



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

**Comité consultatif
pour l'environnement
de la Baie-James**

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**MINUTES OF THE 77th MEETING
OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON THE ENVIRONMENT
(ADOPTED)**

DATE: June 15, 1993

LOCATION: Cree Regional Authority office
1 Place Ville Marie
Suite 3438
Montréal, Québec

PRESENT: Robert Daigneault, Chairman, Québec
Gilles Frisque, Québec
Alain Soucy, Québec
Diane Morneau, Canada
René Boudreault, Canada
Phillip Awashish, CRA
Willie Iserhoff, CRA
Alan Penn, CRA
Paul F. Wilkinson, CRA
Hervé Chatagnier, Secretary, JBACE

ABSENT: Marie Lessard, Québec
Yvan Vigneault, Canada
Jean-Guy Charest, Canada

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and the following agenda was adopted.

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the minutes of the 76th meeting
3. Park action plan (MLCP)



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4. Language policy within the context of the environmental protection regime
 5. Bill 61: Act to amend the Environment Quality Act
 6. Ethics in the context of Northern research
 7. Contamination of groundwater at Chisasibi
 8. Draft amendment to the Regulation respecting the quality of the atmosphere
 9. Internal management:
 - 9.1 JBACE Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 1993-1994
 - 9.2 JBACE membership
 - 9.3 Tabling of documents
 - 9.4 1992-1993 Annual Report
 10. Logging in the James Bay
 11. Varia:
 - 11.1 Invitation to the next general meeting in Waswanipi
 - 11.2 Land use plan
 - 11.3 Report on the state of Québec's environment
 - 11.4 Fish consumption guideline
 - 11.5 Assessment of consultation on Hydro-Québec's Development Plan
 12. Date and location of next meeting.

2. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 76th MEETING**

The minutes of the 76th meeting were adopted with minor changes.

3. **PARK ACTION PLAN (MLCP)**

Prior to a previous meeting, the JBACE received an MLCP document entitled La nature en héritage : Plan d'action sur les parcs, announcing that eighteen areas north of the 50th parallel are slated to become parks, representing a total of over 57 000 km. The sites are presently being incorporated into Québec's development plan for public lands. The MLCP hopes to create four parks over the next few years, including one at Lake Albanel and the Témiscamie River, and one in the Otish Mountains.

After discussing the matter, the Committee decided to write to the Minister of Recreation, Fish and Game to make the following comments:

- . proposals for parks are automatically subject to assessment under Schedule 1, point 5 c), Section 22, of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA);
- . paragraph 24.3.6 a) of the JBNQA stipulates that the Native people shall continue to have the right to harvest wildlife in parks;

- . the JBACE recommends that territories reserved for the development of parks in the territory governed by Section 22 of the JBNQA undergo preliminary environmental assessment as provided for under paragraph 22.5.14 of the JBNQA.

4. LANGUAGE POLICY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REGIME

The Committee studied a letter from the Vice-Chairman of the Cree Regional Authority, Diom Roméo Saganash, dated January 29, which refers to the above-mentioned language policy. The Committee had written to the Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees, Matthew Coon Come, on September 20, 1991, to propose a policy governing the language of communication for written project proposals submitted for impact assessment and review under Section 22 of the JBNQA. The Committee recommended that proponents be required to draft detailed summaries of their impact study in English. These summaries, which should be produced within a short time frame, must be informative enough to enable the reader to formulate an enlightened opinion on the project in question.

In reading Mr. Saganash's letter, Committee members noted that his position appears to be similar to that of the JBACE. For this reason, it was decided to write to Mr. Saganash informing him of this and suggesting that the Committee could expand on its proposal by stipulating that the Crees must automatically be consulted by proponents during this process to ensure that the summaries are relevant.

5. BILL 61: ACT TO AMEND THE ENVIRONMENT QUALITY ACT

This item was carried over to the agenda of the next meeting.

6. ETHICS IN THE CONTEXT OF NORTHERN RESEARCH

A memorandum regarding this issue was addressed to the JBACE Chairman and Secretary by Alan Penn on February 22. Mr. Penn requested that the Committee study the possibility of recommending the adoption of a code of ethics for all research conducted in the James Bay area.

The Secretary tabled two such codes, one from the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and the other from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Mr. Penn explained that the request for a code of ethics was initially made by Walter Hughboy, Chief of the Wemindji Band. He explained that many researchers have conducted fieldwork in the area in recent years and that the Crees are becoming increasingly sceptical about their activities.

Following a discussion, the Secretary was asked to draft a code of ethics based on the various existing codes of this type. The Secretary was also asked to draw up a list of people who oversee research in northern regions.

The Committee agreed that following an initial adoption of the draft code, it will be subject to consultation before its final adoption.

