



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 109<sup>th</sup> MEETING  
OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
(ADOPTED)**

**DATE:** March 22, 1999

**LOCATION:** Conference call

**PRESENT:** Yves Désilets, Canada  
Susanne Hilton, CRA  
Ginette Lajoie, CRA, Acting Vice-Chairperson  
Claude Langlois, Canada, Chairperson  
Jacques Lefebvre, Québec  
Harm Sloterdijk, Canada

Denis Bernatchez, Secretary

**ABSENT:** Luc Bouthillier, Québec  
Willie Iserhoff, CRA  
Diom Romeo Saganash, CRA



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**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The Chairperson welcomed the members and then called the 109<sup>th</sup> meeting of the JBACE to order.

The following agenda was adopted.

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the budget proposal for fiscal 1999-2000
3. Directive 019 on the mining industry
4. Consultation on water management
5. Date and location of next meeting

**2. ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FISCAL 1999-2000**

At its 108<sup>th</sup> meeting on February 11, 1999, the JBACE sketched out a budget proposal for fiscal 1999-2000. The proposal was subsequently submitted to the members for their comments. On close reading, the Chairperson noted that the proposal represented a 45% increase over the budget requested in 1998-1999. He therefore adjusted the sums downward and submitted the amended proposal to the members for final approval.

The new budget proposal will be presented in two parts: the resources needed for secretariat operations, and the resources needed for the JBACE's action plan and related costs. The Committee is requesting \$259 000 for secretariat operations and \$729 000 for its action plan, for a total budget of \$988 000, which is still a 12% increase over the JBACE's budget submission for fiscal 1998-1999.

The members agreed to submit the budget proposal to the Prime Minister of Québec (plus a copy to the Québec Minister of the Environment), the federal Minister of the Environment (plus a copy to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs) and the Grand Chief of the GCCQ.

**Resolution 99-03-22-01 regarding the JBACE budget proposal for fiscal 1999-2000.**

**It is hereby unanimously resolved to adopt the JBACE budget proposal for fiscal 1999-2000 totalling \$988 000. Said budget proposal, which is divided into the resources required for secretariat operations (\$259 000) and the resources required for JBACE projects (\$729 000), will be submitted to the Prime Minister of Québec.**

**Moved by Claude Langlois (Canada)  
Seconded by Ginette Lajoie (CRA)**

**3. DIRECTIVE 019 ON THE MINING INDUSTRY**

On February 23, 1999, the Ministère de l'Environnement du Québec submitted its consultation document on the review of Directive 019 (mining industry) to the JBACE for its comments. Given the relative complexity of this file, the members said that they would like someone from the Ministère to come to the next meeting to explain the review and answer their questions. It was thus decided to invite Francis Perron, of the Direction des politiques du secteur industriel (industrial policy branch).

**4. CONSULTATION ON WATER MANAGEMENT**

The Chairperson informed the members that he had met with André Beauchamp, chair of the BAPE commission on water management, and commissioners Gisèle Gallichan and Camille Genest to discuss the JBACE's role in the consultation process and how the process could be carried out in a harmonious manner. Ginette Lajoie and Denis Bernatchez also attended the meeting.

The JBACE wrote to Environment Minister Paul Bégin on March 11, 1999, informing him of the meeting with the BAPE representatives and reminding him that the responsible governments must consult the JBACE on all matters having social or environmental repercussions on the James Bay territory.

Given that management of water resources is a major issue in the James Bay territory, the JBACE feels that consultation of the local population is crucial. The Committee therefore recommended to the Minister that public hearings be held in the following four Cree communities to allow both Native and non-Native people living in the Territory a chance to express their views:


- Whapmagoostui (northernmost community in the Territory, no road access);
- Chisasibi (largest community in the Territory);
- Waskaganish (community with no road access);
- Oujé-Bougoumou (can be reached by residents of Waswanipi, Mistissini, Chibougamau and Chapais).

It is imperative that the government grant the JBACE the necessary resources to conduct these hearings, which are of extreme importance to the James Bay communities. The JBACE will attempt to reach an agreement with the BAPE on a means of collaboration that respects both of their mandates.

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**5. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING**

The JBACE will hold an ad hoc meeting on April 1, 1999, in Montréal. The next regular meeting will be held on April 13 and 14, 1999, in Waswanipi.



**DENIS BERNATCHEZ**

Secretary

**99-06-02**

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