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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF THE 186TH MEETING OF THE KEAC (ADOPTED)

DATES: December 2 to 4, 2025

LOCATION: The Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach—community hall

PRESENT:

Appointed by the Kativik Regional Government (KRG)

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

Appointed by the Government of Canada

Claude Péroquin (by videoconference)
Marie-Noëlle Fournier

Appointed by the Government of Québec

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

Environmental Analyst

Nancy Dea

Legislation Analyst

Christine Lambert

ABSENT:

Benjamin Patenaude, Executive Secretary
Pierre-Yves Gagnon, Member appointed by the Government of Canada

GUESTS:

Jeremy Ennish, Mining Liaison Officer, NNK
Benjamin Jancewicz, Creative Director, NNK
Emilie Dalpe-Turcotte, Land-use planner, KRG
Jean Francois Grenier, Engineer, MRNF
Cynthia Marchdilion, Head of the Abandoned Mine Site Restoration and Inspection Division
Melissa MacDonald, Programming meteorologist, ECCC
Brittany Murphy, Health and Air Quality Program Officer, ECCC

OBSERVERS:

Annie-Claude Frigon, Junior Policy Analyst, ECCC
Billy Shecanapish, Environment Officer, NNK
Lindsay Richardson, project manager, NNK
Jeremy Ennish, Mining liaison officer, NNK
Benjamin Jancewicz, Creative director, NNK
Philippe Leblanc-Rochette, Environmental Coordinator, Makivvik

1. Meeting with Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach representatives

The members visited the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach band office and met with community representatives. Following which a community tour was provided.

2. Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The 186th meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 9 am on December 2, 2025, at the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach's (NNK) community hall and took place in accordance with the agenda appearing in the appendix.

3. Adoption of minutes from the 183rd, 184th and 185th meetings

The minutes from the 183rd and 184th meetings were adopted and an update on the status of the minutes from the 185th meeting was given.

4. Administration**a) Budget****i. Expense report for the period September to October 2025**

The expense report for September and October 2025 was reviewed.

ii. MELCCFP request to adapt annual planning

On October 3, 2025, the KEAC was contacted by a representative of the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP) by email to request the Committee review its meeting plans for the remainder of the current year, in particular to ask to limit the number of trips within the territory to one per year.

The request was made in the context of the Quebec Government's current budgetary situation and consequent travel restrictions placed on their employees and, therefore, the KEAC members named by Québec.

A response was sent on November 18, 2025, to remind him of the Committee's role and explain the necessity of maintaining the practice of holding in-person meetings in the region.

iii. MELCCFP proposal to meet with its Environmental and Strategic Assessment Department

On November 13, 2025, Vanessa Chalifour contacted the KEAC to announce her new role as advisor on the northern environmental protection regime and to propose regular meetings with the environmental committees under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA). Their purpose is to promote a mutual understanding of the Committee's requirements, provide strategic and administrative support, as well as enhance collaboration between the KEAC and the Quebec Government.

Action Item

- **Confirm the KEAC's availability to meet with Ms. Chalifour.**

iv. KEAC Human Resources Management and Renumeration Policy, update to section 29

Updates to Chapter 29 of the Employee Compensation, Benefits, and Working Conditions Policy, governing travel expenses, are adopted by resolution (No. 2025-1).

v. The 2026–2027 operating budget

The application for the 2026–2027 operating budget is in preparation. Furthermore, an update on the status of the deliverables under the KEAC's Action Plan for 2026–2027 was given.

b) Members

Claude Peloquin was officially named as a federal government appointee.

c) Active files since the 185th meeting, correspondence, and housekeeping

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

d) 2001–2026: 25-year retrospective overview

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

5. Environmental Assessment in Nunavik

a) Federal Government's "One Project, One Assessment": Public Consultation Period on the Collaborative Approach with the Provinces

On October 20, the KEAC sent the federal government its feedback on the "One Project, One Assessment": Public Consultation Period on the Collaborative Approach with the Provinces. The letter addressed the issue of the multiplication of impact assessment procedures in Nunavik, particularly regarding projects under federal jurisdiction, and noted the terms and overriding nature of the JBNQA's impact assessment regime must be respected.

