

Human resources – part-time Analyst position

The Executive Director mentions that following the departure of the full-time Analyst, the position was offered to the part-time Analyst, who accepted. This will take effect in mid-September. The process of filling the part-time position will begin when the Executive Director returns from sick leave.

Follow-up on finance

The Executive Director reminds everyone that the committee will adopt the budget at the next meeting. In the meantime, the Administrative Committee will prepare a proposal. She adds that she has been informed of the progress made on multi-year funding.

IT services

The Executive Director explains that the Secretariat began the process of changing IT service providers over the summer. A company has been selected and the transition will begin once she returns from sick leave. It will then be possible to integrate Teams and SharePoint into the work tools, which should facilitate communication and document sharing.

Next meetings

The Executive Director provides an update on upcoming meetings.

For the 238th meeting, to be held on November 26, 2025 in Montreal, the budget will be adopted and the Federal Administrator will be invited, so it is important to have a quorum. For the 239th meeting, to be held on March 19, 2026 in Quebec City, the Provincial Administrator will be invited. The 240th meeting will be held on June 11, 2026 in Montreal.

DEBRIEF ON THE MEETING OF THE THREE COMMITTEES AND FUTURE ACTIONS

Members discuss the meeting of the three committees (JBACE, KEAC and HFTCC) held on September 23, 2025, and all agree that it was a significant meeting that should be repeated in the future.

Within the three discussion subgroups, the comments and experiences of the three committees revealed several similarities. Members believe that emphasis should be placed on working synergistically with other committees, particularly on issues of common interest. Collaboration would thus enable the pooling of resources and expertise, especially for environmental impact assessments.

Since each committee operates differently, it will be necessary to determine how to optimize collaboration within the framework that each committee is comfortable with. Members point out that the committees are derived from the same treaty and that their mandates are intrinsically linked. It would be appropriate to organize an inter-committee meeting (members and Secretariats) and share info notes in order to improve communication. Joint presentations or work could be considered on topics of shared interest, such as northern conservation areas, provided that collaboration does not generate additional workload.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of better informing and raising awareness among the population, particularly young people, about the JBNQA.

UPDATE – CELEBRATIONS OF THE 5th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CBJNQ

The Chair mentions that the CNG is organizing the flagship event of the celebration, which will be held on November 11, 2025 in Chisasibi. Those who will be invited will receive their invitations shortly. Videos are also being posted online as they become available. Ultimately, this will result in a video lasting about 20 minutes. The Executive Director will share the link to the videos in the next report. The CNG will not produce an analysis or feedback regarding the 50th of the JBNQA, but there should be a report and a film produced by another entity.

In response to a question, a member adds that the federal government still plans to organize a “training” day in Montreal in early 2026. More information will be provided as the organization progresses.

REQUESTS FROM FAUNENORD

The Executive Director explains that the JBACE was approached by FaunENord for various reasons.

The first item is participation in the work to develop the Climate Plan. The Executive Director points out that the JBACE had already been consulted on the matter and had declined the invitation to participate, given that the plan would not apply to the entire Territory. She adds that it appears that the scope of the Climate Plan was broader than the last time the committee was consulted.

The second item is the request for support for the recognition of FaunENord as a Regional Environmental Council (REC – Conseil régional de l’environnement in French). The Executive Director summarizes the role of an REC and the main elements of the request.

Members discuss both items. One member mentions that a meeting between the CNG and FaunENord was planned for the near future. Members decide to wait and see what comes out of the discussions before responding to the requests. The Executive Director will send an acknowledgement of receipt to the Director of the organization.

FOLLOW-UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Objective 1.1 Evaluate the legislative framework of the environmental and social protection regime

The Executive Director mentions that following the adoption of the legislative overview, members decided to examine certain elements in greater depth: waste management, monitoring and surveillance, water, and consideration of climate change in impact assessments.

The legislative framework for waste management was prepared for the June 2025 workshop.

The Analyst is working on the legislative framework for monitoring and surveillance. This will be addressed in the update to objective 1.2.

The Executive Director has begun to evaluate how to address the issue of water, but little progress has been made as attention is currently focused on other matters.

A proposal for an approach to assessing the consideration of climate change in impact assessments was presented to subcommittee members on September 8, 2025. After discussion, it was agreed to revise the proposal, schedule a meeting in October, and present a revised approach by November 2025.

Objective 1.2 Evaluate the transparency of the environmental and social impact assessment and review process

This file has been taken over by the new Analyst. He mentions that work is continuing within the secretariat and that the evaluation of two projects will be completed by the end of 2025. A follow-up will be conducted with the subcommittee at a meeting on October 23, 2025. An update will be provided to members at the meeting on November 26, 2025.

