

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

Board of Directors Meeting



Date: February 18, 2008

Location: Toronto, Ontario

Resolution #: B12-06-04

Resolution Title: Approval of Municipal Wastewater

Moved by: James Eetoolook

Seconded by: Pita Aatami

WHEREAS the relationship between Inuit and their environment continues to be a fundamental element of Inuit culture and identify;

WHEREAS the environment is integral to Inuit social, cultural and economic development and well-being;

WHEREAS it is difficult to separate the health of the environment from the health of Arctic people;

WHEREAS there was limited funding, an extremely short time period in which to carry out this work, and limited direct consultation with the Inuit communities themselves in the recently completed process, and the Government of Canada, the Provinces, and the Territories are required to consult in a meaningful way with the Inuit of Canada when making decisions that affect them;

WHEREAS the insufficient consultation timeframe illustrated a lack of consideration for the constraints in the northern context, and the consultation obligations of the Government of Canada and the CCME;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the four Inuit Land Claim Regions (Nunavut, Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut) communicate jointly the following messages:

- That further consultations regarding the Canada-Wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent and Environment Canada's Proposed Regulatory Framework for Wastewater should occur.

- The timeframe for rolling out the framework and regulations should be expanded significantly and in response to demonstrated capacity.
- All of the territory of the four Inuit land claims regions should be considered as part of the “Arctic” designation under the regulations and all communities should be managed within the same regulatory framework. A climatic definition that would exclude some communities should be avoided.
- All of the proposed framework and regulations must be adapted to Arctic conditions and capacity – not solely the National Performance Standards. Consultation should occur on adapting the EQO and EDO framework to suit Arctic conditions and capacity. Other proposed requirements such as monitoring and risk assessments should be re-evaluated for the Arctic.
- Research on wastewater treatment technologies as well as social science research should occur in each region in each of the four Inuit land claims regions where wastewater research conducted to date by Environment Canada’s Northern Research Working Group is limited. Research priorities should be set in consultation with the four Inuit land claims organization and local regional representatives.
- Funding is needed to enhance training within the four Inuit land claims regions and that a realistic and achievable plan for infrastructure and operation and maintenance is needed for the region.
- A 5 year public education campaign for each Inuit land claims region should be designed with input from the communities regarding the content, target audiences and method of delivery.
- That funding is provided in order to effectively implement the CCME Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent, as well as Environment Canada’s Regulatory Framework within the four Inuit land claims regions.

Carried Unanimously

In Favor:

Against:

Abstentions:

Carried: X

Defeated: