

**BUREAU D'AUDIENCES PUBLIQUES
SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT**

ÉTAIENT PRÉSENTS :

POUR LE BAPE : M. LOUIS-GILLES FRANCOEUR, président
Mme MICHÈLE GOYER, commissaire
M. JOSEPH ZAYED, commissaire

POUR LA CCEK : M. MICHAEL BARRETT, président
M. CLAUDE ABEL, commissaire
Mme SYLVIE LÉTOURNEAU, commissaire

**ENQUÊTE ET AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE
SUR LES ENJEUX DE LA FILIÈRE URANIFÈRE AU QUÉBEC**

PRÉCONSULTATION

VOLUME 16

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Kativik Town Hall Theater
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Kuujuuaq

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AJOURNEMENT

**MOT DU MAIRE DE KUUJJUAQ
Mr. TUNU NAPARTUK**

5 **Mr. TUNU NAPARTUK :**

10 Bonjour, tout le monde. Juste pour votre information, si vous avez besoin des écouteurs, parce que les trois langues vont être utilisées ici à Kuujjuaq, la langue maternelle inuktitut, si quelqu'un parle français, ça va être traduit en anglais puis en inuktitut aussi. Alors, si vous avez besoin des écouteurs, je pense que ce serait important de les prendre, je pense qu'ils sont un peu partout.

15 Just for your information, three languages – sorry, I am facing, I have my back towards you, guys – for your information, the three languages will be used; our mother tongue Inuktitut, we are inviting a number of people who want to speak in Inuktitut will have that opportunity. There will also be French speaking presentation as well too and that will be translated into English and into Inuktitut as well. Welcome to Quebec and to Kuujjuaq, especially.

20 Je m'appelle Tunu Napartuk. Je suis le maire de Kuujjuaq. C'est un honneur de vous accueillir ici à Kuujjuaq. Si c'est la première fois que vous êtes ici à Kuujjuaq, c'est vraiment une très belle communauté. Le temps, c'est exceptionnel. Je pense que dans le sud, c'est juste de la pluie. Si c'est la première fois ici, bienvenue, puis j'espère qu'à un moment donné, vous allez avoir une autre opportunité de revenir ici à Kuujjuaq.

25 My name is Tunu Napartuk. I am the mayor of Kuujjuaq, and it is a great honour and pleasure to welcome everyone to Kuujjuaq. If this is the first time, welcome. And I think you can see that it's a beautiful, beautiful community and the weather is just exceptional, and I have ordered that weather just for you, guys. And I hope that you will have another opportunity in the future to come back here to Kuujjuaq.

30 I have asked our elder, an elder to – it is very important for us here in our community to start with an opening prayer. It is really part of us and Norman Snowball, for your information, is the representative of Counsellor of the Northern Village of Kangiqsualujjuaq, he is one of the Council member who has been delegated to take part in this public consultation.

35 And he will say the prayer only in Inuktitut.

Mr. NORMAN SNOWBALL :

40 (Prayer - no translation)

Mr. TUNU NAPARTUK:

Thank you. I give you the floor, Michael.

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**MOT DU PRÉSIDENT
DE LA COMMISSION DU COMITÉ CONSULTATIF
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT KATIVIK (CCEK)
Mr. MICHAEL BARRETT**

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THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

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Hello. Bonjour. My name is Michael Barrett; I am one of the members of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee, and I have been asked by the other members of our Committee to act as the Chairperson for the KEAC Special Commission for the Environmental Hearings. These hearings are on the uranium industry. We will be Co-Chairing this session with Louis-Gilles Francoeur, who is on my right. He is the Chairperson of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement. We use the acronym 'BAPE' often. It is roughly translated as the Quebec Office for the Public Consultation on the Environment. Louis-Gilles will also make some brief opening comments. So, first of all, welcome everyone.

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I would like to first provide you just with some general information on the KEAC, I will use the acronym in English. It was created by virtue of the James Bay Agreement, Chapter 23. We are the official consultative body for matters of the environment to all three Governments, the Federal, the Government of Quebec, and the KRG, and our matters cover social protection, and within that mandate is the administration and management of the environmental and social protection regime. Again, that is the regime that was established by the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, so we are also mandated to advise the Governments on all issues of the implementation of the environmental and social protection and land use in, again, in the James Bay Agreement. We are to study and make recommendations on laws, policies and procedures, and to advise Governments on these, again in the domain of environment and social protection. Certainly, in the James Bay Agreement it was a first that the environmental assessment included not only the environment but social.

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And we are also to overview the implementation of the environmental assessment regime. There are nine members on the Advisory Committee; three are named by the Kativik Regional Government, three are named by the Government of Quebec, and three are named by the Government of Canada. Each year we change Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons, and we have

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85 the obligation of meeting at least four times a year, and we meet twice in Nunavik and twice down south. So, with me are two other members of the Advisory Committee. To my far left, and to your right, is Claude Abel, and he is currently the Chairperson of the Committee who was named by the Government of Canada, and beside me is Sylvie Letourneau, and she is named by the Government of Quebec, and she is currently the Vice Chairperson. On the Special Commission we have a fourth member, Betsy Palliser, from Povungnituk, but unfortunately Betsy is on sick leave at the time so she could not join us tonight.

90 So now, I will move directly to the consultation process itself. So, in Quebec, in response to public concerns about uranium mining on March 3, 2014 the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques – we have, in English it is translated Sustainable Development, Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change. So he gave the BAPE, or the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement the mandate to do consultation throughout Quebec on the exploration and exploitation of uranium throughout the whole of Quebec.

95 So, in Nunavik, in response to a letter from Makivik, and certainly from the Advisory Committee, it was agreed that the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee would co-chair the hearings in Nunavik, and in the James Bay area, the equivalent to our Advisory Committee, the James Bay Environmental Advisory Committee, will co-chair the Committee.

100 The work began in May, so just very recently, and this work is to terminate or end in May 2015; so, there is one year to do this work. So it is very important, especially here in Nunavik where we have been to public hearings on mining projects, minings to be, mines to be developed, to understand that this is not about a single mine. It is to consult on the uranium exploration and mining of uranium, and to understand from the public if this is acceptable, and if the uranium industry in Quebec would be developed.

105 So, all the information that is being presented here tonight, and at all of the other hearings, are in the public domain. That is to say it is all public. This is being recorded, as all other sessions, and it is available on the BAPE website, and the information in paper copies or electronic versions are also available from the Office of the Secretariat of the Kativak Environmental Advisory Committee here in Kuujjuaq. Now, the process is a very formal process, unlike a lot of the other - well, all of our processes are formal, but this one is much longer, and it consists of three, three different stages or three different phases.

110 So the first, we are at here in Kuujjuaq, and this is a pre-consultation phase, so it will go tonight, and if people want to come tomorrow morning we shall be available. So, it is to discuss the challenges and issues for uranium exploration, exploitation, and management of uranium. So the

120 purpose, the objective tonight is to hear your views and to hear your questions about permitting uranium exploration and exploitation.

125 So we have to, together as the two Commissions, to better understand what your concerns are, and your questions about uranium mining. So, it is very important for your input so we can organize for the second session. Now once your preoccupations are known, then we, together, will identify, and especially with the resources of the BAPE, some experts to respond to your questions at this session in the fall, in the Phase 2. As I said, this is very formal. There is a sign-in at the back, so if you wish to speak we would ask you just to first go to the back and just give your name, and then you will be inscribed to speak. So, you can come forward to speak, okay?

130 And we will have a break before the time is for speaking. We are going to present a video also, and at that point we will have a short break and then be ready for your questions.

135 Phase 2 will give an opportunity for us all to learn, ourselves and yourselves, about uranium. As I said, there will be experts to make presentations, and you and other people in Quebec can ask some questions and we can ask them questions to understand the questions. So, the organization of Phase 2, we are still in the planning stages. We are not sure where that would be held, but that is where we will be developing that. So, that will be in September, and there will be other public hearings with resource people to make presentations.

140 At the hearings in Montreal and Quebec, our Advisory Committee as well as the James Bay Advisory Committee, will have a privileged place to sit, and as the Chairman, Chairperson for our questions, and we will have the privilege of server status. We will also be able to ask questions, and also during these hearings people from Nunavik can send questions in, either through
145 ourselves, participate in person, or send their question in by the Internet.

