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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF THE 185TH MEETING OF THE KEAC (ADOPTED)

DATES: September 23-25, 2025

LOCATION: Conference room, Coop Hotel of Kuujjuarapik

PRESENT:

Appointed by the Kativik Regional Government (KRG)

Michael Barrett, Chairperson
Minnie Grey, Vice-Chairperson
Theresa Chemaganish

Appointed by the Government of Canada

Marc-Antoine Giroux (by videoconference)
Marie-Noëlle Fournier
Pierre-Yves Gagnon (by videoconference)

Appointed by the Government of Québec

André-Anne Gagnon,
Jasmin Bergeron
Paule Halley (by videoconference)

Environmental Analyst

Nancy Dea

Legislation Analyst

Christine Lambert

ABSENT:

Benjamin Patenaude, Executive Secretary

GUESTS:

Raphaël Joannis-Clément, Coordinator of Capital Projects and Waste Management, CNG
Jocelyn Douhéret, the Director General of Mining Policy and Development, MRNF
Andréanne Brière, Indigenous Relations, MRNF
Eddy Mast, Local Environmental Advisory, Whapmagoostui First Nation
Kristy Franks, Environment and Remedial Works Department, CNG
Hossein Shafeghati, Director, Municipal Public Works Department, KRG
Iheoma Nkwoji, Project manager of water infrastructure, KRG

OBSERVERS:

Claude Péloquin, Advisor, Regional Analysis Unit, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Billy Shecanapish, Environment Officer, Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach

Philippe LeBlanc-Rochette, Environmental Coordinator, Makivvik

1. The 50th anniversary of the JBNQA and the meeting of the northern committees

A meeting with representatives of the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment (JBACE) and the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC) was held on September 23, 2025 in Kuujjuaraapik/Whapmagoostui. Its purpose was to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) and to reflect on the work and mandates of the northern committees. Community representatives were also invited to the meeting, providing them an opportunity to express environmental concerns and to understand the role of each committee in relation to the environmental and social protection and hunting, fishing and trapping regimes under the JBNQA. The committees also shared their respective success stories and discussed the future direction of their work and potential collaborative opportunities.

Participants were also provided with a community tour and a visit to Université Laval's Centre d'études Nordiques research center.

2. Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The 185th meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 9 am on September 24, 2025, at the Co-op hotel in Kuujjuaraapik. The Chairperson opened the meeting and invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. Modifications were made, and the 185th meeting took place in accordance with the agenda appearing in the appendix.

3. Adoption of minutes from the 182nd, 183rd and 184th meetings

The minutes from the 182nd meeting were adopted. The adoption of the minutes from the 183rd and 184th meetings was postponed to a later date.

4. Administration

a) Budget

The expense report for the period May 2025 to August 2025 was reviewed.

b) Members

Marc-Antoine Giroux announced his resignation as a federal government appointee. He will be replaced by Claude Pélouquin. The members welcomed Mr. Pélouquin and thanked Mr. Giroux for his service to the KEAC.

c) Active files since the 184th meeting, correspondence, and housekeeping

The members reviewed the table showing the status of KEAC files since the last meeting and the list of correspondence that would be published on the website.

d) KEAC 2024-2025 Annual Report

The trilingual version of the 2024-2025 Annual Report was sent to the National Assembly on June 29, 2025. Furthermore, the Committee notes that the National Assembly recently changed its requirements and will accept electronic versions of the Committee's annual reports.

e) 2001-2026: 25-year retrospective

A draft table of contents for the KEAC's 25-year retrospective overview was presented and discussed.

5. Presentation on the new landfill site in Whapmagoostui

Raphaël Joanisse-Clément, Coordinator of Capital Projects and Waste Management with the Cree Nation Government (CNG) gave a presentation on the new landfill site in Whapmagoostui. This project was completed in 2025 and involved the construction of an access road as well as two platforms capable of handling contaminated metals and soil storage facilities for contaminated soil and waste metal. The site will be in operation for the next 20 to 30 years based on current community population trends. The project is a shared initiative between the communities of Kuujuaaraapik and Whapmagoostui. Mr. Joanisse-Clément also described the authorization conditions and monitoring measures for the project as well as the regional training initiatives for on-site staff.

