



ᑭᑎᑎᑦ ᑕᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ ᑕᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ ᑕᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ
Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF THE 150TH MEETING OF THE KEAC (ADOPTED)

DATES: December 13 and 14, 2016

LOCATION: Domaine Catarqui, Quebec City

PRESENT:

Appointed by the Kativik Regional Government (KRG)

Michael Barret
Laina Grey

Appointed by the Government of Canada

Alexandre-Guy Côté
Jean-Yves Savaria (by conference call on December 13 and 14), Vice-Chairperson

Appointed by the Gouvernement du Québec

Paule Halley
Sylvie Létourneau
Julie Samson, Chairperson

Executive Secretary

Benjamin Patenaude

Environmental Analyst

Stephanie Benoit (by conference call on December 13 and 14)

ABSENT:

Anthony Ittoshat, appointed by the KRG
Vacant, appointment by the Government of Canada

GUEST:

Jeanette Carney, Master's student, Memorial University of Newfoundland (by conference call on Dec. 13).

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The 150th meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 9 a.m. on December 13, 2016, at the Domaine Catarauqui in Quebec City. The chairperson opened the meeting and invited the members to propose modifications to the agenda. Modifications were made and the 150th meeting took place in accordance with the agenda below:

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of the 147th and 148th meetings
3. Budget, secretariat and members
 - a) Budget
 - b) Secretariat
 - c) Members
 - d) KEAC active and priority files
 - e) KEAC annual report, 2015–2016
 - f) KEAC website
4. Environmental assessment in Nunavik
 - a) Environmental assessment procedures guide
 - b) Review of the federal environmental assessment and authorization procedure under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (2012)*
 - c) Revision of the environmental assessment and authorization regime, consultations on Bill 102, *An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act to Modernize the Environmental Authorization Scheme and to amend Other Legislative Provisions, in Particular to Reform the Governance of the Green Fund*
 - d) Social impacts
 - e) Environmental assessment procedures applicable in the Moinier region
 - f) Revision of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 of the JBNQA and the *Environment Quality Act*
 - g) Framework regarding public participation, Québec government
 - h) Working group on public participation, MDDELCC
5. Mining activities
 - a) Aboriginal community consultation policy specific to the mining sector, MERN
 - b) Overview of mining projects in Nunavik
 - c) Presentation on the Asbestos Hill mine
6. Residual materials management
 - a) Contaminated site, request for assistance from the Northern Village of Kuujuuaq
 - b) Mid-Canada Line clean-up project

7. Water management

- a) Consultations on the 2016–2030 Québec Water Strategy
- b) Guidelines for the amendment of the *Act respecting Compensation Measures for the Carrying out of Projects Affecting Wetlands or Bodies of Water*

8. Review of the *Fisheries Act*

9. Federal government workshop on climate change in Kuujuaq

10. Miscellaneous

- a) Green Corner Article – *Makivik Magazine*
- b) Meeting in Chisasibi

11. Dates and location of the next meetings

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 147th and 148th meetings

The members reviewed the minutes of the 147th and 148th meetings and both were adopted with modifications.

3. Budget, secretariat and members

a) Budget

At the last meeting, the members decided to transmit a letter to the federal and provincial administrators concerning: 1) the recurring problem of KEAC access to its annual subsidy due to administrative delays; and 2) the possibility of increasing annual funding to permit the KEAC to properly fulfil its mandate. A draft version of the letter was presented and the members provided feedback. It was decided the letter should be revised and transmitted as quickly as possible.

The KEAC expense report for the period from September to October 2016 was reviewed.

b) Secretariat

On November 30, 2016, Marie-Josée Allard of the faculty of historical sciences at Université Laval was contacted by the KEAC about the possibility of identifying an archivist to re-organize the files at the KEAC secretariat in Kuujuaq. It was decided that the development of an electronic archive should be the main focus of the undertaking. The members requested a meeting with Ms. Allard to discuss the matter more fully.

c) Members

The members were informed that Alexandre-Guy Côté was officially appointed to the KEAC by the Government of Canada and were updated regarding the appointment by the federal government of a new member to the other vacant position.

d) KEAC active and priority files

The members provided feedback on the summary table of KEAC active and priority files.

e) KEAC annual report, 2015–2016

The members were updated on the preparation of the 2015–2016 annual report.

f) KEAC website

The members were informed that the English and French versions of the new KEAC website are online. The Inuktitut version is however still under development.