150 Now we move to the Phase 3, and that is going to happen in the fall, and right now the sessions, we have planned sessions in Kawawachikamach, in Kangiqsualujjuaq, and in Kuujjuaq. This is because, as you have seen at the maps, a lot of the uranium or the known uranium signs or deposits are in the area of these three communities, and we haven't determined the dates, except that it should be some time in November, and again, individuals, organizations, can make presentations, and certainly in all of these hearings in Nunavik, there will be trilingual translation. In Kawawachikamach, there will also be translation in Naskapi, and again, everything that is said here will be on the BAPE website.

155 So, once all of the consultations throughout all of the regions in Quebec are done, then there will be a final report made by the BAPE, and for Nunavik, for the chapter on Nunavik, the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee will work with the BAPE to draft that chapter together; and if the Advisory Committee, the Special Commission from the Advisory Committee feels that they are not

160 in agreement with this chapter, then we reserve the right to make a presentation direct to the
Minister. That is if necessary, okay?

165 So, after Mr. Francoeur makes his presentation there will be a video presentation on
uranium, and followed by a break, and then on to your questions.

So, thank you for your time to listen to me, and I will turn the Chairpersonship over to
Monsieur Francoeur.

170 **MOT DU PRÉSIDENT DE LA COMMISSION
D'ENQUÊTE ET D'AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE
M. LOUIS-GILLES FRANCOEUR**

175 **LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

Thank you, Michael. Merci.

180 Bonsoir tout le monde. Je vais vous dire qu'on est très heureux d'être dans votre
communauté. Pour les gens du sud, c'est un voyage de rêve que de venir voir les gens qui sont au
bout du Québec, complètement au nord. Alors, c'est non seulement un plaisir aussi, mais c'est
aussi un devoir qu'on assume avec beaucoup de fierté parce que le mandat qu'on nous a confié,
on l'estime... bon. Est-ce que c'est mieux comme ça pour les traducteurs? Oui? Bon.

185 Alors, monsieur Barrett a très bien résumé l'essentiel de ce que normalement je dis quand je
m'adresse à un auditoire dans le sud du Québec, alors je ne vais pas répéter tout ce qu'il a dit, et
je vais plutôt essayer de vous donner une idée plus précise du mandat que le ministre de
l'Environnement nous a donné le 3 mars dernier.

190 Dans sa lettre, le ministre nous écrivait, et je le cite :

195 « *Dans une perspective de développement durable, ce mandat portera notamment sur les
impacts environnementaux, sociaux et économiques liés à l'exploration et à l'exploitation de
l'uranium. Plusieurs aspects pourront donc être examinés lors de cette enquête, notamment ceux
qui sont reliés à la santé et à la sécurité associés à cette activité minière.*

Le ministre ajoute dans sa lettre que notre mandat porte – et je le cite encore :

200 « [...] sur l'ensemble du territoire québécois, y compris les territoires visés aux chapitres 22 et
23 de la Convention de la Baie-James et du Nord québécois et au chapitre 14 de la Convention du
Nord-Est québécois et au chapitre 2 de la Loi de l'environnement. Je m'attends donc – précise le
ministre – à ce que les comités consultatifs prévus à la Convention de la Baie-James et à la
205 Convention du Nord-Est québécois ainsi que dans le chapitre 2 de la Loi de l'environnement soient
associés à l'exercice de consultation publique, afin de bénéficier de l'expertise de ces comités et
de veiller à s'assurer qu'il n'est pas porté atteinte aux droits des autochtones sur ces territoires. »

210 C'est ce qui vous explique que nous siégeons ce soir avec des représentants des membres
de la commission créée par le Comité consultatif de l'environnement du Kativik.

215 Le ministre précise enfin dans sa lettre mandat, que notre commission terminera ses travaux
le 20 mai 2015, comme l'a souligné monsieur Barrett. À la demande du ministre, le BAPE a aussi
rendu public, le 16 avril dernier, un document d'environ 150 pages intitulé : *Étude sur l'état des
connaissances, les impacts et les mesures d'atténuation de l'exploration et de l'exploitation des
gisements d'uranium sur le territoire québécois* ». C'était pour faire une sorte de base
documentaire à l'usage de tout le monde.

220 Ce document a été préparé par des professeurs de l'Université Laval et de l'UQAM à
Montréal, en appui avec un réseau qui s'appelle le réseau DIVEX.

225 Il est important de souligner que ce document n'émane pas, n'a pas été demandé par notre
commission. Il a été demandé par le ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement, de
la Faune et des Parcs et par le ministère des Ressources naturelles.

230 Ce document, vous pouvez le trouver sur le site internet du BAPE ainsi qu'une
documentation supplémentaire sur toute la question de l'exploration et de l'exploitation minière, de
sorte que si vous voulez commencer à amorcer des lectures là-dessus au profit de vos
communautés, vous trouverez une abondante documentation.

235 Je vous rappellerai ici que le BAPE est un organisme public qui relève du ministre de
l'Environnement, du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les
changements climatiques et il n'est pas décisionnel. Ce n'est pas nous qui prenons les décisions,
mais il conseille le gouvernement, il éclaire la prise de décision par des constats et des avis, en
appliquant une notion d'environnement qui a été reconnue et établie par les tribunaux supérieurs
du Canada, une définition de l'environnement qui englobe les aspects écologiques, sociaux et
économiques, les trois ensemble. C'est dans cette logique que nous allons aborder notre mandat.

240 La commission va aussi analyser le dossier de la filière uranifère en considérant et en
appliquant au dossier, les seize (16) principes de la *Loi sur le développement durable*. Et pour
mener notre enquête, les commissaires ont les pouvoirs prévus dans la *Loi sur les commissions
d'enquête*.

245 Alors, plusieurs mesures visent à assurer l'indépendance et la rigueur et l'impartialité des
membres du BAPE qui composent notre commission, notamment pour exercer les pouvoirs de la
Loi sur les commissions d'enquête, les membres du BAPE, y compris les trois commissaires
devant vous ici ce soir, ont été assermentés devant un juge de la Cour supérieure et il en découle
que notre commission a un devoir strict de neutralité, d'impartialité ainsi qu'un devoir de réserve et
qu'elle doit agir envers tous les participants avec équité et dans le souci du respect mutuel.

250 Au cours de nos travaux, notre commission entend faire preuve de la plus grande ouverture
possible dans le respect des personnes et des institutions, ainsi que dans le respect de notre
mandat qui porte sur les enjeux de la filière uranifère.

255 Comme l'a rappelé monsieur Barrett, ce qui est dit en audience est enregistré, et les
transcriptions seront disponibles sur le site Web du BAPE. Alors, si vous voulez vous y référer au
moment d'écrire des mémoires, alors ça vous fera une abondante documentation à laquelle vous
pourrez vous référer. Et ces transcriptions seront disponibles environ une semaine après la
semaine de séances publiques. Donc, dans à peu près une dizaine de jours.

260 Aussi, la webdiffusion audio et vidéo des séances publiques, depuis le début de nos travaux
et jusqu'à la fin, sera disponible en différé sur le site internet du BAPE jusqu'à un mois après la
publication du rapport l'an prochain. Alors, c'est aussi une abondante documentation que vous
pourrez consulter.

265 Et, évidemment, notre site Web va s'enrichir progressivement de tous les documents et les
réponses que les experts, les spécialistes, les personnes-ressources fourniront à notre commission
et une section est aussi réservée aux documents que le public voudra déposer auprès de notre
commission.

270 Je signale enfin que notre commission entend consacrer son travail d'analyse à
l'exploration et à l'exploitation de l'uranium, et non pas à la production d'énergie nucléaire, aux
questions d'armement nucléaire ou à la question de la gestion des déchets des centrales
nucléaires.

275 C'est évident que des gens qui auraient des problèmes moraux ou éthiques avec ces
activités pourront nous en parler et nous en tiendrons compte, mais ce n'est pas notre mandat

d'évaluer la question de l'énergie, de l'armement ou de la gestion des centrales nucléaires. Notre question c'est l'exploration et l'exploitation de l'uranium.