The members discussed the issue of open-air burning. The concerns surrounding this practice and the required measures to reduce waste were also discussed. Following the presentation, the members were given a tour of the new landfill site.

6. Mining activity

a) Presentation from the MRNF regarding the Québec Plan for the development of Critical and Strategic Minerals

Jocelyn Douhéret, the Director General of Mining Policy and Development with the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (MRNF) gave a presentation on the feedback received regarding the 2025-2030 Québec Plan for the Development of Critical and Strategic Minerals (Plan). He was accompanied by Andréanne Brière, from the Indigenous relations office. The KEAC provided their feedback on the Plan in April 2025.

In general, the comments received by the MRNF from the Indigenous groups focused on issues including the free and informed consent of Indigenous peoples in the authorization process, the consideration of cumulative impacts, consultation upstream of exploration activities, updating the MRNF's Indigenous community consultation policy as well as increasing financial support for Indigenous participation in the consultation phase.

Mr. Douhéret also presented an overview of the Plan's guiding principles as well as a description of certain legislative measures within the current Mining Act. It was explained that these measures respond to some of the issues raised during the consultation and relate to provisions for environmental protection through land-use planning, communications and access to information with regards to mining activities, as well as measures to ensure site restoration at the end of the exploitation phase. The presentation concluded with a description of their support program for Indigenous participation in mineral resource development.

Following the presentation, discussion focused on the Plan's consideration of social impacts and social acceptability, training opportunities for Indigenous communities, and site restoration.

7. Residual materials management

- a) Presentation from the Whapmagoostui First Nation: cleanup of the Mid-Canada Line radar sites

Eddy Masty, Local Environmental Advisor from the Whapmagoostui First Nation gave a presentation on their community's involvement in the cleanup of the Mid-Canada Line radar sites. He was accompanied by Kristy Franks from the Environment and Remedial Works Department of the Cree Nation Government. Currently, a pilot project is focused on the cleanup of seven sites, which have been delegated among the Cree, Inuit and Naskapi. The results of the pilot project would be used to guide the clean-up of the remaining thirty-four sites. In 2023 community representatives conducted a series of assessments at the three sites delegated to Whapmagoostui. The results of which led to the development of a work plan and budget for their remediation.

Following the presentation, the members were informed that the Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Nations sent a joint letter to the Ministry of Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change and Parks (MELCCFP), in this case, the project proponent, to request the creation of a steering committee to guide future remediation work and encourage collaboration between the proponent and the Nations. The MELCCFP has since declined this request.

The members were informed that another letter will be sent by the Nations to the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC) to address the issue of social acceptability.

- b) Open-air burning at northern landfills

An overview of a meeting held on August 5, 2025, with the Occupational and Environmental Health Coordinator from the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services (NRBHSS) was presented. Its purpose was to discuss the implementation of the Bureau d'Audiences Publiques sur l'environnement's recommendations regarding the practice of open-air burning of residual materials at northern landfill sites as presented in their 2021 consultation report on the treatment and management of final waste.

Action Item

- **Prepare a draft letter addressed to the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and provincial administrator to follow up on this matter.**

- c) Remediation activities at Killiniq

On August 11, 2025 KEAC representatives attended a meeting in which Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) provided an update on their ongoing remediation activities at the Killiniq site, which is focused on the weather station, its associated fuel reservoirs, community landfill and drum storage site. An additional meeting between the DFO and relevant stakeholders is scheduled for November 24 during which the results of the 2025 field work will be presented. The government of Nunavut has been invited to attend to continue discussions regarding the remediation of other portions of the site.

8. Water management

a) Presentation from the KRG Municipal Public Works

Hossein Shafeghati, the director of the KRG's Municipal Public Works Department and Iheoma Nkwoji, project manager of water infrastructure at the KRG gave a presentation on northern community drinking and wastewater infrastructure, their management policy as well as the current issues affecting drinking water treatment and delivery systems in Nunavik.

