



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 123rd MEETING  
OF THE JAMES BAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
(ADOPTED)**

**DATE:** September 20, 2001

**PLACE:** Conference call

**PRESENT:** Yves Désilets, Canada  
Marian Fournier, Québec  
Carole Garceau, Québec  
Claude Langlois, Canada  
Pierre Moses, Québec  
Jacques Robert, Canada  
Diom Romeo Saganash, CRA, Chairperson  
Harm Sloterdijk, Canada

Denis Bernatchez, Executive Secretary

**ABSENT:** Sam Etapp, CRA  
Willie Iserhoff, CRA  
Jacques Lefebvre, Québec  
John Paul Murdoch, CRA, Vice-Chairperson

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

The Chairperson welcomed the members and called the 123rd meeting of the JBACE to order. The following agenda was adopted.

1. Call to order and adoption of agenda
2. JBACE comments on proposed amendments to the RNI
3. Date and place of next meeting

## **2. JBACE COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RNI**

Associate Deputy Minister of Forestry Marc Ledoux wrote to the JBACE on August 21, 2001, inviting the Committee to comment on the draft regulation to amend the Regulation respecting standards of forest management for forests in the public domain (RNI). The JBACE is to submit its comments by the end of October. The purpose of this conference call is to discuss whether the JBACE will submit its comments, and what they will be.

All of the members participating in the conference call were given a chance to express their views. Opinions were divided as to what the JBACE's response should be. Some members (particularly from the Québec party) want the JBACE to comment on the draft regulation and its new provisions (especially mosaic cutting). On the whole, they argue that:

- Even if the government rejected the JBACE's proposal to establish a separate forest system for the James Bay territory, the JBACE still has a technical role to play and should comment on the regulatory amendments. Moreover, in the coming year, the MRN intends to table more regulatory amendments on major aspects of forest management.
- Commenting on draft regulations submitted to it pursuant to the JBNQA is part of the JBACE's mandate.
- The JBACE must use the opportunity to express its views on mosaic cutting.
- If necessary, the members can ask to meet with MRN officials to have the proposed amendments explained.
- The JBACE has to use the means at its disposal to try and improve the existing forest system.
- The JBACE has to find its feet in the existing legal and regulatory system.

Other members (particularly from the federal and CRA parties) prefer not to pass judgment on the draft regulation submitted to the JBACE, as they stand behind the position taken by the JBACE in its brief on Bill 136 (Act to amend the Forest Act), i.e. that a separate forest system be established for the James Bay territory. On the whole, they argue that:

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- Amendment of the RNI is a technicality that can have certain positive effects; however, it is not what the JBACE requested in its brief.
  - The JBACE needs to be consistent and let the government know that it is willing to work together to establish a separate forest system. That is our goal.
  - A separate hunting and fishing regime exists for the territory. Why not a separate forest system?
  - The impression is that the government pays the JBACE no heed; it does not act on the Committee's recommendations.
  - The JBACE must use political leverages to make its positions known.

Following the discussion, it was decided that the JBACE would write to the MRN to say that it is pleased to see that the Department is willing to improve the existing system, but that the JBACE wants to go further and work toward establishing a separate forest system for the territory. The JBNQA will be used to support the JBACE's arguments. The Committee will also ask to meet with MRN officials to discuss the forestry issue. The draft letter will be sent to the members for comment.

### **3. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the JBACE will be held on October 22 and 23, 2001, in the Outaouais/Saguenay room of Environment Canada's Montréal offices, 400 Youville St., at 1:30 p.m.



Denis Bernatchez  
Executive Secretary

2002-01-24