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Alors, on va commencer par vous présenter une synthèse vidéo du document qui a été produit par les universitaires et le groupe DIVEX dont je vous ai parlé au début de ma présentation. Ça dure peut-être vingt-cinq (25) minutes, et ce sera suivi d'une pause au cours de laquelle on vous invite à vous enregistrer à l'arrière pour ensuite venir nous faire état de vos préoccupations sur la question.

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Je voudrais aussi vous souligner une question importante, c'est que si vous voulez nous transmettre d'autres préoccupations que ce que vous voulez nous dire ce soir, ou si vous connaissez des gens qui ne sont pas ici et qui voudraient nous transmettre leurs préoccupations, ce sera possible de le faire jusqu'au 11 juillet prochain, en utilisant le formulaire en ligne sur le site Web du BAPE. Ça peut être aussi fait par courriel, par courrier, et ceci, afin de permettre au plus grand nombre de nous transmettre leurs préoccupations.

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Alors, je termine là-dessus, en invitant notre spécialiste en électronique, Pierre Dufour, qui est très frustré ce soir, parce qu'il n'a pas réussi à mettre en ligne directement sur le Web, mais ce sera en différé dans les prochains jours. La séance de ce soir sera accessible sur internet d'ici vingt-quatre (24) ou quarante-huit (48) heures.

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Alors, Pierre, on peut y aller.

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**VISIONNEMENT DE LA VIDÉO PORTANT SUR
L'ÉTAT DES CONNAISSANCES, LES IMPACTS ET LES MESURES D'ATTÉNUATION DE
L'EXPLORATION ET DE L'EXPLOITATION DES GISEMENTS D'URANIUM SUR LE
TERRITOIRE QUÉBÉCOIS.**

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SÉANCE SUSPENDUE QUELQUES MINUTES

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**REPRISE DE LA SÉANCE
PÉRIODE DE QUESTIONS
Mr. ADAMIE DÉLISLE ALAKU and
Mr. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN**

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THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

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We start? So we have a few people who registered to make presentations. The first is Adamie Délisle Alaku and Jean-Marc Séguin. So, if you would come to the mic, Jean-Marc, Adamie?

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Mr. ADAMIE DÉLISLE ALAKU :

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From my understanding we would like to see much of our people involved in this matter, but normally public hearings such as this takes place at the wrong time, which is this time of the year, when most people are out hunting. My name is Adamie Délisle Alaku, Second Vice President of Makivik Corporation. I will state, say what Makivik is, and also comment on some of what has been said, and Seguin, who is our worker.

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First of all, Makivik was established under the James Bay Agreement in 1978 to represent Nunavik people. Before that, it was Northern Quebec Inuit Association. The beneficiaries of Nunavik, we are representing them. We have five executives, and each representative per community. All aspects of Nunavik issues are dealt with by Makivik, and within the James Bay Agreement, under the James Bay Agreement Makivik was established to be the caretaker of the compensation, and administer its interest, to receive, administer, use and invest the part intended for Inuit compensation provided by JBNQIA to relieve poverty, and to promote the well-being and advancement of education of the Inuit, to develop and improve the Inuit communities, to improve the means of actions, to foster, promote, protect, and assist preserving the Inuit ways of life, values, and traditions, such as hunting and fishing.

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As you can see the map, the way it is - this was the result of the agreement, so as you can see our Category 1 lands, and there is also offshore claims, which is administered under Makivik. The Nunavik statistics, it is a territory of 660,000 kilometres, population of 12,752, according to 2014, 14 northern villages, 90 percent population are JBNQIA beneficiaries. 50 percent are under 20 years of age. Main spoken language Inuktitut and English, some in French. Mandatory that all provided information from Industry and BAPE and KEAC Commission in Inuktitut and English, for meeting for consultation in Nunavik.

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360 What you presented in the CD was very scientific, and I don't think there is any words in Inuktitut, and they were very important, and these are very important parts that need to be understood by our people. If they were at least in English, because we have a majority English as a second language English-speaking population, according to the map that you have presented, we want to hear about two communities, Kangiqsualujjuaq and near Kuujjuaq. We have also heard there has been AREVA, who has been doing exploration. Azimut, Daniel Lake, we have also heard that there is exploration there, and others, Labrador, Waseco Resources, Fission Energy Corp. Dieter Lake.

365 This map also shows from 2006 to 2008 Kangiqsualujjuaq, mostly in Kangiqsualujjuaq or near Kangiqsualujjuaq. We are very concerned, as Inuit people, all of the concerns that we have that were gathered. There are more and more helicopters, explorations that are present, and more and more people now based in the communities, and also in our hunting grounds, and I want this -
370 and I know that there is not - uranium is not well understood by our people, and because they are right near our Category 1 lands. The impacts would be in the waters, will not impact on our fish population, the water that we drink? If you are living in Nunavik you would be in the most healthiest region; you have the best water. We also have beautiful land. Our hunting grounds are beautiful, because we live in a very expensive land, but we, we survive also what comes with it, and we want
375 to maintain that as long as we live.

380 According to the news, we hear really bad news. When there was an earthquake in Japan it was very impacted, their uranium plant. All their surrounding sea, ocean, was impacted very close to Canada and United States, and this is very alarming to us. In 1980s Chernobyl, there was also an accident; we have also heard about that.

385 Challenges. We need to learn more about uranium, and what impacts it usually has. Information from CDs, videos, pamphlets. The people of Nunavik has to know what impacts it can have. The CD that you have just showed myself, Chemistry 536 and Physics that I took, I did not really understand what it was saying. Some I understood, but it is just an example that if you have never gone to school you will not understand it. It is very difficult to understand.

390 As leaders in Nunavik, we are not - they don't consult with us when they should. If they want to do any exploration or open a mine they should consult Makivik and to tell us what the challenges are. From my understanding the mining companies always say that there is no problem, there is no danger, it is safe, and again, it was written that there was no danger, but I don't believe that because when we see incidents through television there is dangerous aspects. For us in Nunavik it would be a big impact if that would happen.

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400 Nunavik concerns and questions. During the exploration phases if they should start the dust through drilling, mining, what are the impacts? Open pits, and - what do you call those - underground? What are the - our wildlife, our river systems, lakes, because air is always moving in different directions. So, we are concerned, and many others. There is some things that are left behind that are going to the river systems and then going to the sea. How much impact is that going to have in our environment? And if there was transportation involved, how safe are they? How is that going to be worked out? How will the people be impacted? Our waters and river systems and lakes and what lives in them, how safe is it, because we eat those. Should mining really open what impacts are we expecting?

405 These are many questions that we are concerned about. We have been asked by our people are you going with the go-ahead of uranium, or are you opposing to that? We also know that there was parks that were opened so that they would not be touched. There is also mining, there will also be a mining policy that will come out under the JBNQIA, under James - treaty rights, including JBNQIA Chapter 23 is not settled yet. Other relevant environmental review processes, and our next-door neighbours, are Cree positions versus Matoush Project, and they said no to the projects, and just recently we heard that they totally are not in agreement with the opening of uranium mines in their area.

415 AREVA is a Kikavik project. They are working a lot. There is also Nunatsiavut moratorium lifted. The 300 Quebec municipalities moratoriums on uranium, yes, we have to really review, see the best practices of uranium industry on others that are written, such as stringent frameworks, regulated sectors, but we also want to hear more about what includes, in Chapter 23, because we don't want our environment impacted, and after all the consultation and after meetings of our executive and our Board of Directors they will probably be discussing what your findings here, and I thank everyone for allowing me to speak. So, I will ask Jean-Marc if he wants to comment, or add to what I am saying.

425 **Mr. JEAN-MARC SEGUIN :**

430 My name is Jean-Marc Seguin, I am the Mining Coordinator for the Makivik Corporation. We have been asked to come in front of this commission and to present to you our concerns. Adamie summarized pretty well the small presentation that we submitted to this Commission tonight. For comments, I would like to insist and outline that every information that is provided to the Nunavik community should at least be translated in English, and if possible in Inuktitut for a more comprehensive understanding for the population.

435 From the video, like Adamie mentioned, there are very difficult terms and concepts that have been presented, so we request that any further documentation and information should be adjusted and well-addressed to the Nunavik Inuit.

