *Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan*, KRG
- b) Update on the Mid-Canada Radar Line clean-up project
- c) Inadmissibility of Québec Inuit communities from federal funding programs for waste management initiatives
- d) Remediation work at Killiniq

## **13. Miscellaneous**

- a) Green Corner article in *Tarralik*
- b) Regulations under the *Canada Shipping Act*
- c) Draft regulation concerning the reporting of building energy data

## **14. Next meetings of the KEAC**