The presentation included an overview of the funding and support programs for the development and maintenance of water infrastructure, training programs for water delivery staff and treatment plant operators as well as the human resource-related challenges faced by communities. Mr. Shafeghati noted that regional factors that affect infrastructure development, maintenance and delivery include environmental conditions, such as permafrost, geology, and the effects of climate change, demographic factors such as population growth, as well as shortcomings in current water treatment practices and limited operating budgets.

Following the presentation, discussion focused on examples of water management systems in other northern regions, public health concerns, the present state of water delivery systems in Nunavik as well as the NRBHSS' and the KRG's initiatives to improve these.

Action Item

- **Draft a letter to the provincial administrator and the responsible government ministries to bring this matter to their attention and request the creation of a working group.**

b) KEAC drinking water governance document

The most recent draft of the Nunavik drinking water governance document was presented.

Given its geographic location, population size, unique climatic conditions (including permafrost), and limited access to technical resources and infrastructure, drinking water management in Nunavik is a complex issue. The KEAC has therefore decided to draft a document aimed at documenting drinking water governance in Nunavik and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved. The document has been adopted following revisions and will be published on the KEAC's website.

9. Biodiversity and Conservation

a) MELCCFP 2025–2030 Ministerial plan for clientele development and promotion of wildlife-related activities

The members discuss MELCCFP's 2025–2030 Ministerial plan for clientele development and promotion of wildlife-related activities aims to address issues that lie outside the scope of Québec's Plan Nature and seeks to structure wildlife-related activities as well as orient the future development of initiatives from the ministry and its partner organizations. The Plan's official consultation was launched on July 31 and is scheduled to conclude on October 20, 2025. As per Article 23.5.6 of the JBNQA, KEAC will review the documents and send its comments.

b) Draft letter concerning *Iluiliq* national park project

At its 184th meeting, the KRG brought to the attention of the KEAC certain issues hindering progress on the project to establish Iluiliq National Park, particularly the differing interpretations of the location of the northern boundary. This issue was discussed among the members, and a draft letter is currently being prepared.

10. Environmental Assessment in Nunavik

- a) Bill C-5: An Act to enact the Free Trade and Labor Mobility in Canada Act and the Building Canada Act

The purpose of *Bill C-5: An Act to enact the Free Trade and Labor Mobility in Canada Act and the Building Canada Act* is to expedite the approval of certain projects of national interest related to Canada's economic future and national security is discussed. In its present form, the Bill does not affect the review of projects in the JBNQA territory; however, as the list of projects of national interest evolves, this may change. The federal government also established a Major Projects Office whose mandate is to fast-track projects by streamlining and accelerating regulatory approvals and by structuring and coordinating financing when needed. The office serves as a point of contact and includes an Indigenous Advisory Council to support meaningful participation of Indigenous peoples.

The KEAC also participated in a meeting held by the First Nations of Québec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute on September 17, 2025, in which the context of the Act was presented as well as various judicial appeals.

- b) MELCCFP Regulatory Amendment Intentions

The most recent series of regulatory amendments that the MELCCFP intends to propose regarding the *Regulations relating to the assessment and review of the environmental impacts of certain projects* (REEIE), the *Regulations on the supervision of activities based on their impact on the environment* (REAFIE) and contaminated soil regulations, is presented. The KEAC will submit its comments using the comment form provided by the MELCCFP and will monitor the matter to submit formal comments when the regulatory amendments are pre-published in the Official Gazette.

- c) Update from the Nunavik Impact Assessment Working Group

The Impact Assessment Working Group held its first workshop on June 11, 2025, in Kuujjuaraapik, with representatives from the communities of Kuujjuaraapik, Whapmagoostui, and Umiujaq. The workshop consisted of a series of presentations, discussions, and activities aimed at raising awareness of impact assessment processes in Nunavik and encouraging community participation. The next workshops will be held on October 7, 2025, in Kuujjuaq and on February 12, 2026, in Quaqtaq.