440 I won't go through all the concerns that were presented on the screen and by Adamie, but one thing that we sure will do is we would like to hear, as well, the comments, concerns, and questions from other communities, so it will be very interesting to hear about Kangiqsualujjuaq members that will come, I guess that will follow, and as the representative of all Nunavik Inuit, Makivik Corporation will always be behind their communities.

445 So, in order to protect their rights and interests Makivik will listen carefully of what the communities are questioning, the community's concern, I mean, about the uranium exploration/exploitation. Like it was pointed out, in Kangiqsualujjuaq between 2006 and 2008 there was intensive exploration activities that occurred, and the community was a bit taken by surprise, and of course prices of uranium triggered that intensity of exploration. So, it happened very suddenly. The communities were not prepared, not aware, not informed, so they kind of welcomed in a very imposed manner the companies coming. So, there were at least two, even three companies working in the area very intensively. So, it provided or it created impacts within the communities.

450 So, that has to be addressed in the future by providing more education or information regarding uranium, especially. And just one example, currently in Aupaluk there is a very significant important mining project, but it is for iron, and that iron deposits have been identified and are proved to be economical to a certain extent. The community, as well, is really concerned by the proximity, so just imagine if uranium comes in the picture. Uranium is a very special commodity; it is involving a lot of chemical processes during the enrichment of the ore milling, if I may say. So if we say, if we just look at iron, it doesn't involve such processes, so just imagine if there is uranium potential near Kangiqsualujjuaq. So, there is a lot of questions to be raised, and concerns to be transmitted to this Commission. Thank you very much.

Mr. ADAMIE DÉLISLE ALAKU :

465 (Not translated). There is, we are still looking for funds to clean up abandoned mines. There are now new laws that they will not abandon mines without cleaning them up, but the drilling and what they leave behind open possibly are not safe. Like, not too long ago I checked on, within, in United States there are many people who are now cancer cases of such mines that are not taken care of.

470 Thank you, and make sure that you transmit information, and thank you for allowing me to speak.

475

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

Nakurmick Adamie. Merci, Jean-Marc. Can you stay for a moment in case some of the members of the Commission would have a question? Claude, Sylvie, do you have any questions?

480

Mrs. SYLVIE LETOURNEAU :

No.

485

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

No? Okay.

490

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR:

Yes. I would like to know if the Government of Quebec delivers a licence for, delivers claim on the land of Category 1, or if it is excluded by the treaty, the James Bay Agreement?

495

Mr. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN :

Like it was explained, in Nunavik we have three categories of land; Category 1, 2, and 3.

500

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR:

Yes.

505

Mr. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN :

Category 1 land is owned by local landholding corporations, the locals. Every community has their own local corporation. So, it is improbable to stake claims because they have the companies who wish to claim inside Category 1 land must have the authorization of the community. So, by a referendum communities may allow a company, but it is improbable, but not impossible to stake claims, but the Government cannot issue claims to a company inside Category 1 land unless they have the authorization of the community.

510

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

And this question is settled by referendum?

515

Mr. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN :

520 Yes. There was one case recently, a company wanted to claim inside Category 1 land in Kangirsuk, as a matter of fact, and a referendum, a community referendum rejected the proposal. So, there was no claim issued.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR:

525 Okay. A second question, you said that uranium has a bad press reputation, and you quoted the Sept-Isles and Mistissini. Did you follow the debate in those cities?

Mr. ADAMIE DÉLISLE ALAKU :

530 We are aware of the situation that is revolving around our fellow aboriginals. We follow the news, we follow the media, and we are aware that our fellow First Nations are opposed to the uranium exploitation and mining. So, it is current events; it is something that we watch pretty carefully on a day-to-day basis.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR:

535 I see. Would it be possible to make a deposit of your presentation, because you had many field of interests that you quoted, and I would like us to have your paper. It would be very helpful to have a complete list. If you could give it at the end of this meeting to the people in the back it would be really helpful.

540

Mr. ADAMIE DÉLISLE ALAKU :

Yes, no problem.

545

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR:

Okay, I would ask my colleagues if they have questions.

LA COMMISSAIRE GOYER :

550

555 Vous me permettez de les poser en français? Je ne parle ni l'inuktitut, ni très bien l'anglais. Alors, vous nous avez dit : « Nous avons été pris par surprise lorsque l'industrie minière uranifère est arrivé chez nous » et vous nous avez dit : « Ça a eu des impacts dans notre communauté. » Est-ce que vous pourriez nous en donner quelques exemples? Comment ça a pu avoir, rien qu'au stade de l'exploration, des impacts?

Please allow me to ask my questions in French. I speak neither Inuktitut, neither English, at least not very well. We were kind of surprised when the uranium industry arrived and you said that it had impact in your communities. Could you explain, give some examples, what impacts at the exploration stage? For instance, what are the impacts?

560

Mr. ADAMIE DÉLISLE ALAKU :

And they also look for workers, so yes, there is a lot of - like I was speaking to Willie Annanack. Those people who were doing drillings, I understand that they were not even using masks when they were drilling. Will that have an impact on the people that were doing the drilling? These are concerns, the kind of concerns we have, because it could have a health impact, and if there is going to be more mining exploration or mining companies arriving in our communities, yes, we are going to have a big impact.

565

570

M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN :

Si je peux rajouter? Pendant ces campagnes d'exploration, comme j'ai mentionné, il y avait deux, trois compagnies en même temps à Kangiqsualujuaq, donc chacune avait un hélicoptère qui – puis Kangiqsualujuaq, c'est un village de, je ne sais pas, sept cents (700) personnes, donc avec une piste d'atterrissage, pas réduite, mais limitée. Il y a des services assez limités aussi, donc pour subvenir aux besoins en essence, j'imagine que la compagnie prévoyait aussi d'avance ses activités, mais quand même, il y avait un va-et-vient assez constant qui, déjà là, c'était, comment dire, pas habituel dans le ciel de Kangiqsualujuaq.

575

580

Un bureau a été implanté, un bureau de la compagnie AREVA, dans ce cas-ci, donc une autre dynamique dans le village qui faisait, bon, qu'il y avait un impact sur l'épicerie. Une épicerie qui fournit sept cents (700) personnes puis là, on rajoute vingt (20), trente (30) personnes du jour au lendemain, ça crée déjà une autre dynamique, sans compter que les projets se situaient à des endroits assez stratégiques, si je peux dire, au niveau de la pêche. Alluviaq, le fjord d'Alluviaq, c'est reconnu pour être une source de poisson assez importante pour la communauté.

585

Donc là, déjà là, les gens se questionnaient si les phases de forage allaient avoir une incidence au point de vue de la contamination sur les ruisseaux, les rivières et, en fin de compte, la baie.

590

Les claims qui entouraient pratiquement les terres de catégories 1 qui sont propriétés de la communauté, ça aussi, ça faisait un impact à la communauté. La communauté se sentait peut-être un peu emprisonnée par ces claims-là, ces titres miniers là.

595 Donc tout ça faisait en sorte que, bon, j'ai eu des commentaires, puis j'aimerais bien entendre ceux des gens de Kangiqsualujjuaq qui sont ici ce soir. Mais déjà là, à ce moment-là, je me souviens très bien que les gens étaient un petit peu « insécures », là, par rapport aux campagnes d'exploration.

600 *I would like to add, you know, if there, there are two or three companies, each of those companies had a helicopter, and Kangiqsualujjuaq is a village of about 700 people. Therefore, with one landing, one limited services, limited services, sorry, to provide to the needs of the communities. I suppose that the companies thought about this, however there was movement that was not usual in the skies of Kuujjuaq, and there was an office of the AREVA Company in that case.*

605 *Therefore, there was another, another kind of dynamic in the village. We have a grocery store that provides for about 700 people, and then you add a lot more people, well that creates a different type of atmosphere, and the projects were also located at very strategic places in Alluviaq, for instance, which is recognized as being an important source of fish for the communities.*

610 *Therefore, there were questions about the drilling, about the impacts, the contamination, the pollution of rivers, of water surfaces.*

615 *So it claims, a concern; Category 1 lands that belong to the community, and that, too, had an impact. So, the community felt a bit uncomfortable with this, in this relation, so I had comments, but I would love to hear the people here in the room tonight, but I remember that people were kind of secure with relation to, you know, exploration.*

620 **LA COMMISSAIRE GOYER :**

 Merci. Si les gens viennent nous parler, je ne vous poserai pas d'autres questions, je vais attendre qu'ils viennent nous parler. Merci beaucoup.

