



KATIVIK ENVIRONMENTAL  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

# 25-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE

2001-2026



June 2026





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## Executive Summary

Established in 1975 under the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* —Canada’s first modern treaty— the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) has a mandate to oversee the environmental and social protection regime for Nunavik by fostering Indigenous participation in decision-making processes affecting their lands and communities. In 2001, [the KEAC published a retrospective](#) of its first 25 years of existence. The publication underscored the Committee’s determination to implement its full mandate and build on the autonomy and independence required to fulfill its role.

The **KEAC 25-Year Retrospective, 2001–2026** pays tribute to the Committee’s work over the last quarter century in Nunavik by reflecting on its evolution, main achievements, and ongoing challenges. Over the past 25 years, the KEAC has:

- Played a pivotal role in monitoring the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedures applicable in Nunavik.
- Advocated for legislative improvements and fostered collaboration among regional stakeholders.
- Influenced significant legislative changes, including amendments to the Québec *Environmental Quality Act*, that ensure greater transparency and enhanced public access to information.
- Supported improvements in drinking water management, climate-change adaptation, waste management, and the creation of protected areas in Nunavik.
- Actively participated in consultations and working groups on mining, waste management, and environmental quality by fostering the integration of regional and Indigenous perspectives into policy and practices.

The KEAC’s sustained commitment has produced significant progress in environmental and social protection in Nunavik. Its proactive approach, collaborative partnerships, and emphasis on Indigenous participation have made it possible to shape policies and practices that contribute to safeguarding both the land and the communities of the region.

# INTRODUCTION



## Introduction

In 1975, the Inuit and Cree negotiated an historic agreement. The *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA) was the first modern treaty signed in Canada. It established a legal and constitutional framework for governing land management, local self-governance, and traditional ways of life. The Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach signed the *Northeastern Québec Agreement* (NEQA) in 1978. The Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) was established under Section 23 of the JBNQA to oversee the environmental and social protection regime for Nunavik and serve as the preferential and official forum for governments and regional organizations regarding laws, regulations and policies relating to environmental and social protection north of the 55th parallel. This retrospective highlights the past 25 years of work of the KEAC, reflecting on its evolution, achievements and challenges between 2001 and 2026.

Monitoring the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedures applicable in Nunavik has been a central KEAC activity. The Committee has also advocated resolutely for legislative improvements and for collaboration among regional stakeholders.

## Nunavik

Nunavik is the northernmost region of the province of Québec, covering 507,000 km<sup>2</sup> north of the 55th parallel (figure 1). Indigenous peoples, including Inuit, have inhabited Nunavik for millennia. Nunavik has a population of approximately 13,500, of whom roughly 90% are Inuit. Inuktitut is the primary language spoken in the region. Residents live in 14 communities situated along the coasts of Ungava Bay, Hudson Strait, and eastern Hudson Bay. There are no roads linking the region's 14 communities, or connecting Nunavik to southern Québec. The communities depend on air transportation year-round.

In terms of public administration, the JBNQA created several Inuit-managed organizations in Nunavik, including the Kativik Regional Government (KRG). The KRG delivers services in a range of sectors, such as airport management, marine infrastructure maintenance, regional and local economic development, business development, policing and civil security, wildlife conservation, environmental and climate change research, park development and management, childcare, and municipal infrastructure. The Makivvik Corporation is a non-profit organization mandated to safeguard the integrity of the JBNQA, to manage the financial compensation paid to Inuit, and to focus on the political, social and economic development of Nunavik.

Nunavik possesses a remarkably varied landscape with tundra, taiga forest, scenic mountains, untamed rivers and countless lakes. The region's diverse ecosystems are fashioned by the cold climate, permafrost and coastal influences. They nurture caribou, polar bears, marine mammals, exceptional flora and migratory birds. All these species are important for Inuit, Naskapi and Cree subsistence practices. The effects of climate change as well as forecast mining infrastructure development have heightened the need for protection of the region's fragile ecosystems and biodiversity.



