

Public Consultation Report on the Implementation of the Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan, 2015–2020



Prepared for the
Kativik Regional Government

By



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List of abbreviations

KRG: Kativik Regional Government

Nunavik RMMP: *Nunavik Residual Materials Management Plan*

EPR: extended producer responsibility

NV: northern village

1. Introduction

As part of its review of the 2015–2020 Nunavik RMMP, the KRG decided to conduct consultations with Nunavik residents in order to gather their feedback on the plan following four years of implementation. This report is intended to provide a summary and objective description of the main viewpoints expressed by participants in the public consultation. The feedback gathered will contribute to a future revision of the Nunavik RMMP. In addition to outlining the consultation method, the report provides a summary of the suggestions made during the four public consultations sessions and comments submitted in writing.

2. Method

2.1 Mandate and purpose

In the fall of 2019, the KRG invited Nunavik residents to share their thoughts on the report concerning the implementation of the Nunavik RMMP. The process represented a unique opportunity for residents to share their feedback on residual materials management in the region, to discuss implementation issues, to propose improvement actions, and to provide input on future priorities. The purpose of the public consultations was to give residents and regional organizations an opportunity to express their opinions, as well as to publicly release the results of the implementation report.

2.2 Dissemination of information

The report on the implementation of the Nunavik RMMP was posted on the KRG website prior to the public consultation sessions. Residents were allowed four weeks to transmit their opinions and comments in writing to the KRG, i.e. from October 15 to November 8, 2019. Announcements regarding the public consultation were posted on the KRG Facebook page. Radio announcements were also made in the four communities visited in order to invite residents to the sessions one day in advance of the session or the same day.

2.3 Public consultation

Feedback was gathered in three ways: during the public consultation sessions, by email or telephone, as well as through an online survey on residual materials management publicized on the KRG Facebook page.

Consultation sessions were conducted in four communities. In two of these communities, the sessions were combined with discussion of a specific residual materials management project planned in the same community. The sessions were organized as follows: an overview of the

evening session, a general presentation on the implementation of the Nunavik RMMP that included visual media and covered the main areas of activity, a public feedback period, and a conclusion with draw for door prizes. Snacks were also made available to participants.

Kuujuuaq session

Location: KRG offices

Date and time: October 16, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Number of participants: 6

Combined presentation: eco-centre and resource recovery station project planned for 2020 (measure set out in the Nunavik RMMP)



Kangirsuk session

Location: in the basement of the municipal office

Date and time: October 17, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Number of participants: 9

Combined presentation: none



Inukjuak session

Location: in the conference room of the municipal office

Date and time: October 22, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Number of participants: 29

Combined presentation: thermophilic composting project planned for 2020 (measure set out in the Nunavik RMMP)



Kuujjuaraapik session

Location: Kattitavik community centre

Date and time: October 24, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Number of participants: 9

Combined presentation: none



3. Summary of feedback

The various feedback received is compiled below by theme and represents the main topics discussed. The topics are listed in order of importance, i.e. the topics most frequently raised are presented first. The bullet points summarize the comments, opinions, feedback and questions of the participants at the public sessions or as submitted in writing. The results of the online survey appear in Appendix 1.

Comments posted on the KRG Facebook page by a few individuals deplored the short lead time between the announcements and the public sessions and gave it as a reason for being unable to participate, or indicated that the announcements were only viewed after the consultation. In Kuujjuaq, the public session was announced two days in advance. Residents have suggested that this type of activity should be announced at least one month in advance.

Information, awareness and education

- Residents must be encouraged to not throw their waste on the ground. The beaches are littered with plastic, affecting the land and fish habitats from which people harvest their food.
- There is very little information or awareness on residual materials management, from reduction at source to final disposal stages, and in particular on the adverse effects of waste on the environment. Resources should be made available to build awareness on this topic beginning in elementary school.
- Residents do not know where to drop off their household hazardous waste. They do not know about the proper disposal locations, even in the communities where there are official drop-off centres for products covered by EPR (batteries, mercury lamps, electronics, used oils, and paint).
- Residents are only aware of beverage can collection (refundable containers). The proper recovery path for other materials is unknown; these materials are therefore placed with regular waste for pick-up.
- Information on residual materials management must be popularized and shared with residents.

