

Summary of the tri-committee meeting

The Executive Director sent the summary to members prior to the meeting for review. They will send their comments and approval by December 4, 2025. Once adopted by the three committees, the layout will be finalized and shared with the Directors. The Executive Director also mentions that monthly meetings between secretariats have begun.

Subcommittees and membership

The Executive Director mentions that Benoit Péloquin has been officially introduced as an appointed member of the JBACE by the federal government. The subcommittee table will be sent to members for review.

Human resources

The Executive Director mentions that the Administrative Committee had decided to wait until January 2026 before launching the hiring process for the part-time Analyst position. The Secretariat will prepare a job posting to be published in late January or early February 2026. Members agree to hold interviews in late February or early March 2026 and to finalize the hiring process thereafter.

Next meetings

The Executive Director provides an update on upcoming meetings:

- The 239th meeting will be held on March 19, 2026 in Quebec City at the Complexe G, and the Provincial Administrator has been invited;
- The 240th meeting will be held on June 11, 2026 in Montreal at the GNC office;
- Members decide that the 241st meeting will be held during the week of September 21, 2026 in Eastmain;
- The date of the 242nd meeting will be chosen at the March 2026 meeting.

Since there is a new Regional Administrator, a member of the CNG points out that it would be appropriate to schedule a meeting with her at the appropriate moment.

Members discuss issues related to in-person meetings. The current policy for members from Québec is one trip per year, and until the next provincial election, travel will be limited due to budget constraints. No concerted action is necessary at this time, but members agree that if the situation persists, it should be discussed with those responsible. The federal members also notes that the current policy is one in-person meeting per year.

Request from Vanessa Chalifour

The Executive Director explains that the JBACE received an email from Vanessa Chalifour proposing to hold regular meetings to discuss administrative matters only and ensure the exchange of information. Members agree that the Executive Director may hold these occasional meetings.

Budget

The Executive Director presents the revised budget and forecasts for 2025–2026 and the forecasts for 2026–2027. Due to an anticipated surplus for the current year, the members decided that a computer could be purchased for the secretariat officer this year. Explanatory documents will be sent out along with the budget forecasts which will be finalized by the Administrative Committee.

On a motion by Benoit Péloquin, seconded by Mélanie Chabot, the budget is adopted.

PRESENTATION FROM OLIVIER LEROUX (MELCCFP) – REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The chair welcomes Mr. Leroux (waste materials advisor, MELCCFP) and the members proceed with a round-table introduction.

Mr. Leroux then reviews recent waste management initiatives for remote regions, including the 2019–2024 Waste Management Plan for the Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Nunavik, the BAPE on final waste, and the Northern

Action Plan, for which the majority of the funds were allocated to Nunavik since projects were ready to be financed.

He reiterated the mandate of the regional committee, which is to promote cooperation among stakeholders, share expertise and find solutions tailored to the realities of the region. The next meeting will take place on December 12, 2025. The partners will give individual presentations and the extended producer responsibility will be discussed. Mr. Leroux points out that the committee's operating procedures will also be determined. The executive director reiterates that the JBACE will act as an observer and intervene as necessary.

Members ask whether the presentations at the first meeting focused more on urban areas or on the territory. Mr. Leroux states that the CNG discussed waste material issues within Cree communities and that Nancy Guyon of the EIJBRC addressed the issue of waste material along the Billy-Diamond highway. Members discuss the issue of illegal dumping along the Billy-Diamond highway and point out that the MRNF should be called upon to address this issue. The CNG reiterate the distance issues and the fact that the EIJBRC has only one waste transport truck.

Mr. Leroux mentions that unlike Nunavik, the Eeyou Istchee James Bay region does not yet have a waste material management plan, which could assist with planning.

Mr. Leroux proposes to provide an update on the committee's work at the next JBACE meeting in March 2026.

PRESENTATION FROM GRAEME MORIN – CONSIDERATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Mr. Morin (Manager of Environmental and Social Assessment, CNG, and member of the JBACE) begin the presentation by providing some context. He explains that he would discuss how climate change (CC) is taken into account in impact assessments (IA) from the CNG perspective.

Mr. Morin points out that the directives issued are based on three main documents for drafting the impact assessment: the guide for project proponents for consideration of climate change (in French: *Les changements climatiques et évaluation environnementale – Guide à l'intention de l'initiateur de projets*), the *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Quantification Guide*, and the directive for conducting an impact assessment (in French: *Directive pour la réalisation d'une étude d'impact sur l'environnement*). These provincial documents are not designed for northern regions but do take northern realities into account. Although they are recent, a revision is expected in the coming years. Federal monitoring programs, in addition to the GHG monitoring requirements imposed on the proponent, also exist.

One member points out that projects not subject to an EA are subject to Title I and the REAFIE, which sets out measures for taking climate change into account, and that sector-specific requirements exist, particularly in the *Mining Act*.