- d) Update on the Strange Lake mining Project

The members are informed that the Kangiqsualujjuaq Liaison Committee held a meeting on September 11, 2025, with representatives of the KEQC and the community to promote a better understanding of the provincial review process under the JBNQA.

- e) The 2026 IAIA workshop

The participation of KEAC analysts in a workshop as part of the 45th Annual Conference of the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA), to be held in Quebec City from May 19 to 22, 2026, has been approved. They will present on the challenges of duplication and harmonization of impact assessment procedures in Nunavik.

11. Miscellaneous

- a) Recap of the meeting of the northern committees on September 23, 2025

The members discussed the highlights of the meeting between the KEAC, JBACE and HFTCC. They recognized the importance of maintaining and enhancing a collaborative relationship with the JBNQA northern committees on files of common interest. They also concluded that the significance and results of this meeting should be brought to the attention of the Federal and Provincial Administrators.

Action Item

- **Draft a letter to the JBACE and HFTCC to thank them for their participation.**
 - **Draft letters to the Federal and Provincial Administrators to inform them of this meeting and discussion results.**
- b) Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Conference on the environmental and social protection regime and the hunting, fishing and trapping regime as laid out in Sections 22, 23 and 24 of the JBNQA

ECCC is currently planning a conference on the environmental and social protection as well as the hunting, fishing and trapping regimes established under the JBNQA in recognition of the Agreement's 50th anniversary.

- c) Sustainable development Commissioner 2025 report

The KEAC received a copy of the 2025 Sustainable development Commissioner's report. It is only available in French. The members discussed potentially translating Chapter 5 of the report, which is entitled "Development and Conservation in the North – Challenges and Characteristics" and for which the KEAC provided feedback.

12. Next meetings

It was confirmed that the 186th meeting would be held from December 2 to 4, 2025 in Kawawachikamach and the 187th meeting would be held on February 23 and 24, 2026 in Quebec City.

Benjamin Patenaude
Executive secretary
Prepared in February, 2026
Adopted on September 17th, 2026.

Appendix- Agenda of the KEAC's 185th meeting

1. The 50th anniversary of the JBNQA and the meeting of the northern committees

2. Call to order and adoption of the agenda

3. Adoption of minutes from the 182nd, 183rd and 184th meetings

4. Administration

a) Budget

- i. Follow up on items addressed at the 184th meeting
- ii. Expense report for the period June 2025 to August 2025

b) Members

c) Active files since the 184th meeting, correspondence, and housekeeping

d) 2024-2025 Annual Report

e) 2001-2026: 25-year retrospective

5. Presentation on the new landfill site in Whapmagoostui

6. Mining activity

- a) Presentation from the MRNF regarding the Québec Plan for the development of Critical and Strategic Minerals

7. Residual materials management

- a) Presentation from Whapmagoostui First Nation: Cleanup of the Mid-Canada Line radar sites

b) Open-air burning at northern landfills

c) Remediation activities at Killiniq

8. Water management

- a) Presentation from the KRG Municipal Public Works team about the main infrastructure required for drinking water management in Nunavik, their management policy and the main issues

b) Drinking water governance document

9. Biodiversity and Conservation

- a) MELCCFP 2025–2030 Ministerial plan for clientele development and promotion of wildlife-related activities

b) Draft letter concerning Iluliliq national park project

10. Environmental Assessment in Nunavik

- a) Bill C-5: An Act to enact the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act and the Building Canada Act

b) MELCCFP Regulatory Amendment Intentions

c) Update from the impact assessment working group

d) Update on the Strange Lake mining Project

e) The 2026 IAIA workshop

11. Miscellaneous

- a) Recap of the meeting of the northern committees on September 22 and 23, 2025
- b) ECCC Conference on the environmental and social protection regime and the hunting, fishing and trapping regime as laid out in Sections 22, 23 and 24 of the JBNQA Sustainable development Commissioner 2025 report

12. Next meetings