Alternatives to open-air burning

- Residents have many questions about open-air burning. They wonder if this practice will be continued (Inukjuak), because it has not been done for a long time. The waste was even buried in the spring.
- Priority should be focused on eliminating the open-air burning of waste that generates adverse effects on public health, such as respiratory disorders. The causes of other harmful effects on health were condemned, such as dioxin emissions and furans.
- Smog can be observed in the village on open-air burning days, due to the wind direction and atmospheric pressure (Kuujjuaq).
- Residents feel neglected by governments (provincial and federal) because Nunavik is one of the last regions in Québec where open-air burning is authorized. This practice is no longer permitted almost everywhere else. Nunavik should make governments aware of the situation in order to find solutions.
- The NVs do not currently possess adequate equipment for managing waste other than by open-air burning. New equipment and alternative collection methods are needed to reduce the quantity of waste, such as the collection of recyclable and compostable materials.
- The KRG should produce more frequent reports on the state of waste management. Residents are prepared to support the KRG to implement changes rapidly to end open-air burning in the short term.
- The implementation of an incinerator capable of producing energy should be more thoroughly investigated. This solution might make it possible to replace some of the oil used for heating.

- Since open-air burning of waste is authorized by regulation, the Québec government is able to avoid funding other residual materials management options. The Québec government should do more to end this practice.

Encourage the reuse of residual materials

- Many residents are interested in reusing construction lumber. There is a great need to make these materials available for residents for reuse purposes. It was requested that construction lumber be kept close to the villages instead of at the northern landfills.
- Kuujjuaq previously tested a drop-off location for construction lumber within the community. However, because the lumber was all mixed up with other waste, the northern village was obliged to transport all the materials to the northern landfill. The project has never been repeated.
- In Inukjuak, construction companies are authorized to transport construction-renovation-demolition residual materials to the new northern landfill where they are burned immediately leaving residents no opportunity to recover them, as was the case previously.
- Residents use northern landfills to recover all sorts of residual materials for reuse purposes. This is why the landfills are nicknamed Canadian Tire. Residents would like to be able to continue visiting the landfills for this purpose.
- Interest was expressed in household appliance repairs training.
- Residual materials are not sorted at the northern landfills. More effective sorting would permit more reuse.
- New landfills should include waste sorting stations in order to promote reuse.

Improved management of northern landfills

- Several participants noted that water flowing from northern landfills is contaminated, that wildlife has disappeared from downstream water bodies, and that this situation is worrisome.
- The northern landfills are located too close to the communities and impact on the quality of living.
- Winds carry waste from the northern landfills, spreading it around. The northern villages should have better fencing to prevent the spread of waste.
- A worker should be stationed full time at northern landfills to ensure better sorting of waste and access control.
- Different concerns were expressed regarding the environmental contamination generated by waste management facilities: landfills and wastewater lagoons.
- Northern landfills should be moved to reduce their impacts on wildlife and water bodies.
- Since disposal fees are high (Kuujjuaq), small contractors prefer to store their residual materials at their premises rather than pay for their disposal at the northern landfill.

- End-of-life vehicle storage should be organized outside of the northern landfills (scrap yards). To encourage residents to get rid of their end-of-life vehicles, they should receive financial compensation.