4. Environmental assessment in Nunavik

a) Environmental assessment procedures guide

The members were updated on the preparation of the Inuktitut version of the environmental assessment procedures guide. It was decided that, once the guide has been finalized in all three languages, it will be submitted to the KEAC sub-committee which will determine the steps to be taken to set up a focus group made up of external partners.

b) Review of the federal environmental assessment and authorization procedure under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (2012)*

A summary of the workshop that reviewed the federal environmental assessment and authorization procedure under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* was presented to the members. The workshop was held on October 25, 2016, in Kuujuaq and was chaired by the Makivik Corporation. Its purpose was to initiate discussions between regional representatives and obtain feedback. The opinions expressed at the workshop contributed to a presentation delivered by the Makivik Corporation on November 1, 2016, to the expert panel mandated to conduct the review of the federal procedure. The members also discussed the KEAC contribution to this exercise. In 2011, the brief entitled *KEAC Position Paper on the Review of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* was presented to the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development. The members' recommendations were not however taken into consideration in the amendments made to the Act in 2012. It was decided that the KEAC's initial position is still valid and that the 2011 brief should be resubmitted under the current review. As well, it was decided that the 2002 *Opinion and Recommendations of the KEAC regarding Double Environmental Assessment in Nunavik* should be enclosed with the 2011 brief.

c) Revision of the environmental assessment and authorization regime, consultations on Bill 102, *An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act to Modernize the Environmental Authorization Scheme and to amend Other Legislative Provisions, in Particular to Reform the Governance of the Green Fund*

On November 24, 2016, the KEAC brief on Bill 102 was presented to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment of the National Assembly. The comments contained in the brief focus on the impacts of amendments to Chapter I of the *Environment Quality Act* for development projects in Nunavik as well as the advisability of updating the environmental authorization regime in Nunavik so the region can take advantage of the same amendments proposed for the south. The members discussed the hearing of the Committee on Transportation and the Environment.

d) Social impacts

The members continued to discuss the preparation of a work proposal for the study of social impacts under the environmental assessment procedures in Nunavik. It was decided that the proposal should address the issue in accordance with the KEAC mandate. As well, the members were informed that the International Association for Impact Assessment is scheduled to hold its annual conference from April 4 to 7, 2017, in Montreal.

e) Environmental assessment procedures applicable in the Moinier region

The members continued to discuss the particular status of the Moinier region (an area situated south of the 55th parallel, near Schefferville) and the applicable environmental assessment procedures. As the members did not have enough time for discussion of this topic, it was postponed to the next meeting. It was also indicated that the Naskapi had tabled a brief as part of the consultations on Bill 102.

f) Revision of schedules 1 and 2 of Section 23 of the JBNQA and the *Environment Quality Act*

The members discussed the revision of the schedules of Section 23 of the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement* (JBNQA). The revision is long overdue and the concerned parties should continue working on this file despite the difficulties that have been encountered. It was decided that the KEAC will continue to encourage work on this file and that a letter will be transmitted to the provincial administrator and the Makivik Corporation to enquire about progress and to stress the importance of continuing this work. A copy of the 2009 *KEAC Position Paper on the Strengthening of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Review Procedure in Nunavik* will be enclosed.

g) Framework regarding public participation, Québec government

The members were informed that consultations on the Québec government's framework regarding public participation were started on November 7, 2016. The framework proposes seven guidelines to improve public participation as well as its increased and more effective use of public participation by the government when developing public policy. The members discussed KEAC involvement in this file and asked to be kept informed of the timetable for the consultations.

h) Working group on public participation, MDDELCC

The members discussed the activities of the working group on public participation created by the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques (sustainable development, the environment and the fight against climate change, MDDELCC). It was indicated that this file has not progressed since the working group's last meeting in December 2015. The members recognized the importance of the working group's continued activities. It was decided that follow-up should be conducted with an MDDELCC representative.