FIGURE 1: NUNAVIK MAP



# THE COMMITTEE

# Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

## Mandate and role

The JBNQA established an environmental and social protection regime to minimize the negative impacts of development projects on the environment and the population, to enable the participation of Indigenous peoples in environmental and social protection, and to provide protection for their rights, societies, communities, economies and wildlife resources. The mandate of the KEAC is to examine and oversee the administration and management of the regime. It is the preferential and official forum for the governments of Canada and Québec, the KRG, the northern villages and the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach, regarding laws and regulations relating to the environmental and social protection regime for the territory covered under the JBNQA, north of the 55th parallel.

A further responsibility requires the KEAC to examine and make recommendations respecting environmental and social impact assessment and review procedures. Finally, the KEAC ensures that all laws, regulations and policies relating to the environmental and social protection regime in the region comply with the provisions of Section 23 of the JBNQA.

The sum of these responsibilities demonstrates the meaningful role entrusted by the signatories of the JBNQA to the KEAC regarding the implementation of the provisions of Section 23. The KEAC possesses both autonomy and independence for fulfilling its mandate. Its actions are governed by paragraph 23.2.4, which sets out guiding principles for the agencies established under Section 23, including the KEAC, within the limits of their jurisdictions and functions, namely:

- The protection of the Indigenous peoples of Nunavik, their societies, communities and economies;
- The minimizing of impacts of development activities on the region's Indigenous peoples;
- The protection of the hunting, fishing and trapping rights of the region's Indigenous peoples with respect to development activities;
- The protection of wildlife resources with respect to development activities;
- The involvement of the region's Indigenous peoples and other inhabitants in the application of the regime under Section 23;
- The rights and interests of non-Indigenous people;
- The right to carry out development in accordance with the provisions of the JBNQA;
- The minimizing of negative environmental and social impacts of development on Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous people by reasonable means determined through the assessment and review procedures.

## Composition

The KEAC is a tripartite body composed of nine members equally named by the Government of Québec, the Government of Canada and the KRG. The current KEAC members bring a wide variety of experience

and knowledge to the KEAC and are dedicated to a spirit of cooperation between colleagues who share a common responsibility.

**Michael Barrett** recently retired from his long-standing role as Associate Director of the Renewable Resources, Environment, Lands and Parks Department of the Kativik Regional Government. He has served as a member of the KEAC from its creation until 1990 and from 1999 to the present.

**Theresa Chemaganish**, is a member of the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach and notably became the first woman Chief, a position held from August 2021 to September 2024. In her capacity as Chief, among numerous important issues affecting her community, environmental concerns were a vital part of it. In 2010, she was the President of the Naskapi Development Corporation and, in 2023, was named to the KEAC by the KRG.

**Minnie Grey** has worked actively throughout her career to improve the quality of life of Inuit in Nunavik, Canada and internationally. Born in Kangirsuk, Nunavik, she has held various positions and honours including with the Makivvik Corporation, the Canada office of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, the Nunavik Education Task Force, the Nunavik Nutrition and Health Committee, and the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, among many other. She was named to the KEAC in 2023.

**Paule Halley**, LL.D., is a lawyer, a professor of law at Université Laval and the Canada Research Chair in Environmental Law. She was appointed to the KEAC in 1999.

**André-Anne Gagnon** holds a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from the University of Montreal as well as a master's degree in maritime resource management from the University of Québec in Rimouski. Since November 2020, she has been working in the National Parks Department at the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (Ministry of Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Fauna and Parks) as a project manager. Ms. Gagnon also has experience in the field of environmental assessment of northern and mining projects. She was named a KEAC member in 2020.

**Jasmin Bergeron** is a geographer. He worked for 12 years at the Office of Public Hearings on the Environment (BAPE). Since 2019, he has been employed by the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (Ministry of the Environment, the Fight against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks) and he currently holds the position of coordinator-team leader for the environmental impact assessment of mining projects. He was appointed as a member of the KEAC in 2024.

**Pierre-Yves Gagnon** is the implementation coordinator for modern treaties at Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. With a master's degree in Public and International Affairs, he contributes extensive experience in government service and program administration. He was appointed to the KEAC in 2023.