Increased recycling

- Some residents store their plastic waste at their homes because they fear that, if they send it to their landfill, these materials will find their way into water bodies and affect the fish.
- To improve access, there should be more drop-off centres for products covered by EPR and other hazardous products. Many residents do not drive and are unable to take their residual materials to the northern landfill (the drop-off centre for products covered by EPR in Kuujuaq). Pick-up activities could also be organized for household hazardous waste and bulky items.
- Residents would like to be able to collect other residual materials, such as recycling materials (paper/cardboard, plastics, metal, glass). A pilot project to recycle these materials was requested. This would help to reduce the quantity of waste for disposal.
- Metal recycling must be a priority because the northern landfills are cluttered with metal waste.
- Marine carriers should ship recycling to the south free of charge or be paid by the government.
- The Québec government should offer tax credits for companies that recycle plastics.
- Participants (Kangirsuk) were curious and interested about the composting project being developed for Inukjuak. They would like a similar project to be carried out in their community as well.
- Northern stores do not collect beverage cans. As for cooperative stores, whenever the can crusher breaks down, cans may no longer be dropped off.

Municipal bylaws

- In some villages, bylaws are in place prohibiting the use of plastic bags, but the bylaws are not followed by retailers.
- The NVs would like to receive assistance to enforce their bylaws concerning residual materials management (plastic bags, end-of-life vehicles, landfill user fees, etc.). They lack the human resources and knowledge to succeed. In particular, it is difficult to recruit bylaw enforcement officers because individuals in these positions are often treated badly.
- Residents are generally aware of local bylaws, but some individuals intentionally violate the bylaws because there is no one to stop them. Information regarding bylaws is also poorly disseminated. For example, some residents keep end-of-life items around their homes, such as snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles, even though this is prohibited.

Reduction at source

- Plastic waste is growing along with increased consumption of ready-to-eat foods and restaurant foods, such as Tim Hortons and KFC (disposable cups, styrofoam containers, etc.). More and more plastic is turning up in water bodies. Steps should be taken to reduce plastic use and these companies should be involved in finding solutions.

Local residual materials management planning

- More public consultations should be carried out locally, on topics of greatest interest to residents.
- The Nunavik RMMP should be adapted to every community (local residual materials management plans).
- Local leaders who can effect change should be encouraged to implement residual materials management measures in their communities. These leaders should be identified and supported appropriately.

Waste outside the communities

- Questions were asked about whether mining and outfitting camps will eventually be restored.
- Large metal waste is present in different locations throughout the region, including old vessels and metal objects abandoned by the military. Residents would like to know if this waste will be cleaned up.

4. Conclusion

Overall, 53 individuals attended the public consultation sessions. As well, one submission was received by email and seven individuals completed the online survey. Based on the comments posted on the KRG Facebook page several more individuals would have liked to attend the public consultation sessions if they had been informed earlier. This participation demonstrates definite interest in improving residual materials management in Nunavik. Residents have concerns about environmental protection and would like to see current practices evolve towards methods with less socio-environmental impact.

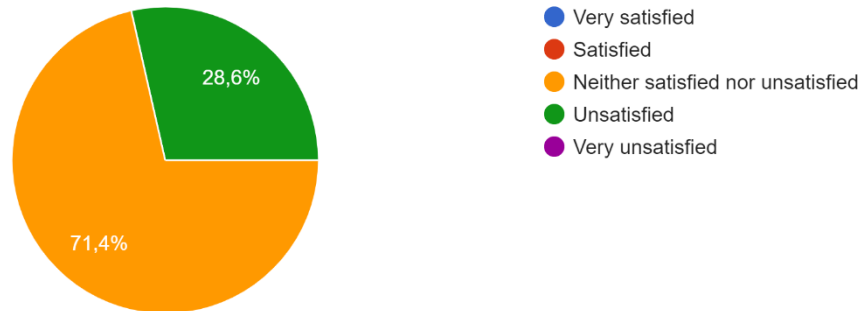
Region-wide planning is less pertinent for residents, due to the size of Nunavik and the distinct realities of each village. It would be appropriate to adapt the regional plan to local contexts and to deliver tailored assistance to each NV, in particular regarding improved landfill management, bylaw enforcement and of course public awareness.

This public consultation exercise made it possible to identify the needs and priorities of residents regarding residual materials management. This feedback will be taken into consideration during the revision of the Nunavik RMMP.

