

BAPE Consultations – Chisasibi – November 11, 2014

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to Chisasibi. My name is Daisy House and I am the Deputy Chief of Chisasibi. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for agreeing to be in Chisasibi and to hear the concerns and issues we have with Uranium development and mining in the province and especially in our territory.

Chief Bobbish welcomed you to the community and delivered a well prepared speech informing you, the panel, that, he as Chief and leader of the Cree Nation of Chisasibi and his community are adamantly against uranium development and mining on our land. And that Chisasibi has given up way too much already and the impacts that development has had on the nation have been at times been very difficult to cope with for our people to say the least. You all know and have heard very clearly what Chisasibi and the whole Cree Nation's position is in this very serious matter that is being considered in the province. You have heard from various individuals, professionals, leaders, groups and from a myriad of organizations concerning this very contentious issue that will never go away until the province makes it go away for good by saying what our Chief said earlier. The one syllable word...NO! To Uranium development and mining.

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Les enjeux de la filière uranifère au Québec

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You have heard countless stories and various personal accounts of the many impacts development in general has had and especially uranium development and mining on several communities, towns and cities and its people all over the world. Moreover, you've heard from many leaders and citizens concerning the immeasurable issues raised about the impact uranium mining will have, has had and the voluminous unanswered questions that are out there and the abundant unknowns present. No one has a crystal ball to say, YES, Uranium mining will be good because of this and that. We all know that no one can ever assume that there will never be any problems no matter how much research is done and no matter how prepared one thinks they are. Nor should we ever think to mess around with mother-nature as she has the ultimate say. We've seen and heard about recent events where no one could predict the impacts of mother-nature can have on a project. Chief gave a perfect example of one in his statement, Fukushima.

The impacts can be devastating to our environment and most times irreversible and that is what everyone is trying to avoid. Therefore, we hope to hear that categorical NO/NIMAAH! To uranium mining and development. No! We don't want to take that chance and for what cost? Let's be those people, role models that other nations and even countries look at and say. They stopped it in the province of Quebec and this is how they did it and for these very important reasons. We could even say, for

noble reasons! People in the future, can hopefully look back 100 years from now and say, "They (meaning the province of Quebec) protected the land, they protected mother nature and that is why we have so many freshwater lakes, clean rivers and healthy lands, communities and towns because of what was decided when it came to Uranium development and mining. They said NO!

We are people of the land therefore, we will always talk and share about the importance of preserving our way of life. Most of us grew up learning about the land and to this day we continue to practice our traditional pursuits, customs and traditions because that is what we live by on a daily basis.

My husband and I have 2 boys and they are 11 and 77. Both really enjoy being out on the land as we take them out every chance we get as both my husband and I work. They love being out there and learning about living off the land and learning to hunt, fish and all the daily tasks involved when we are out on our trapline. But when it comes time to come home for work and school, they always shed tears because they don't want to come back because they love it out there so much. Being out there is all about rejuvenation and healing as a people. It's a lot of hard work but it's completely different from work in town. One has to experience it first hand to understand the true meaning of living off the

land. I can just get out and fish as we have rapids right there. The scenery is just breathtaking. That is just a small taste of what is out there.

We all have different stories, interests, priorities and preoccupations when it comes to our way of life. Our history is about water, land, harvesting, hunting, trapping and fishing (just to name a few) and that is what you will hear about. But if you go to another town near cities, their concerns will be about farming, gardens, bee keeping and the likes but our common concern is the negative impact Uranium mining will have on our livelihood, our history and especially our future generations to come. Uranium mining will severely alter our stories and our future. Let's change history by saying NO! to uranium. The concerns in Temiscamingue will be different from Gaspesie and also different in Sherbrooke or Montreal but the common concern is the threat and danger of uranium.

At the initial consultation back in June 2014, we heard from one of our teachers (Andrew) who was one of the initial speakers at the session. He basically made very poignant statements with regards to his concerns with Uranium development and mining in general and how he was against uranium mining. He told the panel that whoever will make the decision to proceed with Uranium development in the territory and in the province of Quebec would have many opportunities to say yes but

would only have this one chance to say no and to protect the land and our way of life. Uranium mining and development alone will have drastic impacts on millions possibly billions of lives, wildlife habitat, the different environments, watershed, migratory birds and much much more...And do we want that? My answer is NO!

I have a question.....I want to know if you can promise me that all the animals, plant life, vegetation, fish, small and large game will be protected? Promise is one thing, but can you guarantee that when I do plan to retire that I can live off the land? I'm 42 years of age and I could retire at age 50 if I wanted to. That's less than 8 years from now. Can you guarantee that I can live off on the land with my husband and family? It has always been our dream to eventually retire at our cabin out in the bay. My husband spent most of his childhood up until he was about 20 years old harvesting fish, large and small game with his parents. His parents chose to take him out of school and spend 6 months out of the year hunting fishing and trapping for sustenance. That's the choice his parents made for him and his siblings.

In closing, I want to thank you once again for coming to our community of Chisasibi and for taking the time to hear our concerns and issues. We look forward to that day when Quebec makes history by saying NO to

uranium mining and for shutting that door to future uranium development.

Thank you!