**Marie-Noëlle Fournier** holds a bachelor's degree in communications and has worked for more than 15 years for programs and NPOs for territorial and community development purposes. She is now

coordinator of the Indigenous relations Unit team for the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection program for Fisheries and Oceans Canada. She was appointed to the KEAC in 2022.

**Claude Péloquin** is a geographer with two decades of experience as researcher, teacher, and consultant specialized in the political and institutional dimensions of environmental management. He holds a PhD in geography from the University of Arizona and currently works as an advisor in regional analysis and Indigenous affairs for Québec at the federal department of Environment and Climate Change. He was named to the committee in 2025.

## Observers and Guests

The JBNQA promotes the participation of Indigenous communities in decisions affecting their environment and well-being through a forum where they can express their concerns and contribute to assessment and decision-making processes. In line with this purpose, the KEAC continuously strives to improve its visibility among government departments and agencies, the scientific community and the Nunavik population. It also encourages the participation of communities and regional organizations at its regular meetings.

Whenever the KEAC organizes a meeting in a northern community, local representatives are invited to attend in order to gain knowledge about the Committee's mandate and share their environmental concerns. Additionally, KRG representatives and specialists are invited from time to time to explain project updates, research findings and other information relevant to the KEAC's work.

Since 2021, the KEAC has welcomed both the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach and the Makivvik Corporation as observers at meetings and invited their participation in discussions on matters of interest to their respective organizations. Their participation improves understanding of regional concerns and opportunities for collaboration.

It is also important to note that, in recent years, the KEAC has met annually with the provincial and federal administrators of Section 23 of the JBNQA. These meetings allow the KEAC to highlight its work to the administrators and enhance communications.

## Secretariat

During the early decades, the KEAC secretariat was impacted by government decisions and budget cuts, leading to significant reductions in its activities and overall presence in the region. In its first 25-year retrospective (1975–2000), the members called on the governments to respect their commitments under the JBNQA and to provide the KEAC with the necessary means to fulfil its mandate through adequate funding, improved access to information, and measures that would promote the sharing of perspectives, concerns and information.”

In 2001, the KEAC adopted a resolution calling for the constitution of a permanent secretariat as quickly as possible. Further to this commitment and with necessary financial support from the governments of Québec and Canada, the KEAC succeeded in establishing its secretariat in Kuujuaq in 2003, including a full-time executive secretary who resides in the community.

Due to increasingly complex and important issues, the KEAC expanded the secretariat in 2011 with the hiring of a part-time environmental analyst and a part-time environmental legislation analyst. In May 2023, the KEAC adopted a human resources management and remuneration policy for its paid secretariat staff. Currently, the three employees under the supervision of the chairperson and other KEAC members share the following responsibilities: maintaining lines of communication between members and external stakeholders, fostering good relationships with governments, communities and various partners, and providing technical expertise, recommendations and advice regarding the implementation of the regime established under Section 23 of the JBNQA. In this manner, the secretariat ensures the coherence and stability of Committee's work and supports KEAC review of government-proposed regulations and policies to ensure their compliance with the provisions of the environmental and social protection regime.

## The Early Years, 1975–2000

The KEAC was established with the signing of the JBNQA in 1975, but held its first meeting only in January 1980. During its early years, the KEAC focused on the rollout of the new provisions of the JBNQA, specifically under Section 23 entitled Environment and Future Development North of the 55th Parallel. It was necessary to clarify the mandate within the JBNQA framework and set up the mechanisms to carry it out, including a structure for the secretariat based in Kuujjuaq, as well as an action plan and budget to cover the scope of the mandate.

In 2001, the KEAC published a 25-year retrospective of the legal framework, mandate, history, environmental issues, and challenges faced by the secretariat during its early years. That exercise was followed by the release of a 2001–2004 action plan and budget through which the KEAC took aim at fully meeting its mandate under the JBNQA. The orientations proposed targeted issues remaining unresolved 25 years since the signing of the JBNQA. The initiative served to effectively structure the KEAC's work, which has only continued to expand ever since.