Objective 1.3 Evaluate the follow-up and monitoring of authorized projects

The Analyst mentions that a working document was presented to the subcommittee on September 8, 2025. They supported the approach but decided to obtain a sample of projects and more specific evaluation criteria before formally presenting it to the JBACE members at the next meeting in November 2025. One member reiterates the lack of resources and the lack of priority given to monitoring and oversight. It would be advisable to define the scope of the projects and decide whether to also look at environmental control.

Objective 1.4 Provide recommendations for the consideration of cumulative effects in the environmental and social impact assessment and review process

The Executive Director gives a presentation that includes background information, a report on the data with issues and potential solutions, and the text of the recommendation proposed by the subcommittee. An amendment to the text of the resolution is proposed and accepted.

On a motion by Graeme Morin, seconded by Mélanie Savoie, the recommendation is adopted:

« CONSIDERING the importance of taking cumulative effects into account when assessing and authorizing projects;

CONSIDERING that access to data is essential for an effective cumulative effects assessment;

CONSIDERING the following possible solutions identified by the JBACE in its report on data (attached to this recommendation):

- Inventory and categorization of available data;
- Digitization of existing data;
- Centralization of data.

The JBACE recommends that involved parties support and implement initiatives to promote access, production and sharing of, data in order to facilitate the consideration of cumulative effects in the Territory. »

The Executive Director mentions that the recommendation will be sent to the Administrators with a presentation letter indicating that the committee is aware of the current budgetary issues. The secretariat will prepare the letter and finalize everything with the subcommittee and the Chair. A presentation of the recommendation will be added to the agenda for the meetings with the Administrators.

Members will review the data report and it will be adopted at the next meeting. The finalized report will then be shared with the other committees and will accompany the recommendation.

The Executive Director concludes by stating that the next steps in the cumulative effects file will focus on updating and implementing the regional planning strategy.

Objective 2.1 Meetings with strategic partners

The Executive Director mentions that the September 2025 meeting of the three committees provided an opportunity to meet with partners from the KEAC and HHFTCC, the Deputy Chief of Whapmagoostui, Ms. Kawapit, and community representatives. She adds that the committee will meet with the Federal Administrator at the November 2025 meeting and that an invitation will be sent to the Provincial Administrator for the March 2026 meeting.

Objective 2.2 Improve the visibility and communications of the JBACE

The Executive Director notes that the Secretariat Officer has finished uploading all minutes and Annual Reports to the website. Over the coming months, any updates that need to be made will be identified. If changes to the structure of the website are necessary, the communications subcommittee will be consulted.

She then mentions that all the mugs with the JBACE logo had been distributed and that it would be a good idea to consider ordering new promotional items. Members discussed the possibility of identifying items other than mugs. The Executive Director will look into this and propose various options.

FILES

Forestry

The Chair mentions that Bill 97 was abandoned on the morning of the second day of the committee meeting. Members are wondering whether the elements of Bill 97 amending the *Act respecting the Société du Plan Nord* will be put forward through another vehicle.

The Analyst then presents an update on the workshop on the role of the JBACE in reviewing the PAFITs. He begins by summarizing the origins of the workshop. He mentions that in preparation for the review of the 2023-2028 PAFITs, the JBACE held a workshop in April 2022 attended by its members and representatives of external organizations (CNG, CQFB, MRNF). Discussions during the workshop raised questions about the JBACE's role in

evaluating PAFITs. As part of these discussions, the JBACE held bilateral meetings with the MRNF, CNG, EIJBRG and CQFB in 2024 to provide an update on the roles played by each stakeholder in the PAFIT file. In this context, the subcommittee members recommended that a workshop be organized. Among the main concerns are the duplication of work by the JBACE and the CQFB in reviewing plans, the need for a meeting between entities in the Territory to develop complementary actions, and the added value of repeating certain comments that strengthen the protection regime. A potential avenue for the JBACE would be to look at the mechanics of the process, i.e., the understanding of the process by the stakeholders consulted, their satisfaction, communications with communities, and the conduct of the process.

The members approve the proposal for the workshop. It should be held early in 2026 and will take place in Quebec City in a hybrid format. Representatives from the following organizations will be invited: EIJBRG, CQFB, CNG and MRNF. The Executive Director will include the workshop in the budget review for the current year.

