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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

April 10, 2026

Ian Morissette
Associate Deputy Minister of Mines
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests
5700 4th Avenue West, Suite D 327
Quebec City, QC
G1H 6R1

SUBJECT: Restoration of mining sites in Nunavik

Dear Mr. Morissette,

As part of its commitment to engage with northern partners, the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) holds annual meetings twice a year in northern communities. As such, the Committee held its 186th meeting on December 3–4, 2025, in the Naskapi community of Kawawachikamach. During this meeting, Cynthia Marchildon and Jean-François Grenier from the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (MRNF), presented the ongoing characterization activities at the Asbestos Hill (Purtunig) site, located in Nunavik, as well as its eventual restoration.

The KEAC continue to follow this file with great interest as the Purtunig site remains an environmental liability of great concern for the Inuit communities in terms of health and environmental impact. As such the KEAC thanks the MRNF for this presentation and continues to encourage the Ministry to integrate local knowledge within data acquisition activities at the site, including joint visits, which would benefit both the MRNF and Nunavik communities.

During the 186th meeting in Kawawachikamach, Naskapi representatives shared their concerns with the KEAC members and MRNF representatives regarding the health and environmental impacts of current and historical mining operations near their community. As land users, the Naskapi put a great deal of importance on environmental quality and the wellbeing of wildlife as these are directly linked to their cultural and personal identity as well as the health of their people. For decades, they have witnessed significant mining operations on their traditional area of interest. Furthermore, some areas that were mined between 1954–1982 by the Iron Ore Company of Canada (IOC), acquired by Rio Tinto in 2000, are considered as remediated by the government of Quebec but community members are worried about resurging contaminants and impacts of tailings and infrastructure still present.

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At its 187th meeting in Québec, the KEAC was pleased to hear that MRNF recently met with Naskapi representatives to discuss these concerns. In accordance with its mandate to oversee the application and administration of the JBNQA's environmental and social protection regime in Nunavik, the KEAC intends to also address the concerns of the Naskapi community regarding the impact these sites have on water, soil and air quality, as well as on the social environment. To do so, its members need to have a clear and detailed picture of the current state of abandoned mining sites located in the Naskapi territory of interest, the efforts currently being made by both the responsible industrial bodies and the MRNF to maintain the integrity of the environment, as well as past and intended communication efforts with regional authorities. As such the KEAC request to be advised as soon as this information becomes available. Furthermore, the KEAC encourages the ministry to continue discussions with the community of Kawawachikamach regarding this issue.

Best regards,



Pierre-Yves Gagnon
Chairperson, KEAC

cc.

Chief Louise Nattawappio, Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach