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Comité consultatif de l'environnement Kativik  
Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee

## MINUTES OF THE 128TH MEETING

(APPROVED)

**DATES:** July 5-7, 2011

**PLACE:** Kuujuaq and Monts-Pyramides Camp, Nunavik

**PRESENT:**

**KRG appointees:**

Michael Barrett, Chairperson  
Adamie Kalingo, Vice-Chairperson

**Government of Canada appointees:**

Claude Abel  
Gilles H. Tremblay

**Québec government appointees:**

Paule Halley  
Denyse Gouin  
Sylvie Létourneau

**Executive Secretary:**

Nathalie Girard

**ABSENT:**

Charlie Arngak, KRG appointee

**GUESTS:**

Peter May, Owner, Monts-Pyramides Camp  
Nancy Dea, Project Manager, Abandoned Mineral Exploration Site Clean-up  
Project, KRG

## 1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda

The 128th meeting of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee (KEAC) began at 3 p.m. on July 5, 2011, in Kuujjuaq. The Chairperson invited the members to suggest changes to the agenda before it was adopted unanimously. The meeting took place in accordance with the agenda shown below.

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda
2. Update regarding minutes of the 125<sup>th</sup>, 126<sup>th</sup> and 127<sup>th</sup> meetings
3. Business arising from the 127<sup>th</sup> meeting and correspondence
  - a) *Public consultation on the amendment of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*
  - b) *Residual hazardous materials guides and posters*
  - c) *Drinking water tank cleaning project*
  - d) *Environmental assessment regime in Nunavik*
  - e) *Public consultation on the amendment of the Regulation respecting the Quality of Drinking Water*
  - f) *Study on groundwater in Nunavik in relation to climate change*
4. Parc national Mont-Pyramide project
5. Budget, secretariat and members
  - a) *Budget*
  - b) *Secretariat*
  - c) *Internal management*
  - d) *Filing*
  - e) *Website*
  - f) *2010–2011 annual report*
6. *Bill #14: Act respecting the development of mineral resources in keeping with the principles of sustainable development*
7. Abandoned mineral exploration site clean-up project
8. Plan Nord
9. Miscellaneous
  - a) *KEAC presentation to KRG Regional Council*
10. Date and place of the next meeting

## **2. Update regarding the minutes of the 125<sup>th</sup>, 126<sup>th</sup>, and 127<sup>th</sup> meetings**

The members were advised that the minutes of the 126<sup>th</sup> and 127<sup>th</sup> meetings were adopted via e-mail correspondence. They will be posted on the KEAC website and distributed as usual.

The KEAC would like to note that an error was printed in the minutes of the 125<sup>th</sup> meeting. The paragraphs appearing under item 9, concerning the topic of mines, should have read:

### **9. Mines**

#### *a) Renewal of the operation authorization: Raglan mine*

In the framework of an MDDEP public consultation, the members reviewed the issuance of a depollution attestation for the Raglan mine in Nunavik. The members in particular discussed the challenges posed by the pollution generated by the activities of this mine, specifically light and dust pollution. In addition to discussing emission sources, the members noted other serious impacts on the natural and social environments, as well as proposing tentative solutions. The members asked the Executive Secretary to prepare a letter regarding the KEAC's concerns on this topic.

#### *b) Project by New Millennium Capital Corporation*

One member informed the KEAC about a direct-shipping iron-deposit mining project, involving New Millennium Capital Corporation and the Naskapi First Nation. The mining company should soon begin the environmental impact assessment of this project. A description of the project will be transmitted to the members shortly.

Claude Abel proposed the re-adoption of the 125<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes which was seconded by Denyse Gouin. These changes will be made to the version of the minutes appearing on the KEAC website.

## **3. Business arising from the 127th meeting and correspondence**

The members reviewed the list of correspondence and requested that all correspondence received in the future be scanned and posted on the "members only" section of the website so that they could be referred to when necessary.

#### *a) Public consultation on the amendment to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*

In February, the KEAC transmitted a position paper to the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development in the framework of the revision of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. In March, the KEAC received an invitation to take part in a panel of witnesses on this subject. However, due to the

recent federal elections, this meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled when the House is reconstituted and Committees are organized.

*b) Residual hazardous materials guides*

The Executive Secretary presented the final version of the residual hazardous materials guides as well as the posters to accompany each of the three guides.

Only a few changes were requested. Once the changes are integrated, these guides will be printed and distributed in each of the 14 villages and Nunavik organizations that may handle this type of waste.

The members suggested a follow-up action to further underline the importance of managing residual hazardous waste. They asked the Executive Secretary to determine the price of printing magnets and stickers that could be distributed to households throughout the region.

*c) Drinking water tank cleaning project*

The Executive Secretary noted that she and the KEAC Chairperson had met with the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau (KMHB). The KMHB had many questions regarding the project and were interested in participating but felt the project was rather large and that it might not be a priority for them.

Meanwhile, the Executive Secretary spoke with a Government of Nunavut representative regarding their stand on this issue. The Nunavut Public Health Department recommends cleaning drinking water tanks on a yearly basis although this is rarely complied with. It was also noted that in Nunavut, it is the responsibility of the owner of the building or housing authority to do the cleaning. Cleaning methods were not mentioned, nor was there a definitive answer as to whether or not the Government of Nunavut would like to participate in the KEAC study.

Finally, during the 127<sup>th</sup> meeting the members had asked that the Executive Secretary try to identify and contact other potential financial partners. A tentative commitment of \$5,000 was received from the University of British Columbia. It was also noted that after speaking with Mr. Barbeau researcher at the École Polytechnique de Montréal) regarding this task, it might be difficult and time consuming to find financial sponsors. Also, Mr. Barbeau's team would not be available to undertake work on the project until next year.

The members discussed continuing with the project. In order to have a definitive recommendation for Nunavik more scientific validation is needed which will require significant funding. Certain organizations were suggested as front-runners for possible financial partners. The governing bodies in other Inuit regions may also be possible participants. It was suggested that the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services also be contacted in order to present them with the project.

It was recommended that the Executive Secretary contact Mr. Barbeau to communicate the committee's interest in continuing with the project and to ask for assistance in finding financial supporters. It was also requested that a general letter be drafted that could be sent to pertinent organizations to request funding.

*d) Environmental assessment regime in Nunavik*

In April, 2010, the KEAC transmitted a letter to Makivik and the KRG to inform them that the MDDEP was open to the idea of revising the schedules of Section 23. In its letter, the KEAC suggested that a formal request would need to be submitted to the MDDEP to begin the revision. Since then, the KEAC was informed that an official request from Makivik has been drafted and will be sent to the MDDEP shortly. A copy will also be sent to the KEAC.

The members discussed the possibility of hiring a consultant to prepare a document that would outline the committee's recommendations for the revision of the schedules. These recommendations will eventually be sent to all JBNQA stakeholders. It was agreed that a mandate for the consultant would be presented at the next meeting. The mandate will list the KEAC's objectives concerning the revision and set a clear direction for the consultant in order to prepare the KEAC document.

It was noted, that the MDDEP is revising the Schedules found in Chapter 22 of the JBNQA in response to a request from the JBACE.

In parallel with the revision of the Schedules, it was reported that the MDDEP has initiated a working group whose mandate it is to propose courses of action leading to the revision of the public consultation procedure that applies to Nunavik under Chapter 23 of the JBNQA. This working group will be established this fall.

*e) Public consultation on the amendment of the Regulation respecting the Quality of Drinking Water*

A copy of the KEAC position paper was transmitted to Diane Jean and an acknowledgement of receipt was received.

*f) Study on groundwater in Nunavik in relation to climate change*

The Executive Secretary noted that the researchers contacted the KEAC office, as agreed at the 127<sup>th</sup> meeting, to obtain contact information and to facilitate the proper integration of the project in Nunavik.