625 *If people come and talk to us, I will not ask questions; I will wait and ask my questions afterwards.*

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

630 Questions?

635 **LE COMMISSAIRE ZAYED :**

Oui. Vous avez précisé que cinquante pour cent (50 %) de la population avait vingt (20) ans et moins, et je me demandais si vous aviez consulté la population et s'il y a une démarcation importante entre les jeunes et les plus âgés en termes d'acceptabilité des projets miniers et, en particulier, ceux d'uranium?

640 *You have said that about 50 percent of the population was 20 years and younger. Did you consult this population? Is there really a difference, an important difference between the youth and the elderly concerning the acceptability of those projects?*

645 **Mr. ADAMIE DELISLE ALAKU :**

Like I said, for many years the mining companies have been exploring in our region for different kinds of goods, but this uranium is very new, and I understand the market is high at this time, and it is also clear because of the climate changes. There is also other, they are looking for other ways, such as looking for maybe cheaper ways to run electricity, maybe through nuclear plants, but for us in - for us this is new, and we also have to inform our people. We are going to have to perform a lot of public meetings, but from what we understand, we have a - Raglan and nickel, which is now open, Canadian royalties, and one in Aupaluk is, there is an interest to open one. Many Inuit people prefer not to see any mining companies, but there will need to be a lot of transparency in terms of information, and to make sure the people understand, and especially like - I mean, I don't have a lot to say on uranium because, for me, this is very new.

655 **LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

660 D'autres questions? Non? Alors, nous vous remercions beaucoup de votre participation et monsieur Barrett, vous voulez appelez le prochain intervenant?

665 _____
Mr. WILLIE ANNANACK

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

670 The next person who is registered is Willie Annanack. Welcome Willie.

675 **Mr. WILLIE ANNANACK :**

Willie Annanack, President of the Landholding Corporation. I was told to come here to this hearing. I have only recently had questions come upon me. For me, just to listen was very hard, knowing that my people, knowing that our people have been drilling as higher people, and they were drilling without masks, including my son who was doing drilling as well, and so I think that this should be monitored. These things should be monitored when they do drillings because they were drilling very openly. There was no, no one really to watch what they are doing, and the drillers had their cabins, and these pieces that were taken out of the drilling are out in the open. I don't know, I think that that cabin where they left the products should be checked.

685

We were told that, we were told by the mining companies that, that there is nothing wrong with what they are doing, there is no danger. So, that is what they were telling the people that were working there. And so maybe the mining exploration that takes place in our communities should be checked to see if they are really working according to the law. We have our, near our community, all the way up to Killiniq we have fish, and each of those fish from the rivers go to different lakes, but according to our knowledge the fish, the Arctic char, sometimes they go to another lake where they don't normally go. But if the fish were - should the fish be contaminated, that is something to think about, to think about. I would also want our population to understand very carefully, in-depth understand the possible impacts on uranium in fish, because I will transmit what I have learned so far from this hearing.

695

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

I am going to ask the other members if they have questions for you. I, for myself, I understand that you raised very important questions about uranium and about the fish, and also about the possible danger for humans. So these are well noted, and I will ask the other Commission if they have questions on your presentation.

700

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

705

Vas-y.

LE COMMISSAIRE ZAYED:

O.K. Can you put ears because I am going to speak in French? Ça va? Est-ce qu'il existe une agence sur le territoire qui est responsable de la sécurité des travailleurs?

710

Is there an agency on the land, on the territory, that is responsible for the security of workers?

715 **THE CHAIRMAN BARRETT :**

Did you hear the translation of that?

720 **LE COMMISSAIRE ZAYED:**

I am sorry, could you repeat your answer please?

Mr. WILLIE ANNACK :

725 His question is the only available resources we have is CLSC in our community. Maybe the, maybe there is some in the south. If there was people from the south coming up to make this kind of service available then maybe we would have that kind of service.

LE COMMISSAIRE ZAYED :

730 Donc, ce que vous me répondez c'est qu'actuellement, c'est qu'actuellement, à votre connaissance, il n'y a aucune agence sur le territoire, responsable de s'assurer de la sécurité des travailleurs. C'est bien ça?

735 *To your knowledge there is no agency on the territory that is responsible for the security of workers; is that what you said?*

Mr. WILLIE ANNANACK :

740 The people who were doing the labour work in our community, I think you would be better off asking them directly what was given to them as information.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

745 J'aimerais savoir si les gens qui ont travaillé sur ces chantiers-là ont vu des déchets, ont vu des choses contaminer les rivières? Have they seen something and they reported to you?

I would like to know if the people who worked on those sites saw, observed, wastes or contaminated waters, rivers?

750 **Mr. WILLIE ANNANACK :**

I don't quite understand.

755 **THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :**

I'll just ask his question in English. He was asking if the people who worked for the mining exploration saw waste or saw contamination of the water or the land around where they were working.

760

Mr. WILLIE ANNANACK :

Myself, I have not been told, but they have seen - we were told that they have seen or found enough to keep their interest out of the - that is all we were informed.

765

[In Inuktitut – No translation] I think you would be better off asking those people who were working directly there.

770

We have - there is one site that we have not dealt with yet. The rest we have not, we have - they have a tractor that we haven't dealt with yet because we don't have the means of transportation to take it out, but the rest we have tried our best.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

775

I would like to know if the noise that the helicopters and all the tractors do, does it make a difference for the hunters?

Mr. WILLIE ANNANACK :

780

I have not noticed any people complaining about the noise. They only know that the wildlife is more the, more interrupted than the people.

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

785

That's the questions that we have for the moment. Nakurmik, Willie, for bringing the concerns of your community to these hearings and your concerns are noted in the record.

790

795

Mr. NORMAN SNOWBALL

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

So the next person on the list is Norman Snowball.

800

Mr. NORMAN SNOWBALL :

[Problem with translation]

805

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

You can start.

810

Mr. NORMAN SNOWBALL :

There are no comments. – I can't hear him, though. – I am a total Inuk, full-fledged. I have never went to school, I have never been into the education system, so what you are talking about, uranium, I haven't the slightest idea of the meaning of it, and so my people in our community are pretty much like me. What kind of - what uranium is, and it is just next-door to our community. We have heard that it was found near our community. And so once we saw the video, the impacts that it could have, the way I understood it is now very alarming to me because I am a hunter. I have always been a hunter. I only eat, mostly eat country food, and from what I am hearing I am hearing alarming information for my next generation.

815

820

It is very scary that our next generation might not even learn about our country food, or remember about our country food, and so I, me, myself, I will look forward to full support from our organization, such as Kativik Regional Government and Makivik Corporation, and we also ask that you present to us Inuktitut-translated information so that we can learn about what you are talking about. We need you to talk to us about it in our communities, but we also have to - I was also told to say this from my community, that we do not want to see a uranium mine near our community.

825

830

I saw, in the map that was in the back here, it is way too close to our community, and right at our fishing grounds. Not only fishing, but also sea mammals, and so our people need to be very much informed. I think that what I have said so far is already clear, and I don't have a lot to say. I also understand that there will be, there are environment commissions, advisory committees, who should also keep us informed of the development.

835 **THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :**

Nakurmik, Norman, a very clear presentation. Sylvie and Claude, do you have questions?

840 **Mr. CLAUDE ABEL :**

No, nothing.

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

845 No?

Ms. SYLVIE LETOURNEAU :

No.

850

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

Okay.

855 **LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

Quand vous dites que les gens chez vous ne comprennent pas ce que c'est l'uranium, mais qu'ils ne veulent pas de mine, est-ce que ça veut dire que s'ils comprenaient mieux, qu'ils auraient peut-être un avis différent?

860

When you say that the people from where you are from don't understand what uranium is, but they don't want any mine, does it mean that if they would understand it better that they might change their minds?

865 **Mr. NORMAN SNOWBALL :**

I am not saying that they do not understand, but there are many, many who are like me that did not go to school, because this is new to us. Maybe some people do understand what mining is all about, but there are also many that have no idea what mining is all about, and so they need to be consulted transparently. But from my understanding so far, from what I have been getting, that uranium is one of the most dangerous mining parts.