5. Mining activities

a) Aboriginal community consultation policy specific to the mining sector, MERN

The members were informed that work on the Aboriginal community consultation policy by the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles (energy and natural resources, MERN) is still underway. It was decided that the members would finalize their letter and transmit it promptly.

b) Overview of mining projects in Nunavik

A summary of active mining projects in Nunavik was presented. The members briefly discussed the status of each project.

c) Presentation on the Asbestos Hill mine site

Jeanette Carney, a Master's student at Memorial University of Newfoundland, delivered a presentation on her research project on the benefits and adverse effects of the Asbestos Hill mine. Ms. Carney opened her presentation with a description of her research objectives and methodology, including both archival research and interviews with former employees who live in Salluit and Kangiqsujaq. The results of her analysis focus on the social and environmental impacts of the Asbestos Hill mine while in operation and after its closure in 1984. Ms. Carney concluded her presentation by explaining that the Asbestos Hill mine set a precedent for mining policies and environmental protection measures in Nunavik. The Asbestos Hill mine also represents a case study for assessing potential economic and social impacts of mining projects on northern communities.

6. Residual materials management

a) Contaminated site, request for assistance from the Northern Village of Kuujuaq

The members were briefed on possible funding sources that could help the Northern Village of Kuujuaq to cover the costs of remediation work on a contaminated site in its territory.

b) Mid-Canada Line clean-up project

The members were informed of recent correspondence between the MDDELCC and the Department of National Defence concerning the work plan proposed by the Québec government for the continuation of the Mid-Canada Line clean-up project. The members were also briefed on the other characterization studies conducted in October 2016.

7. Water management

a) Consultations on the 2016–2030 Québec Water Strategy

The members provided further feedback on the draft brief on the 2016–2030 Québec Water Strategy following the consultations held from October 7 to 28, 2016. It was decided that the brief should be transmitted promptly once the requested changes have been made.

b) Guidelines for the amendment of the *Act respecting Compensation Measures for the Carrying out of Projects Affecting Wetlands or Bodies of Water*

The members were briefly informed about the consultation organized by the MDDELCC in Montreal on October 14, 2016, on guidelines for the amendment of the *Act Respecting Compensation Measures for the Carrying out of Projects Affecting Wetlands or Bodies of Water*. The KEAC also recently received a document covering the major orientations of the bill. Even though the KEAC was unable to participate on the day of the consultation due to a scheduling conflict, the members would like to be kept informed of developments.

8. Review of the Fisheries Act

The members continued to discuss the preparation of a letter regarding the amendments made to the *Fisheries Act*. It was decided that, once finalized, the letter would be transmitted promptly to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard.

9. Federal government workshop on climate change in Kuujjuaq

A summary of the federal government workshop on climate change held in Kuujjuaq from October 26 to 28, 2016, was presented to the members. The workshop was organized by the KEAC in cooperation with Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), the Makivik Corporation, the KRG, Ouranos, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Health Canada. The purpose of the workshop was to gather feedback from regional organizations that can help government agencies to develop adaptive strategies and promote awareness of the impacts of climate change as well as to move towards the development of green energy and infrastructure. The members were also informed that, following up on the workshop, INAC had requested KEAC participation in gap-analysis to update current knowledge on climate change problems in Nunavik. It was decided to accept the INAC proposal on the condition that the KEAC be kept informed of progress and the results of the analysis, and that it be acknowledged in the final report.

10. Miscellaneous

a) Green Corner article – *Makivik Magazine*

At the last meeting, it was decided that the next article for the Green Corner in *Makivik Magazine* would cover the federal government workshop on climate change held in Kuujjuaq from October 26 to 28, 2016. The members were informed that the article is nearly complete and will be submitted to the editor shortly.

b) Meeting in Chisasibi

The members were briefed on the meeting of a Hudson Bay environmental consortium held from November 7 to 10, 2016, in Chisasibi. The purpose of the consortium is to bring together government, research community and regional organization representatives to review the issues of cumulative impacts and regional environmental governance. A secretariat has been established to coordinate the consortium's activities, including a series of upcoming meetings to identify priority environmental issues along the east and west shores of Hudson Bay.

11. Dates and location of the next meetings

It was decided that the 151st meeting would be held on March 15 and 16, 2017, in Kuujjuaq. The dates and location of the 152nd meeting will be confirmed at a later date.



Benjamin Patenuade
Executive Secretary
June 13, 2017