The Analyst then presents the comments submitted as part of the *Quebec Forest Products Development Strategy*. He emphasizes that the comments focused on compliance with the provisions of the Paix des Braves adapted forestry regime, the reconciliation of land uses, the consideration of climate hazards, and the development of infrastructure to improve communities' capacity to process forest products such as biomass.

Waste management

The Executive Director presents a follow-up on two items: the regional waste management committee and potential regulatory changes to selective collection.

Regional committee

She mentions that at the March 2025 meeting in Quebec City, Ms. Lizotte announced that the Quebec government wanted to set up a regional committee for waste management, similar to what is being done in Nunavik. The Executive Director met with Olivier Leroux from the MELCCFP, Raphael Joanisse-Clément from the CNG and Nancy Guyon from the EIJBRG to prepare for the establishment of the committee. Mr. Leroux is currently finalizing a document to present the project and will send it to the JBACE when it is ready. The goal is to hold a meeting before Christmas. The JBACE would mainly play an observer role, while intervening as needed.

Potential regulatory changes to selective collection

The Executive Director met with representatives from the MELCCFP and Raphael Joanisse-Clément from the CNG. The purpose of the meeting was to learn about the steps taken by the designated management bodies to obtain regulatory changes to postpone the date by which the selective collection system should be implemented. Mr. Joanisse-Clément subsequently forwarded information to the JBACE to complete the assessment. The MELCCFP confirmed that it had received a request for regulatory changes, which is currently under review. If changes are required, they will be published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* for a 45-day comment period. A pre-consultation prior to this publication is possible. A decision by the subcommittee is expected regarding the possible sending of a letter to the MELCCFP. One member added that the CNG is analyzing the situation from the Cree perspective, and the members are of the opinion that they should wait for developments within the CNG before taking any action.

IAIA 2026

The Executive Director mentions that the IAIA conference will take place in Quebec City from May 19 to 22, 2026, with training workshops on May 17 and 18. The session topics are available on the IAIA website.

She adds that she met with Sophie Cooper because COMEX wanted to know whether JBACE intended to make a presentation, and whether it would be possible to make a joint JBACE-COMEV/COMEX presentation. If the Section 22 procedure was to be presented, it would be advisable for JBACE to take charge of this, given its role.

The KEAC is also considering participating, while the CNG is planning a presentation focused primarily on the activities of its unit.

Members discuss the JBACE's potential contributions and decided that the committee would prepare a proposal for a poster on taking communities into account in impact assessments. If the KEAC is interested and available, collaboration will be considered; otherwise, the JBACE will present its proposal alone. The communications subcommittee will be in charge of the project with the possible assistance of other members. The Executive Director will contact the KEAC to discuss collaboration and will inform Ms. Cooper of the decision not to make a presentation with COMEV/COMEX.

Mining activity

The Executive Director notes that the JBACE sent a letter of comments regarding the upcoming regulations for implementing amendments to the *Mining Act*. We are awaiting the pre-publication of the draft regulations in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*. Originally, there were to be three draft regulations, one at the end of the summer or early autumn and another later in the fall. The third was to be published next winter or spring. Since then, the Executive Director has been informed that the first two will be merged.

The Executive Director also provides an update on the Quebec Plan for the Development of Critical and Strategic Minerals 2025-2030, following an information meeting held a few days before the meeting. The MRNF is in the process of finalizing the plan, so there will be no further opportunities to comment. The plan is expected to be unveiled in the fall of 2025.

Regulatory changes from the MELCCFP

The Executive Director mentions that an information meeting was held on September 15, 2025 to present upcoming projects: *Regulation respecting the environmental impact assessment and review of certain projects* (REEIE in French), *Regulation respecting the regulatory scheme applying to activities on the basis of their environmental impact* (REAFIE in French), omnibus for contaminated soils.

For the REEIE, the Ministry would like to establish an Indigenous consultation process and will hold workshops for this purpose in the fall. However, it points out that the REEIE does not apply to the Territory.

For REAFIE, there would be a total of 128 amendments, 45% of which is streamlining. The JBACE will conduct an analysis to decide whether there are any comments to be made. MELCCFP representatives also mentioned that it would be possible to make proposals for activities to be included in the lists of declarations of compliance and exemptions.

With regard to contaminated soil, the objective is to merge the various existing regulations into a single one. An information meeting will be held on October 2, 2025, and comments are expected by October 17, 2025. The environmental assessment subcommittee will work on the file.

AJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned

***Prepared by Eva Wolf, Secretariat Officer and Michèle Leduc-Lapierre, Executive Director
Adopted on March 19, 2026***