Mr. Morin highlights some improvements that can be made:

- Improve access to data by creating a network of weather stations;
- Innovate in mitigation, adaptation and compensation measures;
- Encourage the preservation of wetlands and habitat connectivity;
- Encourage the integration of local and traditional knowledge;
- Take forestry issues into account in the procedure.

Members discuss the issue of data standardization and wondered whether the data used by governments and developers was the same, i.e. whether developers were using other data sets that would underestimate their consideration of CCs in EAs. In any case, standardization is difficult to achieve since projects are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The environment in which a project is located is essential. For example, a "grey zone" project in a sensitive area may have more issues than a project that is subject to regulation. Mr. Morin emphasizes that the CNG CC team will remain in contact with the JBACE to keep it informed of developments in the file.

MEETING WITH THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Chair welcomes Mr. Hubbard and reminds everyone that the annual meeting between the Federal Administrator and JBACE members is an opportunity to discuss certain issues and share information. A round-table introduction session then takes place.

The Chair then reminds everyone that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the JBNQA. She mentions the activities organized in Chisasibi by the CNG to celebrate this anniversary.

The discussion then turns to the tri-committee meeting (JBACE, KEAC and HFTCC) held on September 23, 2025 in Whapmagoostui/Kuujuarapik. The Chair mentions that during the morning, community representatives were invited to participate. The committees introduced themselves and presented their main issues. Community representatives were able to share their concerns and ask questions. In the afternoon, only committee representatives were present. Each committee presented certain issues in more detail. Participants then split into small groups and identified strengths, areas for improvement and wishes for the future. The meeting ended with a return to the large group to discuss the points identified in the small groups.

The main positive points that emerged from the meeting were communication and collegiality, which improve communications with governments. On the other hand, participants highlighted the limitations of mandates, the need to modernize systems, the lack of resources and the short deadlines for certain consultations. Participants would like to see more collaboration between committees and an improvement in the resources available. A summary of the meeting is being prepared and will be shared once finalized.

The Executive Director then presents the JBACE work on cumulative effects. She begins by providing context on the work begun in 2016 and the development of the systemic approach and action items. She then presents the work to implement the data strategy and the conclusions of the report, which contains the issues and potential solutions. She concludes with the recommendation and mentions that the report and the text of the recommendation would be sent once finalized.

Mr. Hubbard states that he supports the recommendation. He mentions that better ways must be found to collect and provide access to data in the context of major project developments. He reiterates his support for finding solutions based on the recommendation.

The Executive Director then presents the next steps for the JBACE in the cumulative effects file in regard to the regional planning action item. She states that preliminary work had begun, including discussions with external stakeholders when they met to discuss data. The strategy will be reviewed shortly.

The Analyst then presents an update on the consideration of climate change (CC) in environmental assessments (EAs). He explains that the main objective is to assess the relevance of issuing recommendations for better consideration of CC in EAs. To achieve this objective, it will first be necessary to compile an inventory of provincial and federal EA laws and regulations, then conduct a project-by-project analysis to assess the implementation of legal requirements in assessments. The idea is to assess both the impact of projects on CCs and the impact of CCs on projects. He mentions that the JBACE is currently completing the legislative inventory.

Finally, Mr. Hubbard discusses the implementation of Bill C-5, the creation of the Major Projects Office, projects of national interest, and the collaborative approach with the provinces for the "one project, one assessment" initiative. He emphasizes that the current changing context requires adaptation while maintaining the highest standards of the IAAC.

Following the meeting, the Executive Director will prepare a thank you letter. She will also send the summary of the tri-committee meeting and the reference for the documentary on the JBNQA with the letter.

FOLLOW-UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

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

The Analyst presents the progress made on the issue of the consideration of climate change in impact assessments. The subcommittee decided to focus on the legislative inventory and the assessment of the procedure on a project-by-project basis. Based on the information gathered, the committee will be in a better position to reassess whether it is necessary to target shortcomings in the current legislation and ways in which climate change could be better integrated into the procedure. If significant shortcomings are identified during the assessment, the JBACE may issue recommendations.

The Analyst will contact a member from Quebec to be put in contact with the climate change division (of the MELCCFP) if necessary. The Cree member will inform the committee of any developments related to the CNG's approach to taking climate change into account in impact assessments.

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

The Analyst reports that the committee is continuing to evaluate two projects by the end of 2025, one on Category II lands and one on Category III lands. For the Category II lands project, Waswanipi's LEET was selected. For Category III lands, the initial choice was the Galaxy Lithium project, but given the importance of the documentation, this choice will be re-evaluated in order to meet the objective of evaluating two projects by the end of 2025.

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

The Analyst explains that, with regard to the scope of the authorized projects evaluated, it was decided to focus on the Section 22 procedure and the federal procedure. Although it is relevant to familiarize oneself with Title I of the LQE and the REAFIE, it is necessary to take into account the constraints of access to information and the need to limit the exercise in line with the JBACE mandate. One member points out that changes to the REAFIE are due shortly and that a new template for the single authorization will be introduced, which will include, for example, contaminants and monitoring conditions.