870

875 **LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

Est-ce que mes collègues ont des questions? Does my colleague have questions?

880 **LE COMMISSAIRE ZAYED:**

Juste une toute petite question. Vous avez indiqué que la communauté n'est pas intéressée à avoir des mines d'uranium près de ses habitations. C'est quoi pour vous, près? Est-ce que c'est sur l'ensemble du territoire inuit? Est-ce que c'est sur une partie à une certaine distance des communautés?

885

Yes, just a small one. You have mentioned that the community does not want to have any uranium mine near their community. What do you mean by 'near'? Is it everywhere on the Inuit territory, or is it just at a certain distance from a community?

890 **Mr. NORMAN SNOWBALL :**

When you look at the map it is very close to the community. If ever there was a mine it will go right into our river, the George River. We also have a park that is going to be open soon in that same area, and so there is a problem there. There is a major problem there. I hope I am clear.

895

LE COMMISSAIRE ZAYED:

Vous êtes très clair, merci.

900 *You are very clear, thank you.*

THE PRESIDENT :

D'autres questions? Thank you.

905

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

910 Thank you, Nakurmik, Norman for having come here, and certainly we will come to your community for the third phase of the hearings, and hear you and other people in your community. So, nakurmik another time. So the last person who is inscribed on the list is Lizzie Epoo.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

No, no, no.

915 **THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :**

No?

920 **LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR:**

No, I have Tunu Napartuk.

925 **Mr. TUNU NAPARTUK**

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

Oh, I have just been corrected; it happens Tunu Napartuk is the next person on the list.

930 **Mr. TUNU NAPARTUK :**

I will speak in English. The lack of knowledge and information concerning uranium within our communities is - we don't know anything about uranium except the fact that it is dangerous, and when you don't have that information the fear of the issue is very strong. So, our first reaction will be we don't want uranium. That will be the first reaction. The lack of information is just so strong on this subject, and I think that is something, as an individual I know I have the right to get the information on my own, but when the province of - when the provincial Government is seeking feedback on the subject I think it is the responsibility of the provincial Government to provide more extensive feedback on the subject.

940 So, next time you come here I don't know if there is a way to have more workshops before the Commission arrives, just so that the population has more information to consider and to think about and to respond to the questions at hand. That was more of a comment.

945 I just have two questions that I would like to ask. When there are exploration permits that are given by the Government now, whichever Ministry there is, I know that we can go to the provincial website to see which permits are popping up on the screen. I believe it can take minutes that once someone makes an exploration request for a claim, when they make a claim it pops up almost instantly on the website. I know we can do that, but I wonder if there is a way for that Ministry to inform, for example Makivik or KRG, but also the local municipality that is closest to that claim when it comes specifically on uranium.

950

955 Is there a process that can be created where the people concerned are informed officially that there is interest in mining of uranium within the region, or are we going to find out by accident, like the examples that we just heard from the community of Kangiqsualujjuaq? Whose responsibility is that? Is it something that we need to find out on our own? Do we need to keep an eye on the Internet on a regular basis, on that website on a regular basis?

960 My second question is really whose responsibility is it to ensure the explorers, the mining companies or junior mining companies who are exploring within our region? Are we the ones who should be policing them, looking after them, to make sure that they are following the rules and regulations of mining, which are very extensive and very important?

965 My biggest concern is that there are many mining companies who are not following the rules, and because our territory is so vast that there needs to be, I feel that there needs to be a better way of - I can't seem to find the word, like policing the territory.

970 **LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

Vous voulez dire surveiller, contrôler.

Mr. TUNU NAPARTUK :

975 Yes, control and --

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

And check.

980

Mr. TUNU NAPARTUK :

985 Yes, control and check, to make sure that the mining companies are following the rules. One of our biggest issues in terms of mining industries since the '30s and '40s is that the explorers would often leave their equipment, their barrels of oil, whatever. They would just, okay, we are done here, they would just leave. I was very surprised that in Kangiqsualujjuaq recently that there was that mining company who just left their, one of their equipment and one of their shed or shack or their cabin. We are in 2014, and we are still dealing with that. So, there is so many concerns overall within the mining industry, but when it comes to an issue or the subject of uranium the concerns are even more complicated.

990

So, thank you.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

995

Est-ce qu'on peut vous poser quelques questions?

Mr. TUNU NAPARTUK :

1000

Bien sûr.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

1005

Peut-être d'abord mes collègues à côté? Claude, Sylvie?

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

1010

Just a short comment, Tunu. We are taking note of your questions. We won't endeavour to provide answers to them; that would be in the next phase, but the questions you raised are important questions, and they are well noted.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

1015

De mon côté, j'aimerais avoir un éclaircissement. Quand vous dites que vous aimeriez que les prospecteurs ou les gens qui font de l'exploration avisent Makivik ou l'autorité régionale, vous aimeriez que cette information soit relayée. Est-ce que vous voudriez que cette information arrive, vous arrive avant que les travaux soient entrepris ou une fois qu'ils sont sur place? Une fois qu'ils ont les permis?

1020

[...] to come before the work is undertaken, or once they are there; would you like them to give you the information before, or as soon as they have got a permit, or...

Mr. TUNU NAPARTUK :

1025

Je pense que non, pas nécessairement. Mais s'ils sont là puis on est avisé parce qu'ils sont arrivés aujourd'hui, c'est trop tard. Ça, c'est trop tard. C'est, je pense, c'est vraiment le temps, on sait qu'il y a une compagnie qui est intéressée de faire la mine d'uranium. Spécifiquement sur l'uranium, pas nécessairement sur les autres, parce que l'uranium, pour nous, c'est un sujet qui nous fait peur. Alors, le moment qu'il y a une compagnie qui fait un claim sur l'uranium, je pense qu'il serait très important pour... les autorités inuites de la région soient averties.

1030

1035 *Well, if they are there and they tell us they are coming today, well that is too late. I think that we must have the knowledge that there is a company that is interested into looking into uranium, not necessarily for other mining, because for us uranium is a subject that is fearful for us. So, as soon as a company would have a claim for uranium I think it would be very important that the Inuit authority of the region would be made aware of it.*

1040 **LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

Donc, ce que vous voulez c'est que le gouvernement, quand il émet un claim, quand il reconnaît un claim, qu'ils en avisent l'autorité régionale ou municipale appropriée.

1045 *So what you want is that the Government, as soon as it gives a claim, that they would relate the information to the original authority or municipality concerned?*

Mr. TUNU NAPARTUK :

1050 C'est exactement ce que je voulais dire puis je te remercie pour avoir mis ça bien simplement.

Exactly what I wanted to say, and so thank you very much to have made this clearer.

1055 **LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

Non, non, mais je veux être sûr de bien comprendre votre position. Alors, est-ce que mes collègues ont d'autres questions?

1060 *I just really wanted to understand your position.*

LE COMMISSAIRE ZAYED:

1065 Juste une clarification. Est-ce que vous aimeriez être informé ou consulté? Parce que c'est différent, quand même.

Would you like to be informed or consulted? It is different, there is a difference.

Mr. TUNU NAPARTUK :

1070 Oui, je comprends ça très, très bien. C'est au moins informer. Consulter, je pense que c'est un autre processus qui se passe durant... il y a une phase exploration, puis quand une compagnie décide qu'ils vont aller plus loin, on comprend très bien qu'ils ont un processus à utiliser. Mais

1075 aussitôt qu'il y a une compagnie qui est intéressée d'explorer sur une mine d'uranium, c'est d'être au moins informés le plus tôt possible qu'il y a un groupe qui est intéressé sur la mine d'uranium.

