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1. Call to order and adoption of agenda

The 121st meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 1 p.m. on October 28, 2009, in Quebec City. The Chairperson invited the members to suggest changes to the agenda. Moved by Ms. Halley and seconded by Mr. Tremblay, the agenda was adopted unanimously. The meeting therefore took place in accordance with the agenda shown below.

1. Call to order and adoption of agenda
2. Revision of the minutes of the 118th, 119th and 120th meetings
3. Business arising from the 120th meeting and correspondence
 - a) Consultation on the creation of a regional commission on natural resources and the territory
4. Budget, secretariat and members
 - a) Members
 - b) Internal management rules
 - c) Secretariat
 - d) Annual report 2008–2009
 - e) Five-year action plan 2009–2014
 - f) Budget and future projects
5. Drinking water quality
 - a) Limits of the residential drinking water tank cleaning research project
 - b) Reallocation of the budget
6. Parks and protected areas
 - a) Biodiversity
7. Northern Plan
 - a) Invitation to a consultation meeting regarding the Northern Plan
 - b) Letter from the JBACE
8. Québec Mineral Strategy
9. Waste management
 - a) Working Group on Waste Management

- b) MDDEP response to the *Regulation respecting the Landfilling and Incineration of Residual Materials*
- 10. Section 23 of the JBNQA
 - a) Follow-up to the KEAC position paper
 - b) Information and public consultation procedure
 - c) CEAA
- 11. Website
- 12. Miscellaneous
 - a) Committee on Transportation and the Environment
 - b) MDDEP consultation regarding greenhouse-gas emissions
 - c) Makivik Magazine
- 13. Date and place of the next meeting

2. Revision of the minutes of the 118th, 119th and 120th meetings

The members proposed major changes to the French version of the minutes of 118th meeting. It was suggested that the minutes could be adopted subsequently by conference call or email. Minor changes to the minutes of the 119th and 120th meetings were also requested, and their adoption was postponed to the next meeting.

3. Business arising from the 120th meeting and correspondence

a) Consultation on the creation of a regional commission on natural resources and the territory

At the KEAC's 119th meeting in March 2009, a presentation was made by Meredith Griffiths (Socio-Cultural Researcher at the KRG Renewable Resources, Environmental and Land Use Planning Department) concerning the creation of a regional commission on natural resources and the territory in Nunavik. In September, Ms. Griffiths transmitted to the KEAC a draft version of the related final report including the results of the first public consultations. Further KEAC feedback was requested but, due to the tight deadline, the members were unable to comment on the work completed to date. Moreover, the members discussed the mission of the future commission, as well as its responsibilities, scope, operation and possible overlapping, in particular, with the Northern Plan.

4. Budget, secretariat and members

a) Members

The new Government of Canada appointee, Mr. Yantha, was introduced to the members. He works for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in the James Bay Implementation Office.

The members also welcomed Mr. Arngak to his first KEAC meeting. Mr. Arngak is a new KRG appointee. He is President of the Avataq Cultural Institute.

b) Internal management rules

It was announced that, for 2009–2010, Mr. Kalingo would act as Vice-Chairperson. Moreover, Mr. Barrett continues to assume the duties of Chairperson.

The members discussed the difficulties encountered by Québec each time that it must appoint by order in council a chairperson or vice-chairperson. The members decided to transmit a letter to Line Beauchamp, the Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, to point out these difficulties and to recommend that the related appointment procedures be simplified.

c) Secretariat

The members welcomed Ms. Benoit who has been acting as the Interim Executive Secretary since September 2009. With Ms. Benoit's contract expiring at the end of November, the members discussed how the position should be filled. The members examined Ms. Benoit's application and decided to hire her as Executive Secretary for one year starting in January 2010.

d) Annual report 2008–2009

In September, the members asked that Nancy Dea be contracted to draft the KEAC's 2008–2009 annual report. Ms. Dea held the position of Executive Secretary for most of the year in question. Ms. Dea joined the meeting and presented a draft version of the report for comment by the members. The next production stages were also discussed.

The members discussed the number of copies of the report to be transmitted to the National Assembly and the KEAC's various partners.

e) Five-year action plan 2009–2014

The KEAC's five-year action plan 2009–2014 has been completed. The Executive Secretary was directed to quickly post the action plan on the KEAC website and ensure its follow-up at the next meeting.

f) Budget and future projects

The members reviewed the draft version of the KEAC's financial statements for the fiscal year 2008–2009. They also reviewed a statement of expenditures dated October 23, 2009, for the fiscal year 2009–2010.

