

Annex 3.

Summary of meetings with Indigenous peoples in Quebec

A total of three meetings were held in April 2022 with people living in five First Nations communities or Northern villages in Quebec. Table 1 provides a summary portrait of the communities and villages met with.

Table 1. Summary portrait of communities and villages met with

Community or Village	Nation	Language Spoken	Population (approx.)	Quebec Administrative Region
Kativik Regional Government (KRG)	Inuit	Inuktitut and English as a second language	14,571	Nunavik
Kahnawà:ke	Mohawk (Kanien'keha:ka)	Kanyen'kéha and English as a second language	10,198	Montérégie
Kawawachikamach	Naskapi	Naskapi and English as a second language	931	Côte-Nord
Kitcisakik	Anishinaabe	Anishinaabe and French as a second language	483	Abitibi-Témiscamingue
Matimekush-Lac John	Innu	Innu-Aimun and French as a second language	810	Côte-Nord

20. KRG is a local government and regional county municipality that covers all of Nunavik and includes 14 Inuit villages that are not connected by road.

1. STATE OF AFFAIRS

Apart from individual or one-time practices, there are no official initiatives involving the repair of HAEs in the communities and villages we met with, since the focus is more on recycling these items. In all of these communities, with the exception of the KRG, there is an ecocentre where the HAEs that are collected are sent for recycling. However, many of the appliances could be repaired or reused, and many of them still end up being sent to landfill, especially in Nunavik, where there is hardly any recycling. In fact, in this region, all end-of-life home appliances are sent directly to the landfill in each village. The people we met with estimated that the equivalent of about 50 to 60 shipping containers of appliances could be recycled, but the shipping costs are very high and discourage development of this solution. The EPR system for electronics is in place in six villages, and containers are shipped regularly to the South of the province for recycling.

Nevertheless, there are certain repair practices that have become established, primarily for household appliances and certain other devices, especially in the case of minor breakdowns. For example, generators in Kitcisakik and Nunavik are often repaired by their owners. Parts are available mainly at the ecocentres or disposal sites.

At one time, the area of Kawawachikamach, Matimekush-Lac John and Schefferville had someone who did repairs to household appliances. In Kahnawà:ke, tools such as chainsaws, brush cutters or leaf blowers were sometimes repaired by a community member, but the person with this expertise no longer does it. No one in these five communities repairs electronic devices.

Priorities also differ from one community to another. Some already have future projects related to reuse. In Schefferville, the authorities want to open a recycling center and in Nunavik, the KRG wants to open an ecocenter as well as a recycling center in Kuujuaq. In Kahnawà:ke, a bicycle repair program for youth is in the plans of the authorities, and there is interest in holding a repair event and setting up a tool library. In Kitcisakik, there is interest in repairs, but the current priorities are mainly in categorizing waste materials and raising public awareness.

2. ISSUES SURROUNDING THE ACCESS TO REPAIR AND POSSIBLE INCENTIVES

Table 2 summarizes the various issues, obstacles and incentives associated with the repair of HAEs cited by the five communities and northern villages interviewed.

Table 2. Issues, obstacles and incentives relating to the repair of HAEs in the communities and villages interviewed

Issue and Community(ies) and/or Northern Villages concerned	Obstacles to HAE Repair	Potential Incentives
<p>HAE ownership → Nunavik (KRG)</p>	<p>Over 90% of the housing units in Nunavik are owned by the government, and therefore the appliances also belong to the government. Users of the appliances do not necessarily have a choice when it comes to repairing or replacing them since they do not own them. Repairs are often considered only in the case of a minor failure.</p>	<p>Include maintenance and repair provisions in tenders for the construction and management of housing.</p>
<p>Geographic Situation → Kawawachikamach, Matimekush-Lac John and Schefferville → Kitcisakik → Nunavik (KRG)</p>	<p>There are no local repair facilities in these communities and villages, so people have to go to another town to have their devices repaired, especially electronics. This lengthens the repair time and can discourage people from using those services. In the case of household appliances, this can make repairs simply impossible. This situation is also very real in other remote areas of Canada, not just in indigenous communities.</p> <p>In the Northern villages, someone would have to be directly on-site to do repairs, which would require that a position be created for a person to travel between Northern and Southern Quebec. This is more expensive, and recruiting for this type of position is difficult.</p>	<p>Provide repair training right in the Northern communities and villages.</p> <p>In Nunavik, the 14 villages are not connected by road. If a repair initiative were to be launched, it would have to be handled by an entity, such as I care, We care or the <i>Fédération des coopératives du Nouveau-Québec</i>, that already has a presence in each of these villages.</p>

Issue and Community(ies) and/or Northern Villages concerned	Obstacles to HAE Repair	Potential Incentives
<p>Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Kahnawà:ke → Kitcisakik → Nunavik (KRG) 	<p>Some federal and provincial government funding is available for indigenous communities, but not much is specifically related to waste management. In addition, these funds are not always adapted to the geographic reality. For example, the communities of Kitcisakik and Nunavik said that they have specific challenges that increase the cost of any projects that involve waste management (higher construction and rental costs, scarcity of accommodation, higher transportation costs, etc.).</p> <p>In some cases, depending on the funding agency's criteria, there is no single community entity or stakeholder that is eligible to receive funds and pilot a project.</p>	<p>Increase government funding for the remote regions in order to take into account the various additional challenges that many communities face. The RECYC-QUEBEC's <u>support program for remote communities</u> is a good example of a program accessible to indigenous communities.</p>
<p>Human resources and training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Kahnawà:ke → Kawawachikamach, Matimekush-Lac John and Schefferville → Nunavik (KRG) 	<p>There is interest among all the people met with in receiving training in HAE repair, but they often lack available human resources.</p> <p>The language issue is also a barrier for many communities in Canada, including Kahnawà:ke in Quebec, since repair training is often available only in French, which is neither their first nor second language.</p>	<p>Increase the availability of repair training in the various regions of Quebec, and offer it in languages other than French (English or indigenous languages).</p>