1080 *I understand. Well, at least we would like to be informed. Consulted is another process. There is an exploration phase, and when the company decides to move on with the project, well there is a process, but as soon as the company is interested in exploration we would need to be informed as soon as possible of their interest concerning uranium mines.*

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

1085 J'aurais une autre question à vous poser. Est-ce qu'il serait possible d'édicter, d'adopter des règles, que ce soit au plan régional, je ne sais pas, compte tenu de vos structures politiques, mais d'édicter des règles ou des normes qui s'appliqueraient à ces compagnies? Est-ce que vous pourriez leur imposer, je ne sais pas si vous avez le pouvoir de le faire, mais j'aimerais savoir si vous pourriez leur imposer des règles, par exemple, les obligeant à vous déclarer quelles activités, quand ils vont les faire? Parce que ça peut peut-être interférer avec des activités traditionnelles de chasse et de pêche. Vous pourriez, au fond, avoir une réglementation sur ces questions-là. Est-ce que vous avez la possibilité d'envisager une chose comme ça ou si ça n'est pas possible?

1090 *I have another question for you: would it be possible to adopt rules whether regionally, maybe for instance your political, you know, not political structure, but norms, standards. Could you, would you be able to impose? Do you have this power? Could you impose rules, for instance; for instance, declaring the type of activity, the moment of the activity, in order to make sure that it does not impact the hunting activities. Some rules are needed. Do you, can you consider such a thing, or is it impossible?*

1100 **Mr. TUNU NAPARTUK :**

1105 Je pense que ça dépend du gouvernement. Quand il y a une activité minière qui, avant l'exploration... après l'exploration quand il décide : O.K., la compagnie, on va faire, on va commencer les activités, on va construire la mine, on va... le moment qu'une compagnie décide qu'ils vont commencer et faire une mine, cette partie-là, il y a beaucoup de règlements et il y a des lois puis des règlements que les compagnies minières doivent vraiment regarder puis assurer qui... puis le gouvernement travaille fort que les compagnies comprennent très bien.

1110 Avant que la compagnie décide de dire : O.K., on va ouvrir une mine ici, dans cette place-là, avant cette phase-là, dans la phase exploration, je pense que, je ne sais pas, mais il devrait y avoir des règlements. Mais est-ce que le gouvernement... c'est qui, qui doit être le responsable pour assurer que le règlement soit « enforced », oui.

1115 *Well, it depends on the Government. When there is a mining activity after exploration, when they decide that it is okay, we will move on with the project, we will build the mine, when the company decides that it will start the mining well there are many rules to respect. There are laws that the mining companies must abide by, and the Government - and the company, the Government will work for the, you know, the companies must understand.*

1120 *So, when a mine is about to open in a given place, before that phase there is an exploration phase, and I don't know, but I believe that yes, we should have norms and rules, but who is responsible? Is it the Government responsible of ensuring that those rules be enforced?*

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

1125 Pardon, comment? Appliqué.

Mr. TUNU NAPARTUK :

1130 Appliqué, oui. Je pense qu'il y a certains comités dans la région, je ne sais pas à quel niveau avec le Kativik Environment ou Advisory Committee s'ils ont des pouvoirs. Est-ce que Makivik ont des pouvoirs? Est-ce qu'il y a un autre groupe dans la région qui doit assurer qu'un groupe de personnes qui vont explorer, qui vont s'assurer que les cabines ne sont pas laissées, les équipements ne sont pas laissés, les huiles ne sont pas laissées, que si une compagnie qui explore l'uranium, quand ils font un « drill », qu'ils regardent bien que ça ne touche pas la rivière.
1135 C'est à qui, cette responsabilité-là?

1140 *I believe that some, a few committees in the region, I will not say what level, but they are wondering do they have power to - does Makivik have any power? Other groups in the region must make sure that the exploration, if it is undertaken, well the cabins must be taken care of. The products should not be left. Companies, when they drill, when they explore, must make sure that the products will not affect the rivers, for instance. Who, whose responsibility is this?*

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

1145 Je vous posais la question parce que j'ai compris de l'intervention de votre collègue de la Société Makivik, qu'on ne pouvait pas venir explorer sur les terres de catégorie 1, sans l'accord de la communauté. Mais là, je me posais la question : sur les terres de catégorie 2, autour de vos terres à vous, est-ce que vous avez un pouvoir de réglementation ou si c'est le gouvernement québécois qui peut, seul, réglementer les activités dans le territoire? Est-ce que c'est Makivik ou
1150 Québec qui peut réglementer les activités dans ce territoire?

1155 *Well, I was asking the question because, what I understand from the intervention of your colleague from Makivik, that you cannot come and explore on Category 1 lands without the agreement of the community, but what about Category 2 lands, do you have any power? Can you rule over those lands, or is it the Quebec Government that has this power in your territory? Is it Makivik or Quebec, really, that can make rules?*

Mr. TUNU NAPARTUK :

1160 *Catégorie 1, c'est vraiment le landholding. Catégorie 2, je pense que c'est un petit peu moitié-moitié, si je ne me trompe pas. Si le landholding... on a le droit de chasser, on a vraiment le droit de chasser dans la catégorie 2. Dans la catégorie 3, c'est le gouvernement ou les explorateurs, je pense, qu'ils vont faire ce qu'ils veulent faire.*

1165 *Category 1, it is the landholder. Category 2, it is, I would say half and half, if I am not mistaken. If the landholding companies - well, we do have the right to hunt in Category 2? As for Category 3, if the Government or the explorers, well they will do whatever they want. That is my belief.*

1170 **THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :**

1175 *Monsieur le coprésident, tu poses des questions à un maire d'une municipalité et certaines questions que tu poses, c'est comme si c'était discuté par Makivik et l'Administration régionale Kativik et aussi avec le gouvernement du Québec, avec la nouvelle *Loi sur les mines*. Donc – I am sorry, I'm speaking in French. I am sorry, I have dropped in the French.*

1180 *So I will just say that our Co-Chairperson is asking questions that is difficult for a mayor of a community to respond to when on Category 3 lands the Kativik Regional Government, Makivik Corporation, the Association of Landholdings and others have made presentations on, and with - there is a new Mining Act, so certainly questions like that, Mr. Co-President, is difficult to pose to, in that sense, to you. You have been very good answering them, but it is a difficult question. I am just sympathizing with you trying to respond to them.*

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

1185 *So we will have to dig that.*

Mr. TUNU NAPARTUK :

1190 *Well, first of all, Michael, for you to speak in French is fine, but if you started speaking in Inuktitut then I would have been concerned, but in laymen's terms, and I did respond in laymen's*

1195 terms. I think if I were a Makivik executive I would have had more terminology to play with, but in laymen terms, Category 3, the Government of Quebec has every right to do what it wants to do in terms of that, and the mining companies have some rights, but they have rules and regulations that they really need to abide by, and those are really how I see it. In laymen's terms, I think the Category 3, they own the land. That is Crown land.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

1200 But my question was mainly in Category 2 that are surrounding your land.

Mr. TUNU NAPARTUK :

1205 That one, I don't have the proper answers for, but I think exploration --

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

We will check that.

1210 **Mr. TUNU NAPARTUK :**

I don't know.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

1215 D'autres questions? Chez mes collègues? Non, ça va? Alors, je pense qu'on va vous remercier de votre collaboration et surtout de votre accueil fort aimable et de votre mot d'introduction. Merci, Monsieur le maire.

1220 *Any other questions? Okay, so I would like to thank you for your collaboration and for your introduction. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.*

1225

Ms. LIZZIE EPOO

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

1230 The last person on the list to speak is Lizzie York, and I am afraid, Lizzie, you will have to translate for yourself.

Ms. LIZZIE EPOO :

1235 (In Inuktitut) I will translate that after. Myself, I am, my name is Lizzie Epoo. I am from Kuujjuaq. I am only going to say what I think. Myself, I do not, I am not even interested to see uranium mines in Nunavik, period.

1240 Secondly, my ancestors, today, and my future, our future, we are still going to depend on the country food, because that is our life. The wildlife that is inhabited here is what we eat. We cannot farm chicken, cows, or pigs like you do in the south, and even if they are available in the stores they are not our main diet, and they will never be. So, really, I am not interested to see uranium mines in Nunavik, period.

1245 Most important, I forgot. You already have enough uranium findings in mid-Quebec and southern Quebec, just don't bother with Nunavik.

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

1250 Questions? Okay, so that is the last speaker on the list, unless there is -- oh, someone has come. Please come forward, then.

Mr. JOHNNY PETERS

1255 **Mr. JOHNNY PETERS :**

1260 My name is Johnny Peters from this community of Kuujjuaq. I think that there has been problems with the headphones, adjusting to different languages, so no problems. Ah, ah. My name is Johnny Peters from this community of Kuujjuaq. I am, right now I am an individual, not working anywhere.