# HIGHLIGHTS



## Milestones and Highlights, 2001–2026

In its 2001 retrospective, the KEAC presented in table format the issues addressed at its meetings between 1996 and 2000 (see Appendix 1). The table demonstrates that the environmental and social impact assessment of development projects and legislation in Nunavik was becoming increasingly complex. The KEAC's work at the time required in-depth consultation with both Inuit and the government departments sponsoring the draft acts and regulations submitted to it for feedback. Additionally, certain issues required the support of external consultants.

The current retrospective presents below the main issues addressed at KEAC meetings between 2001 and 2026, as well as several significant achievements over the same 25-year period.

### Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

Pursuant to its mandate, the KEAC has consistently focused its attention on environmental and social impact assessment review mechanisms and processes, with special emphasis on the enhancement of public participation and access to information. The KEAC has successfully met this objective over the years and, specifically in 2002, released a position paper on the growing number and overlapping nature of assessment processes. The position paper continues to serve as a reference on this topic, including the 2009 position paper calling for strengthening of the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedures under Section 23 of the JBNQA. The KEAC remains alert to development projects in Nunavik with a view to ensuring compliance with and priority for JBNQA assessment and review procedures. In 2017 the KEAC published the *Reference Guide on Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Procedures applicable in Nunavik*. The Guide carefully describes each of the four impact assessment processes that may be applicable to development projects in the region, with special focus on public participation.

In 2019, the KEAC, in collaboration with the Makivvik Corporation and the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach, formed the Nunavik Impact Assessment Working Group. Initially created to review process harmonization options under the *Impact Assessment Act*, the Working Group has morphed into a forum for discussion on the various impact assessment processes applicable in Nunavik. In November 2023 for example, the Working Group organized a seminar on impact assessment. The seminar brought together review boards, administrators, permitting agencies, and regional representatives with the objective of raising awareness of the impact assessment processes applicable in Nunavik and their overlaps, establishing lines of communication in order to strengthen relationships, as well as discussing why and how to better harmonize the different processes.

In 2025–2026, the Working Group hosted community workshops to grow awareness of the various impact assessment processes and to discuss how communities can engage and empower themselves to participate in these processes.

In 2017, the KEAC commissioned the Secrétariat international francophone pour l'évaluation environnementale (international francophone secretariat for environmental assessment) to study how social impacts have been taken into account under the impact assessment processes applicable in

Nunavik and to produce a comparative review of the scope of these practices. The study identified the strengths and weaknesses of each process and included recommendations for authorities responsible for the application and implementation of the processes.

## Environmental Quality Act

Over the years, the KEAC has reviewed a large number of laws, regulations and policies with a view to ensuring compliance with the environmental and social protection regime under Section 23 of the JBNQA. In this respect, one particular piece of legislation stands out: the Québec *Environmental Quality Act*. The KEAC was consulted on numerous occasions, played key roles on working groups, presented briefs to the Québec National Assembly, and made recommendations that led to important legislative changes. Most recently and after years of back-and-forth with 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), the *Environmental Quality Act* has been amended so that the publication of documentation on development projects in Nunavik must be included in the Registre des évaluations environnementales (environmental assessment registry). These amendments ensure that documentation on projects subject to Section 23 of the JBNQA is accessible to the public in the same manner as documentation for development projects situated in southern Québec.

## Drinking Water

In 2000, a commission established by the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (environmental public hearings, BAPE) was given a mandate to compile feedback from Indigenous groups through province-wide hearings on water management. In Nunavik, this consultation was carried out in collaboration with the KEAC through a joint commission. In the final report, the joint BAPE-KEAC commission recommended that the Québec government immediately permit the use of drinking water analysis techniques adapted to the Nunavik context. The joint commission had determined that current wastewater management was inadequate and called for treatment systems adapted to the region. As a direct result, every northern village in the region now possesses adequate wastewater treatment systems and an adapted protocol for monitoring water quality in the villages is now applied.

In 2008–2009, the KEAC contributed funding for a one-year research project to evaluate the microbial water quality in drinking water tanks in Nunavik homes and recommend a methodology and frequency for cleaning home drinking water tanks. The 2009 pilot project report was then used to establish a regular system for cleaning home drinking water tanks in Nunavik.

The KEAC continues to monitor this issue and published a document in 2025 outlining the governance of drinking water in Nunavik.