Appendix 1 – Results of the online survey

1- Overall, how satisfied are you of the KRG Implementation Report ?

7 réponses



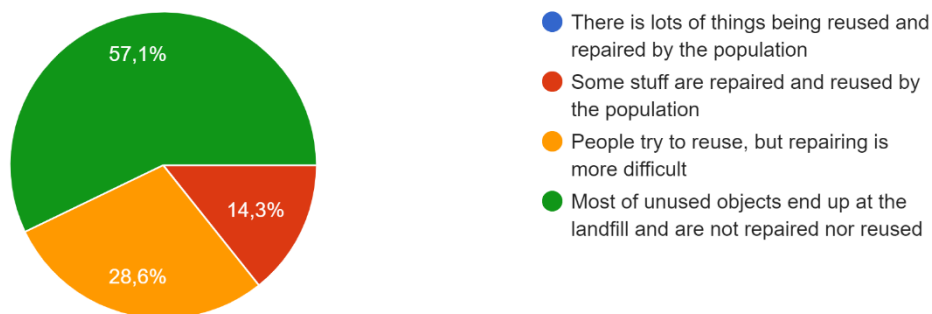
2- Do you know that, in Nunavik, some products can be collected to be shipped out to recycling facilities (pop cans, tires, car batteries)

7 réponses



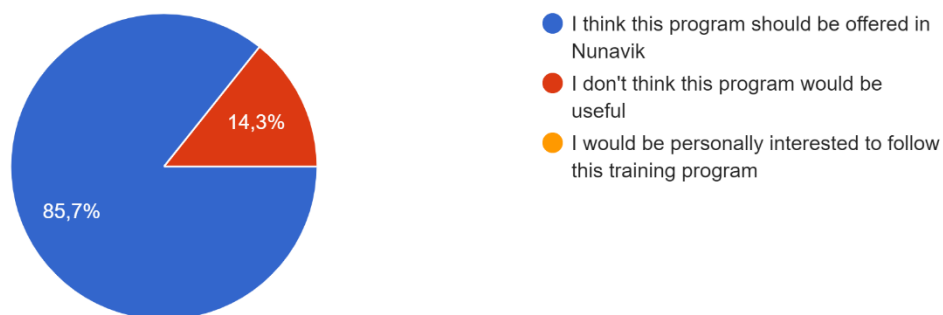
3- How would you describe the way people reuse objects in your community ?

7 réponses



4- Do you think that a "repair training program" should be offered in Nunavik? (to repair household appliances or furniture or electronic items)

7 réponses



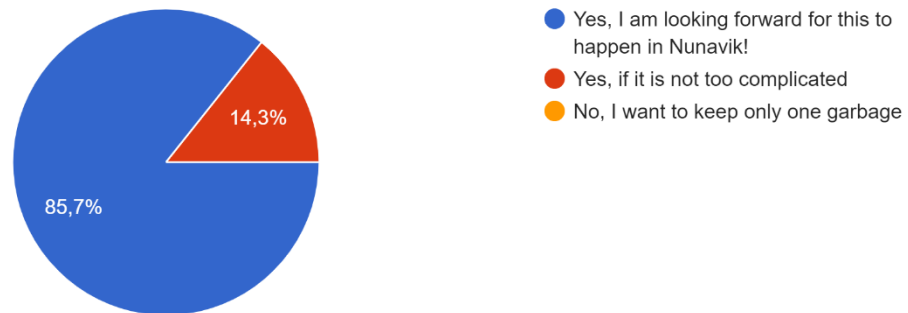
5- Do you think you can reduce your INDIVIDUAL waste quantity?

7 réponses



6- Would you be ready to sort your waste into different categories (paper&cardboard, metal, plastic, glass, organic matter (food waste), other)

7 réponses



7- Do you have any comments on the Implementation Report of the Residual Material Management Plan

Une réponse

The containers for recycling are a mess. I work at the co-op and no one from KRG helps us. We can't deal with it alone.