



la Convention
de la Baie-James
et du Nord québécois

Comité consultatif
pour l'environnement
de la Baie-James

ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ
ᑭᑭᑭ
ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ

Siège social :
Baie-du-Poste
Lac Mistassini, via Chibougamau, Québec
G0W 1C0

Secrétariat et correspondance générale :
Édifice Marie-Guyart, 6^e étage
675, boulevard René-Lévesque Est
Québec (Québec) G1R 5V7
(418) 521-3895, poste 4642

Nouvelle adresse

Comité consultatif pour l'environnement de la Baie-James
Direction régionale du Nord-du-Québec
150, boulevard René-Lévesque Est
8^e étage, Boîte 97
Québec (Québec) G1R 4Y1
Tél.: (418) 528-7354
Fax. : (418) 646-0266

**MINUTES OF THE 98th MEETING
OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON THE ENVIRONMENT
(ADOPTED)**

DATE : May 5, 1997

LOCATION : Conference call, 10:30 a.m. - noon

PRESENT : Luc Bouthillier, Québec
Yves Désilets, Canada, Vice-Chairman
Robert Daigneault, Québec, Chairman
Willie Iserhoff, CRA
Ginette Lajoie, CRA
Jacques Lefebvre, Québec
Pierre Paulhus, Canada
Diom Roméo Saganash, CRA
Denis Bernatchez, Secretary

ABSENT : Louise Filion, Québec
Susanne Hilton, CRA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chairman welcomed the members participating in the conference call and called the 98th meeting of the JBACE to order.

The following agenda was adopted.

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda
2. Moving of the JBACE secretariat to the DRNDQ
3. Adjournment of meeting



2. MOVING OF THE JBACE SECRETARIAT TO THE DRNDQ

The Chairman welcomed the members participating in the conference call, the second to be held on the same subject. During the first call, held March 26, 1997, the JBACE passed a resolution on the secretariat's relocation to the Direction régionale du Nord-du-Québec and sent a copy to the Minister of the Environment and Wildlife.

The JBACE had previously submitted a brief and draft administrative agreement to the Minister setting out the ideal relationship between MEF and the JBACE, but has received no response. Nor has it heard back from MEF regarding its budget submission.

The Chairman pointed out that the federal and provincial governments' failure to listen to the JBACE's concerns is an even greater problem than the relocation of the JBACE secretariat.

The new Deputy Minister and Associate Deputy Minister of the Environment and Wildlife, Diane Gaudet and Suzanne Giguère, in JBACE opinion, don't know much yet about either the JBACE or the JBNQA.

MEF/JBACE working relations are based on the administrative agreement signed in 1985. Both parties have been criticizing the agreement since 1995. The JBACE needs to meet with the Minister as soon as possible to clarify the situation and establish a mutual understanding. The Chairman contacted the Minister's office to schedule a meeting to this effect.

On April 25, 1997, the JBACE Secretary received a letter from Suzanne Giguère confirming the secretariat's transfer to the Direction régionale du Nord-du-Québec. Now the JBACE has to determine the strategy it will adopt. Could it ask for an injunction? Would an injunction be too costly? Is the Chairman required to send a notice of transfer to its own secretary?

As confirmed by Pierre Lefebvre, transferring the secretariat to the DRNDQ will affect the JBACE, COMEV, COMEX and MEF analysts on all northern issues. Mr. Lefebvre also confirmed that the JBACE's budget would henceforth fall under a separate budgetary item and that the Secretary had been authorized to sign for JBACE expenditures. This authorization is apparently the culmination of steps taken by Robert Daigneault.

Despite the pressure MEF is putting on the JBACE, the Chairman said he wants to harmonize relations rather than declare war.

A representative of the federal party remarked that MEF has totally ignored the JBACE's legal arguments. The Committee must meet with the Minister, Deputy Minister and their legal counsel to discuss this issue.

The Chairman told the members that the Vice-Grand Chief of the Grand Councils of the Crees has been informed of the situation and that perhaps the Federal Administrator should be informed as well, given that the federal Environment Minister does not seem interested in meeting with the JBACE. It should be noted, however, that the federal and provincial administrators are concerned only with one aspect of the problem, i.e. the application of the assessment and review procedure provided for in the JBNQA.

A Cree representative felt that the JBACE could do the same as the HFTCC and hire its own secretary. This solution could be proposed to Diane Gaudet. In the meantime, the secretariat could be moved to the DRNDQ and then in two months the JBACE could transfer it wherever it wants. The unilateral decision to move JBACE files and, by extension, the secretariat is unlawful.

A Québec representative remarked that the Committee needs clarifications on the secretary's administrative status. What is MEF's role? What is the JBACE Chairman's status in relation to the secretary? The representative proposed that the Secretary put these questions to the director of human resources. The JBACE must continue negotiating with MEF in order to find common ground. The meeting with Diane Gaudet, scheduled for May 8, is of tremendous importance in that it will allow the JBACE to explain its role and mandate to the Deputy Minister and learn MEF's reasons for taking this contentious action.

The Chairman said he hoped Robert Daigneault and Yves Désilets would attend the May 8 meeting with him. They will invite the Deputy Minister to attend the JBACE's next meeting, which is to be held in Waskaganish in June.

3. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The conference call ended at noon. The Chairman thanked the members for taking part.



DENIS BERNATCHEZ
Secretary