## Climate Change

In 2016, the KEAC co-organized a climate-change workshop in Kuujuaq. The event generated a major report on the state of climate change in Nunavik and was followed up by a regional consultation

conducted by the Makivvik Corporation that has since developed a climate change adaptation strategy for the region.

## Waste Management

Over the years, the KEAC has been very active in reviewing waste management regulations and participating in numerous consultations on this topic, including deposit refund and selective collection systems and extended producer responsibility programs. The KEAC also assists the KRG and northern villages to implement recycling and environmental protection projects. Examples of these cooperative efforts include the publication of hazardous and residual material management guides, the distribution of posters and magnets, the implementation of tire recycling projects as well as student and community awareness programs, and the development of municipal by-laws for banning single-use plastic bags. Most recently, during the BAPE review of the status and management of final waste in Québec, the KEAC co-chaired the 2022 Nunavik consultation process and co-authored Chapter 11 of the BAPE report. The chapter provides information and makes recommendations for treaty territories in Québec, including Nunavik.

Since 2007, the KEAC has been a member of the Nunavik Residual Materials Management Working Group. The Working Group includes representation from the KRG, the MELCCFP, the Société du Plan Nord and RECYC-Québec. It meets twice annually to review core issues, challenges and solutions for promoting safe waste management practices from the standpoint of public health and environmental protection.

Finally, the KEAC is continuing to advocate for and monitor contaminated site clean-up projects in Nunavik, including at abandoned mineral exploration sites, outfitting camps, federal-government sites, and former Mid-Canada Radar Line sites.



## Mining Activities

Over the past 25 years, the KEAC has examined many important legislative, regulatory and policy proposals related to mining development in the province. Given current and expected expansion of mineral exploration and mining north of the 55th parallel and related impacts on ecosystems and communities, the KEAC is determined to draw attention to the specific legal framework applicable in the region. This framework includes impact assessment and review processes and consultation mechanisms under the JBNQA environmental and social protection regime.

In its 2007 position paper on current and future transportation infrastructure development in Nunavik, the KEAC noted that both section 188 of the *Environment Quality Act* and Schedule I of Section 23 of the JBNQA provide for the application of the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure for all mining development and related roads. These types of activities are development projects under the JBNQA and are automatically subject to impact assessment.

In its 2009 feedback on Québec Mineral Strategy, the KEAC recommended to strengthen the good practices of mining companies with activities in Nunavik, to prohibit mining activities near protected areas, to control road, marine and air infrastructure constructed by mining companies, and to involve local organizations in activities promoting the region's natural resources.

In 2014, the MELCCFP mandated the BAPE to hold an inquiry and public hearing on the uranium industry. The KEAC established its own commission to consider these issues and to work with the BAPE's commission of inquiry for this purpose in Nunavik. The KEAC commission took part in the three phases of public consultations held in Nunavik and contributed to the drafting of Chapter 13 of the BAPE report, entitled "The Territory of Northern Québec". The BAPE and KEAC commissions expressed the opinion that the psychological and social impacts of uranium mining could be harmful to the Indigenous communities of northern Québec due to their connections with the natural environment, their culture and their way of life.

In its 2024 feedback on *Bill 63: An Act to amend the Mining Act and Other Provisions* and on amendments to the *Mining Regulation*, the KEAC reiterated that the JBNQA establishes a special status and role for Inuit, Naskapi, Cree and the region's other inhabitants over and above that provided for in procedures involving the general public through consultation and representative mechanisms, whenever necessary to protect or give effect to the rights recognized by and in accordance with the JBNQA.

Finally, in much of its correspondence, the KEAC has emphasized that a lack of monitoring in the region has led to the abandonment of infrastructure and equipment, creating a negative legacy for the mining industry in Nunavik. In this regard, the KEAC notes that, given the KRG's experience and presence in the region, the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (natural resources and forests) should take steps to enable KRG participation in monitoring and enforcement activities in Nunavik.