The development of analysis parameters will begin once the Analyst has completed the legislative overview. The approach will likely be presented to members at the March 2026 meeting. Where possible, the same sample will be selected for the transparency and monitoring and oversight file, in order to ensure continuity in the assessment and provide a detailed overview of each project.

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

Data strategy:

The Executive Director notes that the recommendation on data was adopted at the last meeting and that she is currently working on the cover letter to send the recommendation to the Administrators. The members agree to adopt the data report by email in order to speed up the process, and they will have until December 12, 2025 to submit their comments and approval. The Executive Director will then send the recommendation and report to the Administrators. Members approve a change in the wording of the recommendation, replacing the term "involved parties" with "the governments of the Cree Nation, Quebec and Canada."

Request from Vanessa Chalifour – transportation project:

The Executive Director mentions that she received an email from Vanessa Chalifour regarding the cumulative impacts of transportation related to mining projects in the Territory. The email stated that COMEX had highlighted this concern by recommending the establishment of an intergovernmental mechanism to better manage cumulative effects. The ministry is aware of the challenges associated with intergovernmental coordination and wonders whether this issue could be included in the JBACE discussions. The Executive Director

suggests that this could be a good mandate for the JBACE. Most of the elements could be found in the Grande Alliance studies.

The executive director will initially put Ms. Chalifour and Marc Dunn (who worked on the Grande Alliance) in contact. It will then be possible to see what emerges from the studies. Subsequently, the JBACE could help to fill in the missing information.

Objective 2.1 Meetings with strategic partners

The executive director recalls that the analyst represented the JBACE at the event held at UQAM the previous week, as part of the 50th anniversary of the JBNQA.

She adds that the Federal Administrator was met earlier in the day and that the Provincial Administrator will be invited to the next meeting.

Objective 2.2 Improve the visibility and communications of the JBACE

The Executive Director informs members that the committee will update the website in the coming months, and proposals will be made to the Communications Subcommittee.

The Executive Director presents a few promotional product options to the members, and it is decided to request quotations for the purchase of utensil kits.

FILES

Forestry

The Analyst reminds everyone that the workshop will take place on March 18, 2026 at the Atrium in Quebec City. Several people from the MRNF, EIJB RG, CQFB and CNG have already confirmed their attendance. After the holidays, the committee will prepare and send the relevant documentation to participants.

Waste material

The Executive Director mentions that the JBACE participated in the first meeting of the regional committee that Olivier Leroux spoke about earlier in the day. She presented the JBACE, gave an overview of the actions taken in the waste material file, and spoke about the 2021 BAPE. Another meeting is also scheduled for December 12, 2025. The Executive Director proposes focusing on participation in the regional committee for the time being, unless there are any bills or regulations to comment on.

A member of the CNG seconds the importance of getting involved in the committee, since the JBACE is well positioned to act as a unifying force given the work it has done in recent years. Another member adds that it is important to continue to get involved and also emphasizes the responsibility of land users, upstream of the management of illegal dumping, which is the responsibility of the MRNF. She will talk to her team about the regional committee.

The Executive Director mentions that Mr. Leroux is preparing a document summarizing everyone's role. Members agreed to invite Mr. Olivier Leroux to the March 2026 meeting to provide an update on the regional committee, if necessary.

IAIA 2026

The Executive Director reiterates that she and the Analyst will participate in the IAIA conference to be held on May 19-26, 2026 in Quebec City. The poster proposal has been accepted, and as decided, the Communications Subcommittee, with the voluntary participation of another member from Québec, will work on its development. It is also possible to add a document on procedures to the poster, with content of approximately 2,000 words (1,200 words in English and 800 words in another language) plus references. The document must be submitted between 14 April and 30 June 2026.

The Executive Director will send a work schedule to the subcommittee for the preparation of the poster, and a first draft will be presented to members at the next meeting. The Executive Director and a Cree member will be in contact to ensure that there is not too much redundancy between the two posters.

Mining activity

The Executive Director shares that the CCEBJ is still awaiting draft regulations for the implementation of amendments to the *Mining Act*. The committee is also awaiting the strategy for critical and strategic minerals. One member proposes to check within her organization to see if there is any information on the status of these two items. She confirms that the project has been reduced to two regulations, but there is no further news, and the same applies to the strategy for critical and strategic minerals.

Proposed regulatory amendments aiming primarily at optimizing water management and the framework applicable to certain activities

The Analyst mentions that the JBACE received a consultation notice from the MELCCFP concerning the amendment of eight regulations relating to water management and treatment and the supervision of activities. The committee has until January 3, 2026 to comment, but will try to close the file before the holidays.

UQAM event – 50th anniversary of the JBNQA

The Analyst mentions that he attended the opening night and the panels. The purpose of the event was to address the JBNQA from several angles and experiences, including those of negotiators, non-signatory Indigenous nations, youth, and hunting, fishing and trapping regime managers (represented by the regional Administrator).

AJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned

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

