



Review of priorities for 2013-2014

A. Mineral exploration and Section 22 of the JBNQA COMPLETED

This file took up the lion's share of our analyst's time last year (well over the planned 40 person-days). However, the work is advancing satisfactorily. In February 2014, the JBACE adopted the recommendations made by the subcommittee on mineral exploration (initial deadline was December 2013).

The analysis forms still have to be finalized and incorporated into the appendix to the recommendations report, following which the report has to be approved by the members. Our analyst will be busy with this file up until July 2014 owing to the time required for translation.

B. Strengthening of public participation IN PROGRESS

During 2013-2014, the analyst and subcommittee designed the questionnaire for resource persons in the consultations on the Matoush project (case study). The analyst conducted most of the interviews in fall 2013 and winter 2014. He still has to compile the results of the interviews and update the comparative study of other Canadian jurisdictions whose environmental assessment processes integrate Aboriginal consultation (e.g. Nunavut, MacKenzie Valley). These two components will be incorporated into the final recommendations report, which should be submitted in fall 2014.

In the general planning for 2013-2014, the deadline for submission of the recommendations report was December 2013. The main reason for the delay is that the mineral exploration file was given priority in the analyst's work plan.

C. Cree community perspectives on environmental and social matters COMPLETED: FOLLOW-UP IN PROGRESS

At the Administrative Committee's suggestion, the JBACE shifted the focus of this file from the initial field survey to a literature review of existing studies on Cree environmental and social concerns. Based on the results of the literature review, the JBACE will decide if it wants to explore a specific issue further through a field survey, poll, or other means.

The consultant submitted a preliminary report on April 1. The members have until June 4, 2014 to submit their comments. The JBACE will then be able to release and, if applicable, act on the final report.

D. Workshop on an environmental and social knowledge acquisition program

COMPLETED

The workshop was held in Mistissini on March 19 and 20, 2014. It was attended by numerous people from regional organizations (28 participants), but not many from research centres (6 researchers), which was disappointing.

The JBACE had initially planned on holding (and funding) the workshop jointly with research centres, but none committed. The JBACE did not set up an organizing committee; instead, it hired a consultant, Catherine Lussier, to plan and facilitate the workshop.

The researchers who attended the workshop made a substantial contribution to the discussions, helping to identify shortcomings and constraints in information sharing. Participants also proposed several solutions to facilitate the sharing of research findings and the participation of communities in all stages of research.

Catherine Lussier is to report on the workshop soon. The JBACE will have to devote additional resources to this project in 2014-2015 in order to implement some of the proposals.

E. Study on the cumulative impacts of mining activities **POSTPONED**

The JBACE had hoped to commission a study on the cumulative impacts of mining activities in the territory covered by Section 22 to inform its advice to the governments.

In the general planning for 2013-2014, the work was to begin in February 2014 and be completed in September 2014. The JBACE had to push the deadline back because other files took priority.

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