## Protected Areas

The KEAC has observed with interest the creation of protected areas in Nunavik since the early 2000s. It has actively taken part in public hearings that led to the creation of the Tursujuq, Ulittaniujalik, Kuururjuaq and Pingualuit national parks, and regularly requests updates from the various stakeholders involved in protected areas in Nunavik. In 2011, the KEAC published a brief regarding the Québec government's commitment to protect 50% of the Plan Nord territory for purposes other than industrial activities by 2035. It has also reviewed several regulations, policies and strategies impacting on protected areas and biodiversity in the region, in particular the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act*, the *Policy on Québec's National Parks* and, more recently, *Plan Nature*.

## Communications

In terms of efforts to serve as a link between the region's population and government departments, and to promote environmental issues as well as regional initiatives, the KEAC has implemented several meaningful communication strategies since 2001.

In 2005, the KEAC adopted an official logo. The centre is an abstract image of certain elements of the environment (the earth, the sea and the sky), the sources of Inuit and Naskapi traditions. The rippling present in the upper portion of the circle suggests northern lights, an intrinsic symbol of the north, while the horizontal white line through the centre represents snow and ice. This central image is embraced by three figures with outstretched arms. Each form represents one of the three administrative bodies that name members to the KEAC: the KRG, the Government of Québec and the Government of Canada. These figures evoke the efforts of all to protect the environment in Nunavik and the social aspect of the KEAC's work. The colour blue in the logo represents the arctic climate that prevails in the region in which the KEAC exercises its mandate.



Finally, the blue and white colours of the KEAC logo are similar to those of the logo of the JBNQA, a principal element in the history of Nunavik and pursuant to which the KEAC was created.

In 2008, the KEAC began regular contributions to a regional magazine produced by the Makivik Corporation, now called *Tarralik*. The articles appear in the Green Corner column and provide information on KEAC actions, Nunavik community environmental initiatives, and major legislative changes with impacts on the environmental and social protection regime.

Also in 2008, the KEAC launched a website in Inuktitut, French and English ([www.keac-ccek.org](http://www.keac-ccek.org)). The website makes available information on the KEAC, its activities and main publications such as briefs, letters, annual reports, and action plans.

Finally, in its 2020–2025 Action Plan, the KEAC identified the creation of a communications plan as an integral part of its strategy to prioritize collaboration with various external partners, to strengthen its network of contacts, and to enhance its visibility.

# CHALLENGES



## Challenges

Paragraph 23.5.19 of the JBNQA provides for the establishment of a secretariat for the KEAC. The provision also provides that the governments of Québec and Canada shall equally maintain and equally fund the secretariat. Despite notable progress over the past 25 years, the KEAC continues to face challenges in securing adequate funding and resources to support its expanding mandate and ensure meaningful engagement with Nunavik communities. Budgetary constraints have underscored the importance of sustained government commitment and the need for innovative solutions to maintain the quality and inclusivity of the Committee's work.

On July 6, 2005, the KEAC and the MELCCFP signed an administrative agreement defining the terms and conditions for the allocation of financial resources by the MELCCFP for the KEAC secretariat and to determine the methods for managing those resources.

In 2018, the KEAC operating budget was increased significantly to reflect a surge in Committee activities, which had resulted from the growing number of development projects taking place in the region, legislative proposals submitted by the governments of Québec and Canada, and government climate change initiatives. The last significant budget increase occurred in 2023 when the salaries of KEAC employees were adjusted to better match the realities of the current job market.

The KEAC is the preferential and official forum for the governments of Canada and Québec, the KRG, the northern villages and the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach regarding laws and regulations related to the environmental and social protection regime for the territory covered under the JBNQA north of the 55th parallel. The KEAC considers that it is very important to have a presence in Nunavik, to be able to dialogue with community representatives, to visit with residents, and to understand the places the Committee is mandated to protect. The KEAC has always taken the position that to respect this guiding principle of paragraph 23.2.4 of the JBNQA, the members appointed to the KEAC should have concrete knowledge of the territory and be able to understand the realities of the people who live in the communities. It is in this perspective that the KEAC decided by resolution, at its very first meeting in January 1980, that its regular meetings would be held alternatively in Nunavik and the south.

In 2025, members appointed by the Government of Québec and secretariat staff could not always attend meetings in person due to budgetary constraints. In addition, the MELCCFP requested an overall reduction in travel within Nunavik going forward, contrary to the KEAC's very first resolution.

