

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

ÉTAIENT PRÉSENTS :

POUR LA COMMISSION DU BAPE : M. LOUIS-GILLES FRANCOEUR, président
Mme MICHÈLE GOYER, commissaire

POUR LA COMMISSION DU CCEBJ : Aucun représentant

POUR LA COMMISSION DU CCEK : M. MICHAEL BARRETT, président
(KEAC) M. CLAUDE ABEL, commissaire
Mme BETSY PALLISER, commissaire
Mme SYLVIE LÉTOURNEAU, commissaire

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

DEUXIÈME PARTIE

VOLUME 17

Séance tenue le 3 décembre – 13 h 30
Salle communautaire
Kangiqsualujuaq

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECEMBER 3rd, 2014 – AFTERNOON SESSION

OPENING COMMENTS FROM Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL,
MAYOR OF KANGIQSUALUJJUAQ..... 1

PRESENTATION:

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL, KANGIQSUALUJJUAQ 1
Mr. WILLIE ANNANACK, PRESIDENT OF THE QINIGTIQ
LANDHOLDING CORPORATION OF KANGIQSUALUJJUAQ 2

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE KEAC 3
COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BAPE..... 4

QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS..... 6

Mr. JOBIE TUKKIPIAPIK, PRESIDENT OF MAKIVIK CORPORATION 9
Ms. MAGGIE EMUDLUK, CHAIRPERSON KATIVIK REGIONAL GOVERNMENT 14
M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN..... 20
FEW MINUTES RECESS
Dr. SERGE DÉRY, NUNAVIK REGIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH AND SERVICES 32
Ms. KITTY ANNANACK 48
Mr. DAVIDEE ANNANACK 48
Ms. LUCASSI AMNAQ ETOK..... 49
Mr. KENNY ANGNATOK..... 51
Mr. WILLIE ETOCK..... 53
Ms. MAGGIE SUZIE ANNANACK..... 55
Mr. JOHNNY ETOK 56

ADJOURNMENT

AFTERNOON SESSION – DECEMBER 3rd, 2014

OPENING COMMENTS

**Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL,
KANGIQSUALUJJUAQ**

5

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

We're going to be starting soon. I'm sorry, but... Well, if you could put on you headsets that would be good.

10

I am going to be starting, and for people that are listening on the radio you are very welcomed to join us. Before we start, we are going to start with an opening prayer and Norman Snowball will be leading us with the opening prayer.

15

Mr. NORMAN SNOWBALL:

Prayer (no translation).

20

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

Thank you. First of all I would like to welcome everybody that's arrived here today. In particular I want to thank people that are here to attend this consultation. Thank you. You indicated that you would be coming back here and that's become a reality today. For everyone that's attending here today, if you do have any comments, concerns, this is your opportunity. Please indicate who you are if you are going to be speaking on this subject. I want everyone to... first I want to welcome everybody that's attending today, and I think we are going to be starting right now.

25

I just want to thank everybody again. I know that you had been compiling our concerns in September, and that is very important to us to know that you are respectful of our concerns. In September, when we did meet, I believe in Kangiqsualujjuaq, there's more questions coming from this community, and they indicated very well as to the fact that they oppose this idea of having uranium activity in their region.

30

There's a landholding corporation, Qinigtik, as well as from our municipality there's a... In regards to our comments or concerns relating to the uranium mines, they are written down in this report. On September 25, when we did meet, we have community consultations in regards to the Parnasimautik process, and I was indicated it was brought up again in regards to the uranium mines to see if it should be an activity that should be carried out, implemented. And when we met in October, again, all the organisations, all the organisations, with various committees, all unanimously agreed to oppose any activities relating to the uranium mines, the fact that we don't

35

40

this region to be mined, in particular around Kangiqsualujjuaq and outside of Kangiqsualujjuaq region.

45 We have many concerns. We have concerns with regards to the fact that it shouldn't be mined. We don't want our environment to be affected negatively, this is our land, this is where we rely on our country food and our environment. So that is one of the reasons why we are opposing uranium activities. Our animals, we value our animals, we don't just eat them, we also make clothes out of them, so that's another reason why we're opposing uranium activity.

50 In September, when you guys were here, one of the other comments in regards to our animals, they are always migrating, they don't stay in one place. Therefore their environment, their climate... So if we want to identify a spot to mine an area, our animals are always constantly going to be going near that area, so they are going to eventually get impacted, affected and that's... we are going to have no more country food. They are migratory animals, and if they are impacted, 55 they are going to travelling all over Nunavik, and that affect Nunavik, so that one of the major reasons why we don't support uranium activities. It's going to impact every aspect of our life.