7. **CONTAMINATION OF GROUNDWATER AT CHISASIBI**

The Committee studied a letter from Alan Penn to JBACE member Jean-Guy Charest, dated February 19, 1993, regarding the above-mentioned issue. Mr. Penn wrote on behalf of Violet Pachanos of the Chisasibi Band Council to obtain technical assistance for the cleanup of soil which has been contaminated by the village's inadequate septic tank system.

After discussing the issue, the Committee agreed to write to the regional director for the DIAND asking him to provide technical expertise and ensure the collaboration of other government departments, if required.

8. **DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATION RESPECTING THE QUALITY OF THE ATMOSPHERE**

On April 14, 1993, Québec's Deputy Minister of the Environment submitted a technical version of draft amendments to the Regulation respecting the quality of the atmosphere to the JBACE. This draft is still at the pre-consultation stage. The Committee was asked to submit its comments on the proposed amendments by May 28, 1993.

The Chairman and the Secretary explained that the proposed amendments do not appear to be relevant to the James Bay region, particularly since very few industries specifically targeted by the Regulation are located on James Bay territory.

Alan Penn volunteered to study the draft and submit comments at the next meeting.

9. INTERNAL MANAGEMENT

9.1 JBACE Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 1993-1994

The CRA-appointed members informed the Committee that the Cree Regional Authority should be appointing a Chairman and Vice-Chairman sometime soon.

9.2 JBACE membership

The Committee discussed the fact that several Québec- and Canada-appointed members have submitted their resignations but have not yet been replaced. In light of this, it was agreed to write to both governments urging them to appoint new members to fill the vacant positions.

9.3 Tabling of documents

The Secretary tabled documents received since the last meeting. He was asked to ensure that all JBACE members receive a copy of the following documents:

- . the annual report of the Conseil de la conservation et de l'environnement;
- . the report on the state of Québec's environment.

9.4 1992-1993 Annual Report

The Secretary informed the Committee that the 1992-1993 Annual Report will be sent to the printer's in the near future and made available to the public immediately thereafter.

10. LOGGING IN THE JAMES BAY

The Chairman welcomed Denis Vandal of the MLCP, who was invited by the Committee to provide clarifications on the problem of declining moose populations in the James Bay area and on the effectiveness of the moose protection measures included in the Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the public domain.

Mr. Vandal explained the moose management methods currently used by the MLCP. Moose management indicators include, among other things:

- . knowledge of the number of animals harvested by sport hunters;

- . knowledge of the number of animals harvested during traditional hunting activities, obtained through the Cree Trappers Association (CTA);
- . biological indicators obtained through aerial surveys conducted at five-year intervals. The last such survey was conducted in 1991.

According to Mr. Vandal, the population density in Zone 22 (James Bay region located north of the 50th parallel) is estimated at 0.28 moose/10 km². In Zone 17 (region south of the 50th parallel), the density is 0.3 moose/10 km², down from 0.5/10 km² in 1985.

It would seem that the main cause of the declining moose population in Zone 17 is overharvesting. Consequently, between 1994 and 1998, non-Native hunters will only be allowed to hunt females 3 years out of 5. The MLCP will work with the Crees to try and establish hunting quotas for the Native people.

Mr. Vandal further explained that the MLCP has already commented on the review of the Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the public domain and that he would be willing to submit these comments to the JBACE for consultation. In Mr. Vandal's opinion, it is important that Regulation criteria be adapted to the reality of the James Bay territory.

11. VARIA

11.1 Invitation to the next general meeting in Waswanipi

Committee members were invited to attend the next general meeting in Waswanipi (letter of June 8 to the Chairman from the Waswanipi Band Chief), to be held on June 21 and 22, 1993. At issue are the problems stemming from logging in the territory. The Chief would like Committee representatives to speak on action taken by the JBACE in relation to this issue.

The Committee discussed the matter and decided to delegate Alan Penn, Diane Morneau and the Secretary to attend the meeting and make a presentation on the Committee's behalf.

11.2 Land use plan

The Committee decides to write to the Minister of the ministère des Affaires municipales to inquire about the status of the land use plan for the James Bay territory and the follow up the ministry intends to give to the Committee's recommendations in this file.

11.3 Report on the state of Québec's environment

Due to a lack of time, this item was carried over to the next meeting's agenda.

11.4 Fish consumption guideline

Due to a lack of time, this item was carried over to the next meeting's agenda.

11.5 Assessment of consultation on Hydro-Québec's Development Plan

Due to a lack of time, this item was carried over to the next meeting's agenda.

12. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee agreed to visit the LG-2A and LG-1 sites in early August and to hold the next meeting at the same time.



Hervé Chatagnier
Secretary

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