1265 In the past I used to work at the asbestos mine, and nickel mines, underground, just to let you know where I have been, but I have also heard right now the subject that you are talking about, of all the mining activities, that uranium is the most dangerous mine that can take place, and I know for a fact that all our people in all our communities should be totally informed before any mining ever starts, or even exploration.

1270 There are, there is always an impact on any, any mining site, even if it is not uranium. There is always an impact in the surrounding environment, and so imagine what uranium would do, and it is, as it has been said earlier, since I was a young boy there has been mining explorations. Many

1275 of us know that there were mines, mining explorations and mining sites, that there was acid, oil, metal, that were abandoned. For many years we were, we were negotiating with the Government to get some funding to clean up, and it took many, many years. Today, they are able to say that they have to leave the mines now completely inasmuch as leave it the way it was before.

1280 When there is, the higher you get. I mean, when you go into hills you will see creeks, puddles, and they all go downstream, and so this is why we are so concerned about our hunting grounds, and so it is really - I am one of the people who does not even want to hear about uranium mines in the region. We want to be, we want to be living in this region for many more years, and not become extinct, and so I really believe that in Nunavik we don't need uranium mines, because it is - our country food is our survival, and if we can go as far as we can go, our next generation.

1285 I am not going to go on and on and on, but I just needed to say what I am saying, but for sure if there was an interest in opening a uranium mine in, near our region, you can't just open it now and start the mining. No, you can't do that. You have to make sure that the Inuit communities fully understand what uranium mines is all about.

1290 **THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :**

1295 Nakurmik, Johnny. I have a question because you have had a lot of experience in mining, and you have spoken with many other Inuit in mining, and I understand there was uranium mining in Nunavut. Did you ever talk to Inuit or people in the, Nunavut, who worked with uranium mining or exploration?

Mr. JOHNNY PETERS :

1300 Quite some time ago, around Baker Lake, when the - when the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada first began. Baker Lake was very, very concerned, because there was an interest in opening a mine there. There was, there was a lot of debates on that, around that time, and I don't know what the results were, to tell you the truth, in the end.

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT:

1305 Thank you for sharing that with us Johnny. My colleagues, do you have a question for Mr. Peters?

Mr. CLAUDE ABEL :

1310 No, thank you.

Ms. SYLVIE LETOURNEAU :

No.

1315

LE COMMISSAIRE ZAYED:

Vous avez souligné l'importance d'avoir une information – ca va? – une information complète et transparente. Vous avez également fait état de votre expérience dans les mines, dans différentes mines, notamment les mines d'amiante. J'aimerais vous poser quelques petites questions au sujet de cette expérience dans les mines d'amiante. Tout d'abord, combien d'années vous avez travaillé dans les mines d'amiante?

1320

You mentioned the importance of getting real information, transparent information. You also stated your experience in different mines. I would like to ask you a question on this. How many years have you worked in those mines?

1325

Mr. JOHNNY PETERS :

The first time Oceanic was doing exploration, I was a labourer then. That was my first work experience, and then after that, after I was married and with one child, and then I went - for two years I worked at asbestos mines, and then shortly after that nickel mines for one year, for 12 months, actually, for nickel mines. I think, I mean I hope I answered your question.

1330

LE COMMISSAIRE ZAYED:

Je pense que je n'ai pas très bien saisi. Vous avez travaillé dans une mine de nickel, mais mais est-ce que vous avez travaillé dans des mines d'amiante – asbestos mine? Deux ans, c'est ça? Je n'ai pas très... O.K., c'est bon. Vous avez donc travaillé deux ans dans une mine d'amiante.

1335

1340

Did you work in an asbestos mine? Okay, so you have worked two years in an asbestos mine?

Mr. JOHNNY PETERS :

Two summers, because they were closed in the wintertime.

1345

1350

LE COMMISSAIRE ZAYED:

1355 Et quand vous avez été embauché pour travailler dans cette mine d'amiante, est-ce que vous avez obtenu une information sur le risque associé à l'exploitation ou au fait de travailler dans une mine d'amiante?

When you were hired did you get information on the risk associated with the exploitation, or the fact that you would work in such a mine?

1360

Mr. JOHNNY PETERS :

No, when I was hired at the asbestos mine, I was not given any information. I was just hired.

1365

LE COMMISSAIRE ZAYED:

Mes autres questions tombent à cause de votre réponse. Merci.

Well then, because of that answer I have no more questions. Thank you.

1370

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

1375 À mon tour. Vous avez dit que vous avez tenté d'obtenir de l'argent du gouvernement pour nettoyer des sites d'exploration ou des mines. Je n'ai pas très bien compris. Je voudrais savoir si le nettoyage que vous vouliez faire, c'était pour des sites d'exploration ou si c'était pour des vraies mines?

My turn. You said that you tried to get some funding from the Government to clean up certain exploration sites, or different mines. I didn't really understand. I would like to know if the cleanup you wanted to do, was it for exploration site, or was it for actual mines?

1380

Mr. JOHNNY PETERS :

1385 In explorations, mostly mining explorations. There is many that were abandoned. Some of them have been cleaned up, and many times during the winter they are buried by snow, so it has not been easy. Those, the ones that were the worst were at least cleaned up.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

1390 O.K. Est-ce que tous ces sites d'exploration ont été nettoyés ou c'est seulement une petite partie? Quelle partie a été nettoyée? How many? One on two, one on three, one on four?

Mr. JOHNNY PETERS :

1395 Myself, I know that the ones that were the worst mining, or abandoned sites, were at least cleaned up, the ones, the worst ones, but Mike Barrett can answer you the rest of the questions.

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT:

1400 Apologies, Mr. Co-Chairperson, Johnny, Johnny Peters was very instrumental in creating the cleanup of the sites. There was, from my memory, certainly there was an emission from Radio-Canada where Johnny was at the site we called PG1 near Aupaluk, and that programme on the television caused the mining exploration companies and the Quebec Government to fund a programme to clean up the major abandoned mining exploration sites.

1405 So, Johnny, in his role in Makivik, was certainly very instrumental with the Kativik Regional Government and 15 of the 18 abandoned mining, the major abandoned mining exploration sites have been cleaned up, as well as a number of the intermediate, but there are still many, many, many smaller mining exploration sites.

1410 I go a little bit from my role as Co-Chairman, but it is just to introduce for Johnny because it is, and again, and again with respect for the work he and others did – Willie Annanack from Kangiqsualujjuaq also was very, very instrumental in pushing for a clean-up of the sites in his area. So, does that respond to your question, Mr. Co-Chairperson?

1415 **LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

Yes, perfect. So, I thank you very much. I don't think we have any more questions. It is okay.

1420 **Mr. JOHNNY PETERS :**

1425 What Mike was just saying, yeah, we did all that we can because our hunters were really concerned because they were afraid that they had an impact on the river, river systems, and the lakes, and so it really had to be - somebody had to do something. And I also remember really well, from Laval University, he, they were able to take satellite pictures. There were 600 sites that were abandoned through satellite photo, and so we were then able to see which ones were the worst cases, in which area.

1430 Thank you for not saying I am too old.

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT:

1435 Thank you for sharing your experience with the members of both Commissions. Johnny, you are not too old.

1440 So, if there is no other person presenting that will end the programme for this evening. We announced that there could be hearings tomorrow morning, so both Commissions will be here tomorrow morning at nine o'clock. If anyone else would like to come or make presentations we will be available, but there is no obligation on you. So, I thank you for your patience. Thank you for the presentations, and we will continue our work, as we said, with the Phase 2 in September for experts, and we will return here in Kuujjuaq, we will go to Kangiqsualujjuaq and Kawawachikamach in the fall to hear people in all three communities. Good evening.

1445 **AJOURNEMENT**

1450 Je soussignée, YOLANDE TEASDALE, sténographe officielle, certifiée sous mon serment d'office que les pages qui précèdent sont et contiennent la transcription exacte et fidèle des propos recueillis par moi au moyen du sténomasque, le tout selon la loi.

1455 ET J'AI SIGNÉ :

1460

Yolande Teasdale,
Sténographe officielle