The members again discussed the fact that the KEAC does not receive its funding on time. Pursuant to its agreement with the Québec government, the KEAC should receive its annual funding at the beginning, not in the middle, of each fiscal year. Despite repeated letters to officials on this topic, the KEAC is required to spend its surplus (which is needed to offset the late payment of its

annual funding) before it receives its annual funding payment. The members felt that a meeting should be organized with those responsible for this matter.

The members also discussed various projects to be carried in the current year. It was agreed that Ms. Dea would develop three information guides based on a Northwest Territories initiative. The guides will describe waste disposal methods. Specifically, two guides will be designed for use by the Northern villages and organizations in the region: one will deal with hazardous waste management, including storage and transportation, and the other with emergency oil-spill procedures. A third guide also dealing with hazardous waste management will be prepared for the general public.

The members also discussed the possibility of designing community posters on poor waste management methods outside of the villages, specifically in relation to hunting and fishing activities. Different methods to survey community interest regarding recycling were also discussed, in particular to orient future KEAC actions.

5. Drinking water quality

a) Limits of the residential drinking water tank cleaning research project

Messrs. Barbeau and Lévesque, as well as Ms. Papineau, met with the members to discuss the limits of their research and recommendations concerning the residential drinking water tank cleaning research project. They identified the microbial health risks produced by the storage of drinking water in tanks. Even when the microbial quality of distributed water is good, contamination can be caused by cleaning activities, sediment accumulation and bio-film degradation. In addition to being carried out on a regular and preventive basis, the researchers stated that drinking water tanks should be cleaned following contamination or complaints concerning water taste and smell. Mr. Barbeau nonetheless advised that the frequency of cleaning should be very low (for example once annually). He also pointed out that water tanks must be emptied completely in order to remove all deposited sediment and eliminate potential sources of contamination. To prevent contamination, high-pressure water jet cleaning seems to be more effective than wiping with a cloth or sponge.

The members discussed the challenges presented by the researchers' findings and conclusions. For more thorough results, Mr. Barbeau suggested that the experiment be re-conducted with large water tanks like those used in the region. The members asked Mr. Barbeau to prepare a proposal for this purpose.

The members decided to submit for comment the research report produced by the researchers to the parties that helped fund the project, including the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services.

b) Reallocation of the budget

The members reviewed the final expenditures under the residential drinking water tank cleaning research project and accepted the budget changes explained by Mr. Barbeau. The Executive Secretary was directed to pay the final portion of the amount owing under the contract, which is to say 20% of the resource envelope that was planned and managed by the KEAC.

6. Parks and protected areas

a) Biodiversity

Mr. Poisson, along with Ms. Brunelle and Ms. Grey, provided information on the *Atlas de biodiversité du Québec nordique* (Northern Québec atlas on biodiversity). Mr. Poisson explained the objective, the production stages and the expected spin-offs of the Atlas. With investments and funding totalling \$1.5 million over three years, the Atlas will develop knowledge of the territory of Québec north of the 49th parallel. The Atlas will map and classify Northern ecosystems and species using various existing inventories and work carried out by various stakeholders. According to Mr. Poisson, the Atlas will subsequently make it possible to easily develop protection, conservation and adaptation measures that take into account sustainable development and climate change. Even political decisions could eventually be based on the related inventories and the nordicity index, including decisions on protected areas and possible development projects.

The members asked whether the Atlas might play a role in the development of the Northern Plan and many other announced projects. A few members also asked how Inuit traditional knowledge would be incorporated into the Atlas.

7. Northern Plan

a) Invitation to a consultation meeting regarding the Northern Plan

The KEAC received an invitation from Nathalie Normandeau, the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife and the Minister responsible for the Northern Plan, to attend a consultation meeting regarding the Northern Plan, scheduled to take place on November 6, 2009. The members agreed on the importance of the meeting since it would concern Northern development. The members directed the Executive Secretary to confirm within the prescribed period that the Chairperson and another member would be present at the meeting. In the event that a third seat should become available, another member expressed interest in attending the meeting.

b) Letter from the JBACE

Last October, the KEAC was informed of a letter sent by the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment (JBACE) to Nathalie Normandeau proposing the

synchronization of issues with a view to the environmental assessment of the Northern Plan. In its letter, the JBACE mentioned that it should be consulted during the development of the Northern Plan, that it needs to obtain further information on the process, and that the Plan should be subject to a strategic environmental assessment. The KEAC is of the same opinion as the JBACE on these issues.