It is important that the budgetary contexts of the governments do not affect the mission of the KEAC, as defined in the JBNQA. Sufficient funding is required to enable the Committee to continue organizing meetings in Nunavik and for its members and secretariat staff to be able to attend these meetings in person. Given the KEAC's tripartite context, in-person discussions are critical for reaching consensus.



# FUTURE OBJECTIVES

## Future objectives

Since 2001, the KEAC has employed action plans to guide its activities in response to environmental and social protection issues in Nunavik, in accordance with the JBNQA and the NEQA. The KEAC pursues its orientations, objectives, actions and deliverables in collaboration with its strategic partners through a comprehensive, preventive and proactive approach.

The KEAC’s 2025–2030 action plan sets out three distinct orientations and six objectives.

<p><b>ORIENTATION 1</b></p> <p>To act as a consultative body to responsible governments concerning laws and regulations relating to the environmental and social protection regime and concerning the administration and management of the regime.</p>
<p><b>Objective #1:</b> Review laws and regulations relating to the environmental and social protection regime.</p>
<p><b>Objective #2:</b> Identify and consolidate means to improve knowledge about the KEAC and its mandate among Nunavik Residents as well as among local, regional and government authorities.</p>
<p><b>ORIENTATION 2</b></p> <p>Review environmental and social impact assessment and review mechanisms and procedures applicable in Nunavik, particularly with regards to harmonization, modernization, public participation and project impacts.</p>
<p><b>Objective #3:</b> Foster transparency and improvements to the environmental and social impact assessment review procedures applicable in Nunavik, i.e. under Section 23 of the JBNQA, the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> and the <i>Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement</i>.</p>
<p><b>Objective #4:</b> Document current best practices in impact assessment in Québec and Canada.</p>
<p><b>ORIENTATION 3</b></p> <p>Study major issues and make recommendations relating to the implementation of the environmental and social protection regime as set out in paragraph 23.2.1 of the JBNQA as well as the land use regime as per Section 7 of the JBNQA while remaining alert to central issues likely to affect quality of life in Nunavik.</p>
<p><b>Objective #5:</b> Ensure compliance with the rights of Inuit and Naskapi and protection for the natural and social environments during the review and implementation of development projects in the region.</p>
<p><b>Objective #6:</b> Remain informed of key elements likely to affect the quality of life in Nunavik.</p>

The JBNQA provides for the periodic review and updating of its sections in order to ensure their relevance over time. Specifically, paragraphs 23.3.12 and 23.3.13 provide for the updating of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 every five years if necessary to incorporate “technological progress and experience resulting from the assessment and review procedure”. The two schedules list the types of projects subject to or exempt from assessment and review procedure. Additionally, paragraph 23.7.10 stipulates that the provisions of Section 23 may be amended at any time with the agreement of the parties concerned.

In the 1980s, discussions were held regarding the updating of the schedules, although no further action was taken. In the 1990s, the KEAC, the KRG, the Makivik Corporation and the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC) worked together to recommend amendments to Section 23, notably to

improve public consultations, revise certain definitions, provide better support for members of the KEQC, as well as to propose changes to the schedules. In the early 2000s, new KEAC work made recommendations to proceed with the revision of schedules 1 and 2, to strengthen assessment and review procedures in particular with a view to improving public participation and transparency, and to introduce an assessment process for plans, programs and policies. In 2026, the schedules of Section 23 appendices have yet to be updated, despite technological improvements, the growing number of development projects in the region, and the experience that has been gained by local organizations in environmental assessment.

The KEAC has noted recent efforts to modernize impact assessment processes through provincial and federal legislation. It considers that a similar exercise is necessary for Section 23 of the JBNQA, especially after fifty years of application. The KEAC is prepared to support JBNQA signatories and the administrators of Section 23 in their reflections and efforts to modernize the environmental and social protection regime of Nunavik.

Finally, recent meetings with other agencies established under Sections 22 and 24 of the JBNQA have highlighted the importance of improving communication and collaboration between stakeholders with similar objectives in the region. Looking forward to the coming 50 years, and as stated in the KEAC action plan and communication strategy, the KEAC wishes to participate in strengthening environmental and social protection in the region through collaboration and the leveraging of diverse expertise and resources.



