



Proposed priorities for 2014-2015 ***(as part of the strategic planning for 2013-2018)***

The priorities for 2014-2015 will consist in part in following up on the work initiated in 2013-2014. The JBACE's other priorities for 2014-2015 are discussed below. All of them reflect the strategic directions "access to information," "transparency" and "public participation" defined in the JBACE's Strategic Plan.

1. Mandate to inquire into uranium issues in the Territory

- *Areas of action 2.3 and 3.3 in the Action Plan adopted in June 2013*

A JBACE special commission has been working with BAPE since April 2014 to ensure that the Section 22 provisions are taken into account in the mandate to inquire into uranium issues in the Territory. The JBACE wants to ensure meaningful participation by the Crees during the consultation process.

Given that the mandate conferred on BAPE includes three consultation phases and submission of a report in May 2015, the uranium inquiry will be a priority for the JBACE all year, in particular for the members appointed to the special commission, JBACE employees and the outside resource person hired to support the commission.

2. Study on the cumulative impacts of mining activities

- *Area of action 2.3 in the Action Plan adopted in June 2013*

This is in follow-up to the priority defined for 2013-2014. Drawing on existing documents, in particular the analysis form prepared by the subcommittee on mineral exploration, the JBACE's analyst will prepare a scoping document for the study on cumulative impacts of mining and mineral exploration. Enhancing knowledge of cumulative impacts depends on the availability of relevant information to provide a picture of the projects concerned. The work conducted by the analyst must culminate in a written opinion to be submitted to the governments concerned.

3. Strengthening of public participation

- *Areas of action 1.1 and 3.1 in the Action Plan adopted in June 2013*

The JBACE will complete the important research initiated in 2007 as part of Kelly LeBlanc's master's thesis and continued, since 2010, by the JBACE analysts, the subcommittee and the resource persons involved. The final report, to be submitted this fall, is advancing quickly because the analyst has been devoting a lot of time to it since July. This fall, the JBACE will make recommendations for improving access to information and ensuring a more foreseeable public participation process under Section 22.

4. Research network on James Bay communities

- *Area of action 2.6 in the Action Plan adopted in June 2013*

The JBACE will use the success of the workshop held in March 2014, in terms of participation, to resume representations to regional organizations and research centres regarding the objective to create an environmental and social knowledge acquisition and dissemination network. Two specific objectives are possible:

- to work with partners to create a one-stop reference service for researchers looking to work in James Bay communities; and
- to create an online "knowledge network" in cooperation with research centres (and, as needed, people who build web platforms).

5. Perspectives on Cree environmental and social concerns

- *Area of action 2.1 in the Action Plan adopted in June 2013*

This follows up on the literature review of Cree environmental and social concerns (report submitted in July 2014). The members could identify an area that needs to be examined in greater depth (e.g. social impacts of development, climate change) and commission a study, field survey or poll on the subject.

6. Raising awareness about fish habitat in the context of the amended Fisheries Act (2012)

This past June, the JBACE adopted a recommendation to set up an information exchange program for proponents of projects in or near waterbodies and the Crees. The program would

allow the Crees to learn about a given project and share their knowledge about fish habitats liable to be affected. Where necessary, this knowledge would remain confidential.

This fall, the JBACE's analyst will prepare an information document, aimed at proponents, on the special conditions applying to projects carried out in aquatic environments in the James Bay Territory. The JBACE hopes the document will be posted, among other places, on the page of the Fisheries and Oceans website containing guidance for project proponents.

Marc Jetten

September 8, 2014