#### **4. Parc national Monts-Pyramides Project**

The meeting was continued on July 6 from the Pyramid Mountain Camp, an outfitter operation located within the area being considered for protection under the title of Parc national Monts-Pyramides, the fourth such park in Nunavik.

Peter May from Kuujjuaq and the camp owner, took the time to explain the camp's history to the members. The camp was originally built, although on a different location, by his father Bob May, in 1952. They moved the camp to its current location, across from Mont-Pyramide and along the George River, in 1964. The camp is primarily used for fishing expeditions and Mr. May explained that the salmon stock has greatly fluctuated during the last 20 years, which affects the number of visitors they received.

Regarding the park, a working group was organized with representatives from the MDDEP, KRG and the 3 communities of Kuujjuaq, Kangiqsuallujuaq and the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach. They have had 4 meetings to discuss this park project and have asked that the study area be expanded to include a nearby projected protected area. Studies within the proposed park area have been ongoing, with many researchers staying at the Mont-Pyramide camp. This new study area covers 5,000km<sup>2</sup>, and if it should represent the park limits, it would be one of the largest in Québec. The proposed park will protect parts of the George River, Ford Lake and Helen's Falls as well as numerous wildlife species including bear, caribou, fish, small mammals and a variety of birds of prey.

It was also pointed out that this park would be easily accessible to visitors due to the close proximity to several villages and the fact that there is an airstrip already in place.

The official name requested for the park, Ulittaniujalik, is an Inuit word referring to the watermarks that appear on the mountains in the area, notably on Mont Pyramide, facing the main camp. These are evidence of an ancient lake that receded during the last ice age.

The status report is being prepared by KRG as well as an environmental assessment. The MDDEP is preparing the park's Master Plan. Joint public hearings organized by the MDDEP by virtue of the Parks Act and in conjunction with the KEQC environmental assessment, are being tentatively organized for November. The KEAC wish to remain informed regarding these hearings.

## **5. Budget, secretariat and members**

### *a) Budget*

The Executive Secretary presented a budget update for the months from February 2011 to May 2011. The 2010-2011 financial statements provided by Raymond, Chabot, Grant, Thorton, were also presented to the members for review. They asked that the item listed as housing expenses be changed to read office and housing expenses. A final version of the financial statements will be ready for distribution during the next meeting.

It was requested that a letter be sent to the MDDEP to acknowledge receiving the 2011-2012 grant in a timely manner, which allows the KEAC to easier facilitate their work.

*b) Secretariat*

Nathalie Girard informed the members that she could no longer continue her role as Executive Secretary for the KEAC. Nancy Dea will temporarily assume the position until Stéphanie Benoit returns from her maternity leave in January 2012.

The members passed a resolution for the hiring of Ms. Dea from July to January 2012. It was proposed by Claude Abel and seconded by Denyse Gouin.

*c) Internal management*

A letter was received from Diane Jean, Deputy Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, to thank the KEAC for their suggestion regarding the nomination process for provincial members and she also informed the committee that an internal process has been put into place to improve the appointment process for the KEAC chairperson and vice-chairperson.

It was asked that a letter be sent to the federal administrator requesting the appointment of a third federal member, a position vacant since August 2010.

Michael Barrett, appointed by KRG and Adamie Kalingo, appointed by KRG are Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2011-2012.

*d) Filing*

The Executive Secretary explained that in March 2010, an archivist came to the KEAC office in Kuujuaq to file both archival and recent documents, which had not been done since 2003. These documents were also scanned and now available in digital form. It was asked that these scanned documents be made available on the KEAC intranet.

*e) Website*

There was an error made during the December 2010 KEAC meeting when referencing the number of visits to the website. The average number of visits per month on 2010 was actually 1888 rather than 62.

*f) 2010–2011 annual report*

The French version of the annual report has been finalized after comments from the members were received by e-mail. It is currently being translated into English, after which it will be reviewed and then sent for Inuktitut translation. Due to the fact that the report is published in three languages, it will be difficult to respect the June 30 deadline.