The letter also referred to the Nunavik Impact Assessment Working Group 2022 report that noted the preferred option is non-application of the Impact Assessment Act in Nunavik. Finally, the letter asked whether

co-operation agreements with the provinces could include jurisdictions such as Makivik and treaty-based review boards.

b) Update from the Impact Assessment Working Group

The Nunavik Impact Assessment Working Group held its second impact assessment community workshops on October 7, 2025, in Kuujuaq with representatives from the communities of Kangiqsualujuaq, Aupaluk, Inukjuak and Kawawachikamach. Representatives from the KRG, the Nayumivik Landholding Corporation of Kuujuaq, Makivik and the Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board were also in attendance. The workshop consisted of a series of presentations, discussions and activities aimed at encouraging awareness of the impact assessment processes in Nunavik as well as promoting community participation. The third and final workshop is scheduled for February 12, 2026, in Quaqtaq.

c) 2026 Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment

The 2026 Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment is scheduled for May 19 to 22, 2026 in Quebec City. Its central theme addresses communication strategies related to impact assessment in an era of misinformation and disinformation. The KEAC will have both a poster and presentation titled “Challenges of IA process multiplication in Nunavik”.

d) Collaboration between northern committees

Discussions were held between the KEAC, the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment and the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee during recent months. Regular follow-up meetings between the three committees are planned with a view to improving communication on files of common interest.

e) Ongoing public consultation: Proposed regulatory amendments aimed primarily at optimizing water management and the regulatory framework governing certain activities

An overview of the MELCCFP's most recent Omnibus for the amendment of 8 regulations was analyzed.

6. Residual materials management

a) Open-air burning

Representatives from the KEAC took part in a meeting held on November 12, 2025, with the Environmental Health Department of the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services as well as the Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services. Its purpose was to follow up on 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.

A letter concerning the creation of a working group to assist in advancing this file is getting drafted.

Action item

- **Once adopted, send the letter to the provincial administrator and the deputy minister of health**

and social services.

b) The remediation of Killiniq

On November 24, 2025, KEAC representatives attended a meeting during which Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) presented the results of the 2025 remediation work at the Kiliniq site. The work was carried out by the firm Englobe in conjunction with workers from the community of Kangiqsualujjuaq and archaeological survey and soil sampling. The results of the latter should be available in March 2026. Furthermore, matters related to the responsibility of continuing with remediation activities on other parts of the site were discussed among the parties.

7. Land-use

a) Meeting between the MRNF, Public Land Sector and the KRG

On October 23, 2025, KEAC representatives attended a meeting between the KRG and the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (MRNF). It addressed concerns surrounding the issue of leases, specifically in the context of outfitting camps. These include the lack of regular inspections by the MRNF, shortcomings in communication, lease transfers, renewals and modifications, matters related to the role of the ministry in the context of environmental emergencies, as well as punitive and enforcement measures for violations.

A letter highlighting these issues is being drafted. Additional concerns related to recent amendments to the regulations surrounding outfitting activities and the provision of financial guarantees for site remediation were discussed.

Action item

Contact the management of the MELCCFP regional office to define the Department's role and responsibilities in responding to environmental emergencies at outfitter camps in Nunavik.

8. Mining activity

a) Remediation of Asbestos Hill mining site

Cynthia Marchdilion and Jean Francois Grenier from the Mine Sites Reclamation Department of the MRNF gave a presentation on the recent remediation work at the Asbestos Hill (Piturniq) Mine Site. It addressed the mandate of the Mine Sites Reclamation Department, the history and legal status of the Asbestos Hill mine site, the results of the MRNF's inspections conducted between 2008 and 2019, subsequent initiatives and assessment studies as well as the future direction of the remediation work.

The presenters explained that the results of the site inspections in conjunction with the growing concerns of local land users led to its inclusion in the Quebec government's management framework for contaminated sites. Since 2019, the MRNF has undertaken a series of characterization studies, created a follow-up committee and developed a 2025–2028 plan for in-depth site assessments that focus on various physical and chemical analyses of the site to guide future remediation work.

Jeremy Ennish, Mining Liaison Officer and Environment Officer, Billy Shecanapish from the NNK were also

in attendance for this presentation. They were accompanied by the NNK's Creative Director Benjamin Jancewicz. The NNK representatives noted their concern for contaminated sites as well as abandoned exploration and mining sites near their community.