8. Québec Mineral Strategy

The members reviewed the letter transmitted in September 2009 to Nathalie Normandeau, the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, containing comments and recommendations related to the Québec Mineral Strategy and, more specifically, mining development in Nunavik. Among other points, the letter mentioned the importance of taking into account the environmental protection regimes that apply in the North; identifying the planned consultations procedures; extending protection for protected areas from mineral exploration and mining; fostering the participation and involvement of residents and communities; identifying priority land uses; regulating the development of mineral exploration and mining transportation infrastructure in Nunavik; and carrying out a strategic environmental assessment of mining policies.

The members also discussed the *Mining Act* which is apparently under revision but regarding which the KEAC has not yet been consulted. The members stated that it is important for the KEAC to be consulted on this matter.

9. Waste management

a) Working Group on Waste Management

Ms. Dea informed the members that the Working Group on Waste Management will be dissolved shortly to be replaced by a new group of regional representatives with a mandate to develop a strategic action plan concerning waste management. A meeting for this purpose is planned for early 2010. Since past KEAC work in this field has proven productive, the members agreed to select representatives to take part in the development of the action plan. The Executive Secretary as well as Messrs. Kalingo and Arngak should be available to participate at the first meeting of the new committee.

b) Regulation respecting the Landfilling and Incineration of Residual Materials

In July 2009, the KEAC received a written response from Madeleine Paulin, the Deputy Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, regarding KEAC recommendations on the amendments to section 99 of the *Regulation respecting the Landfilling and Incineration of Residual Materials*. At the request of Ms. Paulin, at their upcoming meetings the members will study waste disposal methods that may serve as an alternative to open-air burning. The members

directed the Executive Secretary to transmit a letter to Ms. Paulin stating the KEAC's intentions.

10. Section 23 of the JBNQA

a) Follow-up to the KEAC position paper

The members indicated that the KEAC position paper concerning the strengthening of the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure in Nunavik had not yet been posted on the KEAC website and that minor corrections needed to be made. The KEAC has furthermore not received any response regarding the paper since it was transmitted in May 2009.

b) Information and public consultation procedure

The members discussed the need to disseminate information before public consultations and the related role of the KEAC. The members proposed to respond to the March 2009 letter from the Chairperson of the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC), Peter Jacobs, in which he expressed his interest in meeting with the members. The members agreed to continue efforts to arrange a meeting with Mr. Jacobs.

c) CEAA

Mr. Théberge of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) joined the meeting to discuss various topics, including the five-year action plan, the KEAC's budget and the various position papers prepared by the KEAC over the last few years. Mr. Théberge took advantage of the opportunity to re-affirm the CEAA's commitment to reinforcing the credibility of and compliance with the *James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA)*. In this respect, he informed the members that the CEAA website will include new tools: a section describing the JBNQA and a guide on projects under assessment.

11. Website

The members informed the Executive Secretary that the KEAC website needs to be updated. Since the website provides an important overview of the KEAC's activities, the presentation of certain data must be improved. To this end, the members asked that certain information be modified, adjusted and harmonized on the French and English versions of the site. The members also indicated that the capacity to share documents on the closed website should be improved.

12. Miscellaneous

a) *Committee on Transportation and the Environment*

The members asked the Executive Secretary to follow up on the participation, in the winter of 2010, of the KEQC before the Québec government's Committee on Transportation and the Environment.

b) *MDDEP consultation regarding greenhouse-gas emissions*

The members reviewed a consultation document posted on the website of the *ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs* (sustainable development, environment and parks, MDDEP) entitled *Le Québec et les changements climatiques – Quelle cible de réduction d'émissions de gaz à effet de serre à l'horizon 2020* [Québec and climate change – 2020 greenhouse-gas emission targets. Given the detailed nature of the information and the tight deadline to submit feedback, the KEAC will not issue a position paper on the document.

c) *Makivik Magazine*

A member noted that in the summer 2009 issue of *Makivik Magazine*, Ms. Dea was indicated as the KEAC contact. Since Ms. Dea has not been the KEAC Executive Secretary since January 2009, the members asked that *Makivik Magazine* be informed of the change. Moreover, the members asked that Mr. Kalingo be indicated as the contact for communications in Inuktitut.

13. Date and place of the next meeting

The KEAC's 122nd meeting will take place on January 11, 12 and 13, 2010, in Kuujjuaq.



Stéphanie Benoit
Executive Secretary
March 15, 2010