# CONCLUSION



## Conclusion

Since its first meeting in 1980, the KEAC has rigorously fulfilled its mandate to protect the natural and social environments in Nunavik. Through its commitment to Indigenous participation, its review of legislative and regulatory amendments and collaborative partnerships, the KEAC has contributed to the development of policies and practices adapted to safeguard both the land and the communities of the region.

KEAC achievements touch on a range of critical areas for northern communities, such as drinking water management, climate change adaptation, waste management, sustainable development and the creation of protected areas. These achievements reflect the KEAC's proactive approach to addressing complex environmental and social challenges, while fostering the harmonization of impact assessment processes and emphasizing public participation.

As Nunavik faces new opportunities and new challenges, the KEAC is confident that with the support of the three levels of government and its dynamic membership, the KEAC mandate will continue to play a vital role in shaping the future of Nunavik.





# ANNEXE

# Annexe 1

**Table 2**

**KEAC Secretariat — Subjects examined at the meetings held from 1996 to 2000**

- Abandoned mining exploration sites in Nunavik
- Act respecting the use of petroleum products
- Amendments to annexes A and B of the Environment Quality Act of Québec
- Amendments to schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 of the JBNQA
- Association québécoise pour l'évaluation d'impacts (AQEI)
- BAPE report on solid waste management
- BAPE report on water management in Québec
- BAPE-KEQC joint statement on waste management in Nunavik
- Budget submission of the KEAC
- Classification of Québec Rivers
- COFEX-North
- COFEX-North recommendation regarding the Kangiqsualujuaq marine infrastructure project
- Commission sur la gestion des matières résiduelles
- Canadian Counsel of Ministers of the Environment (CCME)
- Canadian Endangered Species Protection Act
- Consultation of northern advisory committees
- Discussion of the quorum of the KEAC
- Drinking water regulation
- Dust and quality of air in the villages
- EcoAction 2000
- Environmental assessment of development projects in the North
- Federal Administrator of the JBNQA; meeting with Mr. Sid Gershberg
- Five-Year Review of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
- Incinerator at Kuujuaq
- Information and public consultation in the framework of the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure
- Kativik Environmental Quality Commission; Joint meeting
- Kativik Regional Government; Meeting with representatives in Kuujuaq
- KEAC 1995-1996 Annual Report
- KEAC 1996-1997 Annual Report
- KEAC balance sheet
- KEAC budget
- KEAC membership
- KEAC Newsletter
- KEAC secretariat
- KEAC/KEQC secretariat
- KEQC document on Public information and consultations
- KEQC files
- KRG master plan
- Kuujuuaq wind turbine
- Meeting with the Mayor of Kangiqsujuaq
- Mining sites clean-up in Nunavik
- Minister of the Environment and Wildlife; Meeting with
- Northern Ecosystem Initiative (NEI)
- Northern Foreign Policy for Canada; Toward a
- Nunavik Commission
- Parks in Nunavik
- Pingualuit Park
- Policy regarding KEAC Secretary's performance review
- Presentation by KRG : water testing and mining site clean-up
- Provincial Administrator of the JBNQA; meeting with Mrs. Diane Jean
- Québec strategy on protected areas
- Raglan Mining Project; Letter to KEQC Chairperson regarding the
- Recommendations regarding solid waste incineration in Nunavik
- Regulation respecting solid waste
- Regulation respecting waste water disposal systems for isolated dwellings
- Resolution concerning outgoing members of the Committee (KEAC)
- Review of Directive 019 (mining industry)
- Review of Québec's environmental protection regime
- Revision of the Act respecting the use of petroleum products
- Revision of the environmental laws and regulations applied in the Kativik region
- Tommy Grey: In memory of
- Translation of French documents into English
- Visit of the Raglan Mining Site
- Waste management : meeting with representatives of the BAPE

NOTES:

BAPE : Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement du Québec  
 COFEX : Federal Review Panel (JBNQA)  
 \* : Subject relative to the KEAC management  
Underlined : Subject also examined in 2000