Action Item

- **Contact representatives of the MRNF for a presentation on the status of the abandoned mine sites in the Schefferville area.**

b) The Strange Lake Rare Earth mining project

At present, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada is currently awaiting the proponent's impact statement and has announced a funding program for Indigenous and public participation. The Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC) met with community representatives from Kangiqsualujjuaq on September 11, 2025, and subsequently attended the Parnisimautik meeting from September 23 to 25 2025 to give a presentation on the provincial process under the JBNQA. Furthermore, the Kangiqsualujjuaq Liaison Committee attended the Quebec Mines conference, during which they met with representatives of the NNK and discussed their concerns with the project.

c) Mining exploration and development

The members and NNK representatives discussed the authorization conditions of the Tata Steel iron mining project and the present shortcomings with respect to monitoring measures. These include the availability of the monitoring committee's publications, air and water quality test results, as well as communication of blasting activities and a lack of clarity with regards to redress procedures for violating authorization conditions.

Action item

- **Invite representatives of the MELCCFP to give a presentation on monitoring and follow-up measures in project authorizations at a future meeting.**

9. Water management

a) Drinking water

The KEAC's drinking water governance document has been published and is available on the Committee's website. Furthermore, a letter concerning the issues related to drinking water management in Nunavik and the KEAC's request to form a working group is being drafted.

Action item

Finalize the letter for approval by the members.

10. Biodiversity and Conservation

a) Iluiliq national park project

A draft letter addressing certain issues hindering progress on the proposal to establish Iluiliq National Park—including differing interpretations of the location of the northern boundary—is presented and discussed.

Action item

- **Finalize the letter and send it to the Provincial and Federal Administrators.**

11. Presentation from Environment and Climate Change Canada on Extreme Cold Warnings and Cold Programs

Melissa MacDonald, a programming meteorologist and Brittany Murphy, a Health and Air Quality Program Officer with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) gave a presentation on their Health and Air Quality Forecast Services (HAQFS) program. The HAQFS program introduces a new colour-tiered warning system for extreme weather events and seeks to communicate information about their associated risks and hazards as well as the probability of their occurrence to the public. The warning system applies to events associated with extreme hot and cold weather, each of which falls under a distinct program. The cold weather program is currently under development and seeks to establish a system of regional thresholds for issuing warnings and a public guide for assessing impacts. However available threshold data for northern environments is limited and as such, ECCC intends to bridge this knowledge gap through a series of engagement sessions and public consultations. On the other hand, the hot weather program is nearly complete and is expected to be in operation by Summer 2026. Under this program a public guide for assessing impacts has been created. The hot weather warning system issues alerts related to air quality via ECCC's monitoring network. Furthermore, the provinces and territories may also use their discretion to change the degree of a hot weather warning issued by ECCC.

Following the presentation, discussion focused on the consideration of wind speed under the cold weather warning system and how warnings can be communicated in northern communities.

12. Miscellaneous

- a) Bill 1, Québec Constitution Act, 2025 and Bill C-15 The Budget Implementation Act

The potential impacts of proposed Bill 1, The Québec Constitution Act, 2025 and the federal Bill C-15 The Budget Implementation Act on the conditions of the JBNQA were discussed.

- b) ECCC Conference on the environmental and social protection regime and the hunting, fishing and trapping regime under Sections 22, 23 and 24 of the JBNQA

An update on the organization and scheduling of ECCC's conference on the environmental and social protection regime as well as the hunting, fishing and trapping regime under Sections 22, 23 and 24 of the JBNQA was presented.

- c) Green corner article

The Green Corner Article for the 138th edition of Tarralik has been submitted. It was decided that the next Green Corner article would address the workshops held by the Nunavik Impact Assessment Working Group.

- d) Integrated energy resource management plan, MÉIÉ

A description of the Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie's consultation on their integrated energy resource management plan was discussed.

13. Next meetings

The 187th meeting is scheduled for February 23 and 24, 2026 and the 188th meeting would be held on May 25 and 26, 2026. Both meetings would be held in Quebec City. A plan for the remaining meetings for 2026–2027 was also presented.

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

Appendix—Agenda of the KEAC’s 185th meeting

- 1. The 50th anniversary of the JBNQA and the meeting of the northern committees on September 22 and 23, 2025**
- 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 on the community of Whapmagoostui initiative for the cleanup of the Mid-Canada Line radar sites
 - b) Open-air burning
 - c) The remediation of 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) Development of the 2025–2030 Ministerial plan for clientele development and promotion of wildlife-related activities
 - b) Draft letter concerning Iluiliq national park project

10. Environmental Assessment in Nunavik

- a) Modernization of Section 23 of the JBNQA
- b) Bill C-5: An Act to enact the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act and the Building Canada Act
- c) MELCCFP Regulatory Amendment Intentions
- d) Update from the impact assessment working group
- e) Update on the Strange Lake mining Project
- f) The 2026 IAIA workshop

11. Miscellaneous

- a) Re-cap 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