



Comité conjoint de chasse,
de pêche et de piégeage
Hunting, Fishing and Trapping
Coordinating Committee

CODE OF ETHICS OF THE HFTCC

Adopted by the members of the HFTCC
at the regular meeting
held in Saint-Joachim on April 5-6, 2023

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Preamble

The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC or the Coordinating Committee) was established in 1976 pursuant to the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (JBNQA) signed in November 1975.

The Coordinating Committee is composed of representatives of the governments of Québec and Canada, the Cree Nation Government, Makivik Corporation (Inuit Nation) and the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach and one non-voting member appointed by the *Société de développement de la Baie James (SDBJ)*. These representatives are supported by their respective principal advisors.

The hunting, fishing and trapping regime established by Section 24 of the JBNQA guarantees certain wildlife harvesting rights to the Aboriginal parties to the Agreement in the Agreement territory and these rights have been recognized and affirmed as treaty rights through the effect of section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. In this context, Section 24 establishes an outfitting regime applicable to the territory. These regimes apply in the agreement territory in association with Chapter 15 of the Northeastern Quebec Agreement (NEQA).

As the expert body established to review, manage, supervise and regulate the above regimes, it is of utmost importance that the Coordinating Committee ensure that all of its members and principal advisors comply with the regimes, in every respect, and abide by adequate and effective management values which they undertake to ensure are respected.

In the performance of their duties, the members of the Coordinating Committee, the parties' principal advisors and the personnel of the Coordinating Committee's secretariat shall adopt ethical principles and rules of professional conduct to secure and maintain the Committee's credibility and the parties' trust in the persons they designate to serve on it.

The purpose of this code of ethics is to maintain the Coordinating Committee's qualities of integrity, objectivity and expertise by establishing the rules governing conduct, conflict of interest, confidentiality and fairness to be followed by the members (within the meaning below).

In this regard, this preamble is an integral part of the Code of Ethics.

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1 Definitions

For the purposes of this code, the masculine form is used in instances to include the female gender, with the sole intent of readability. Unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms and expressions mean:

ABORIGINAL: A Cree or Inuk who is a beneficiary of the JBNQA or a Naskapi who is a beneficiary of the NEQA;

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Any actual, perceived, potential or future situation in which a member of the Coordinating Committee may be inclined to directly or indirectly favor his personal or business interests or those of a related person to the detriment of the Coordinating Committee's goals and interest, or any situation that might affect the member's loyalty and opinion in respect of the Committee;

MEMBERS: The persons appointed as Coordinating Committee members by the Aboriginal signatories to the JBNQA or NEQA and by Québec and Canada, and the observer-member appointed by the Société de développement de la Baie James.

OCCASIONAL ADVISOR OR GUEST: A person who accompanies a member to a meeting on an ad hoc basis;

PRINCIPAL ADVISOR: A person who is mandated by a member and is authorized to act on his or her behalf;

SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL: Any person who is remunerated by the Coordinating Committee for part-time or full-time employment with the secretariat.

RELATED PERSONS: Any natural person connected with a member by blood relationship, marriage or adoption or who has been living with a member in a de facto union for at least one year, or any legal entity, corporation, organization or business wholly or substantially owned or controlled by a member.

For the purposes of this code of ethics, principal advisors and members of the secretariat personnel shall be considered as members.

1.2 Application and Interpretation

1.2.1 This code of ethics shall apply to the members and principal advisors;

1.2.2 Where members are accompanied by occasional advisors or guests, they shall see to it that said occasional advisors or guests adhere to this code of ethics in the context of their dealings with the Coordinating Committee and more specifically with respect of its confidentiality and discretion provisions;

1.2.3 The code of ethics shall not replace legislative or regulatory provisions or rules of conduct applicable to the members;

1.2.4 The code of ethics in no way precludes the establishment of additional guidelines or rules relating to specific sectors of activity or specific situations.

2. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

2.1 Duties of the Members of the Coordinating Committee

2.1.1 In the performance of their duties, members shall show caution, reserve, thoroughness, responsibility, and shall work in the interest of the Coordinating Committee.

2.1.2 Members shall act within the confines of their mandate.

2.1.3 Members shall act with integrity and ethics:

- a) They shall perform their duties within the Coordinating Committee without promoting or exercising their other professional or business activities;
- b) They shall refrain from soliciting, receiving, offering or committing to offer any gifts, hospitality or other advantage or benefit that might compromise their integrity or impartiality or the integrity or impartiality of the people they encounter in the performance of their duties.

2.1.4 Members shall act in good faith and with frankness and courtesy:

- a) They shall participate actively in the establishment and implementation of the general directions of the Coordinating Committee. The foregoing in no way constitutes a denial of the members' right to dissent;
- b) They shall operate in good faith towards other members and be frank and courteous in their relations with other members, advisors and guests at meetings of the Coordinating Committee;
- c) Generally speaking, they shall maintain sincere relations so as to retain the trust and consideration required by their duties.

2.1.5 Members shall respect the rules of confidentiality that applies to them notably:

- a) Members shall respect the confidential nature of all information acquired during the performance of their duties, including all Coordinating Committee documents and access to the members' section of the Committee's website, by not participating in indiscreet conversations and not disclosing confidential information;
- b) Members shall take the appropriate precautions, including security measures, to protect the confidentiality of the documents and information acquired in the performance of their duties.

2.1.6 Members shall refrain from involving the Coordinating Committee in outside activities that do not fall within the Coordinating Committee's mandate and are not beforehand agreed to by the majority of members.

2.2 Conflicts of Interest

2.2.1 Members shall avoid any situation which may be perceived as a conflict of interests or give rise to an actual or potential conflict of interest. They shall avoid any situation that may prevent them from discharging their duties adequately.

2.2.2 Members shall avoid any situation in which they may derive personal benefit, direct or indirect, potential or real on account of their capacity as members. Equally, members shall refrain from committing to third parties or related persons or making them any guarantees in respect of a vote they may have to exercise or any decision whatsoever that the Coordinating Committee may have to make.

2.2.3 Members shall not perform their duties in a way that furthers their personal interest or the interest of a related person or third party. They shall not use information acquired in the performance of their duties nor services billed to the Coordinating Committee for personal advantage, direct or indirect, real or potential, or for the advantage of a related person or third party.

2.2.4 Members shall act at all times within the law and notably respect the existing laws and regulations respecting wildlife where applicable.

2.3 Prevention of Conflicts of Interest

Members who have an actual, direct, indirect, apparent or perceived interest in a matter, corporation or other entity which may place them in conflict with the Coordinating Committee's interests shall:

- a) divulge such interest to the Coordinating Committee before the commencement of discussions relating to the matter, corporation or entity concerned;
- b) leave the meeting for the duration of the discussions and voting and thereby abstain from participating in the discussions and decision pertaining to the matter, corporation or entity in which they have such interest.

2.4 Ethical obligations subsequent to being a member

2.4.1 Former members shall conduct themselves so as to refrain from taking undue advantage of their previous duties on the Coordinating Committee.

2.4.2 Former members shall refrain from disclosing any confidential information or document obtained by them or give advice to anyone based on information not available to the public that relates to the Coordinating Committee or its activities.

2.4.3 Former members may not, for a period of two years, act on behalf of others in connection with a proceeding, negotiation, or other transaction to which the Coordinating Committee is a party and about which former members have information not available to the public.

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