



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 114TH MEETING  
OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

**(ADOPTED)**

**DATE:** December 8, 1999

**LOCATION:** Environment Canada  
400, Place d'Youville  
Montréal, Québec

**PRESENT:** Yves Désilets, Canada  
Carole Garceau, Québec  
Susanne Hilton, CRA  
Willie Iserhoff, CRA  
Ginette Lajoie, CRA, Vice-Chairperson  
Claude Langlois, Canada,  
Pierre Moses, Québec  
Violet Pachanos, HTFCC  
Jacques Robert, Canada  
Diom Romeo Saganash, CRA, Chairperson  
Harm Sloterdijk, Canada

Denis Bernatchez, Secretary

**ABSENT:** Jacques Lefebvre, Québec

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

The Chairperson welcomed the members, particularly Violet Pachanos, Chair of the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC), and ex-officio member of the JBACE, and called the 114th meeting of the JBACE to order.

The Chairperson asked that the order of topics for discussion be modified to allow the points related to forestry to be discussed first. The following agenda was adopted:

1. Call to order and adoption of the agenda
2. New general forest management plan received (CA 086-21 Donohue Forest Products Ltd.);
3. New forest system
4. Adoption of the minutes of the 112th and 113th meetings of the JBACE
5. Business arising from previous meetings
6. Public consultation on water management
7. Draft legislation amending the Environment Quality Act and other legislative provisions governing waste management
8. Varia
9. Date and location of next meeting

Adoption of the minutes of the 112th and 113th meetings was carried over to the next meeting. The members were asked to forward, in writing, the changes they would like to make to the minutes. These changes will be discussed before being incorporated into the minutes.

2. **NEW GENERAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN RECEIVED (CA 086-21 DONOHUE FOREST PRODUCTS LTD.)**

According to the Chairperson, the JBACE has done a great deal of work on forestry. A certain logic had governed action in this file for the past five years. At the last JBACE meeting, it became clear that members had different views on the JBACE's role and mandate where forestry was concerned. On December 7, 1999, the JBACE received a letter from André Paul, Regional Director of the MRN, informing us that, in the coming days, we would be receiving about fifteen general forest management plans and about twenty five-year forest management plans for our comments. The Chairperson continued, affirming that all parties say that they wish to analyze the forest management plans but that the JBACE needs resources and that it had still not received the forest synthesis map requested. According to certain members, this map must serve as the basis for studying the forestry issue since it should illustrate the status of the forest at year «zero» of the management strategy proposed for the next 25 years, all of which must be superimposed on the network of Cree traplines.

We must remember that these plans are being submitted in a context of change. A new Forest Act will soon be tabled and will be studied by a parliamentary commission. There are also the legal proceedings that the Crees have instituted to protect their rights. This legal action asks that the submission of all forest management plans and consultation be suspended. The proceedings hold that forest operations are subject to the environmental impact assessment and review procedure provided for in Section 22. From this viewpoint, the members appointed by the CRA felt that it would be prejudicial to table and analyze the plans.

A member appointed by the Cree party noted that the last JBACE meeting (113th) had been very difficult. The members had agreed that action had to be taken to bring the two members who had left the meeting back to discuss the forestry file. This is why Susanne Hilton and Ginette Lajoie met with Willie Iserhoff and Romeo Saganash. The latter agreed to participate in this meeting with an open mind, provided the Committee address fundamental questions regarding the protection of their rights and interests. Ginette Lajoie tabled a draft resolution that represents the shared view of the members appointed by the Cree party. This resolution asks that the management plans be subject to the environmental impact assessment procedure and that the Committee implement the measures required to have the documents forwarded to the administrators and the Evaluating Committee.

After having quickly examined the content of the resolution that had just been tabled, the other members (Québec and Canada) withdrew to discuss the resolution in private. After about thirty minutes of deliberations, the members appointed by Québec and Canada came back to the meeting room. A member appointed by Québec felt that the terms of the resolution submitted by the Cree party were illegal, that they ran counter to the prescriptions of the JBNQA, which states that the JBACE is to comment on forest management plans and, finally, that this was the same debate that had arisen at the last meeting. The representatives appointed by Québec and Canada stated that they opposed this resolution and did not wish to discuss it. They stated that they were not interested in continuing the meeting unless the Cree party decided to withdraw its draft resolution. To which a member appointed by the Cree party responded that there was no question of withdrawing the draft resolution. The members appointed by Québec and Canada left the meeting room. Once these members had left, there was no longer a quorum and the 114th meeting of the JBACE came to an end.



**DENIS BERNATCHEZ**  
Secretary