**6. Bill #14: Act respecting the development of mineral resources in keeping with the principles of sustainable development**

The KEAC was invited to submit a position paper to the National Assembly of Quebec on Bill No. 14. Members discussed various items on the bill and decided to write a brief similar to that which was sent in 2010 on Bill No. 79. Sustainable development, land replacement, rehabilitation, exploration and public consultation are topics that are of great interest to the KEAC.

**7. Abandoned Mineral Exploration Site Clean-up Project**

The Committee welcomed Nancy Dea, Project Manager for the Abandoned Mineral Exploration Site Clean-up Project for KRG. She explained that in 2002, KRG and the Makivik Corporation undertook an inventory throughout the territory of Nunavik to verify 193 possible contaminated sites, reminisce of mining exploration activities, mapping activities or outfitter camps. These sites are almost equally split between the areas known as the Labrador Trough and the Ungava Trough. To date, 90 of these sites have been confirmed as abandoned mineral exploration camps and further categorized as 18 major, 27 intermediate & 45 minor sites. The remainder of the sites has yet to be inventoried.

In 2007 an agreement was signed between Fonds Resor-Action Nunavik, KRG, Makivik Corporation and Ministère des Ressources Naturels et Faune that provided for the financial and technical contributions that would allow for clean-up work to proceed on the 18 major sites. To date, clean-up activities on 11 of the 18 major sites have been completed. The 7 remaining sites should be completed in 2011.

Ms. Dea pointed out that there is also an ongoing partnership with mining companies in the area who provide lodging, transportation and technical assistance during the fieldwork as well as undertaking clean-up activities on various sites on their own accord.

The Northern Villages have also participated during the last 5 years of clean-up work and have been a great help with the hiring of local staff and the organization of the material before being shipped south to various recovery facilities.

A new agreement, with the same stakeholders, is being drafted to allow for work to begin on the group of intermediate sites. The members asked that a follow-up be done as this project continues.

## **8. Plan Nord**

The Québec Conservation Round Table, to which Michael Barrett has been appointed on behalf of KRG, has held 3 meetings to date. The group functions with a Québec-wide mandate with sub-committees being created that will include one for the Northern region. Among other things, the table may give advice to the MDDEP Minister regarding the protected areas and areas to be sheltered from industrial development on the Plan Nord territory.

A public consultation will soon be announced regarding the commitment by the Government of Québec to set aside 50% of Plan Nord territory for environmental protection, safeguarding biodiversity, promoting our natural heritage as well as for various types of development that do not rely on industrial activities.

Members were informed that the JBACE were consulted on a privileged basis by the MDDEP on this issue, while the KEAC had not consulted at all. The members are asking that a letter be sent to Diane Jean, Deputy Minister of MDDEP, asking that the KEAC be consulted on a privileged basis, before the general public, as so stated in the JBNQA. The KEAC also wants the MDDEP departmental staff to be more aware of the Committee, its mandate and activities to avoid such situations. A second letter will be sent to request a meeting with the Minister of MDDEP during the next KEAC meeting in order to present the Committee its mandate and examples of recent projects.

Furthermore, the KEAC has asked a consultant to produce a discussion paper proposing a definition for "industrial activities" in connection with the government's commitment to protect 50% of the Plan Nord territory. This could be used by the KEAC when the public consultation will eventually be announced by the government.

## **9. Miscellaneous**

### *a) KEAC presentation to the KRG Regional Council*

The Federal Review Panel (COFEX-North), the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission (KEQC) and the KEAC have been requested by the KRG to make a presentation to its Regional Council. The KEAC presentation should clearly set out the mandate, the action plan and the documents produced and work realized by the Committee.

## **10. Date and place of the next meeting**

The KEAC's next meeting will take place on October 17 & 18.

Nancy Dea  
Executive Secretary  
October 24, 2011