In regards to our caribou, you all have heard the caribou George River herd is depleting, declining, and that species is a big component to our culture here, in our community. And if 60 uranium mines continue or do get in place in this region, you can imagine how much more impact it's going to have on our caribou. We want our culture strong, we want our lives... we want to be sustained, here, we want to be able to sustain our population to millennia. So I believe that's why we don't support uranium activities. There's other comments, concerns, but I want to give other... I want to give the opportunity to Qinigtiq Landholding Corporation, because we are collaborating on 65 presenting our position. So I welcome the president of the Qinigtiq Landholding Corporation.

Mr. WILLIE ANNANACK:

70 My name is Willie Annanack. I am the president, presently voted until the next elections, I am the interim of the president Qinigtiq Landholding Corporation. We had a meeting – I don't have anything new to add to the comments we made last time, but Category 1 lands it's not a very large piece of land. And when we go hunting, we're already in Category 2 lands. And then there's drilling activities that are taking... explorations that are taking place, and due to those explorations there's deposits that are nearby. That's why we are disapproving the idea of having uranium activities. We 75 have been working, collaborating closely together, and these areas are where we go hunting. And our Category 2 lands is mainly for our hunting and subsistence activities, and it seems like the governments are able tap into the areas that are close to what's important to our community. I don't have anything to add except to oppose to uranium activities.

80

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

I'll be finishing, I'll be concluding. Like I said, we have been meeting on a regular basis regarding our communities concerns regarding Parnasimautik, trying to...

85

It's what our community wants, our people want. Our people don't want to have such activities taking place in this region. That's all I have to say for now. Thank you.

90

**COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT
OF THE KATIVIK ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (KEAC)
Mr. MICHAEL BARRETT**

95

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT:

Nakurmiik, Hilda and Willie for your very concise and well thought out presentation. Because this hearing is being recorded and it's also being broadcasted through the Internet on BAPE website, I'll just do a short introduction of the people at the front of the room, for the record. And then if you could please stay at your place, the members may have some questions for you.

100

So my name is Michael Barrett, I am one of the members of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee, and for the purpose of this hearing I'm co-chairing the hearing with Louis-Gilles Francoeur, who's from the Bureau des Audience publiques sur l'environnement, commonly known as the BAPE. And to my right is Betsy Palliser. She's another member of the Special Commission of the KEAC, she's a member named by the KRG. To her right is Sylvie Létourneau, who's the vice-president this year of the Advisory Committee, and at the far-end of the table is Claude Abel, who's the chairperson of the Environmental Advisory Committee this year. And Louis-Gilles Francoeur will introduce himself and the other members for the Commission.

105

110

115

120

**COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT
OF THE BUREAU D'AUDIENCES PUBLIQUES
SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT (BAPE)
M. LOUIS-GILLES FRANCOEUR**

125

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

130

Thank you Michael. As Michael said my name is Louis-Gilles Francoeur and I'm the president of the Commission, this hearing, public hearing, and also the inquiry commission that has been formed by the Public Hearing Board on Environment of the Government of Quebec. We are an independent body from the government. The government asked us to evaluate projects in the south of the province, not in that area here, but also sometimes the government asks us to make report, to give him advice on different policy projects. So this is one mandate that was given to us to... The government asked us one very simple question: Should we open the Province of Quebec to mining of uranium. And this is the mandate we have.

135

140

And we have studied the question since the end of the month of May, the last one. First we were here to see what kind of question was worrying the people in the territory. It helped us to deepen our inquiry that was done in September with experts and resource people. So we spent a month questioning those experts and resource people, and now that this has increased our knowledge on the uranium mining business, before we write our report we want to know what the people really think at the end of this exercise.

145

That's why we are here today. It's the third part of our inquiry. We are here to hear what you think, what you expect, and we're taking very important notes with that, and this will be integrated in our analysis, and finally in the report that we will present to the Minister of Environment before May 20th next year, in 2015. And the report itself will be made public sixty (60) days, within sixty (60) days after the Minister will have received it. And the section of the report that relates to your territory will be available in your own language, so that you could use it more easily. And we have also covered during our hearings the whole province of Quebec. We went in Témiscamingue, in the Montreal area, everywhere there was an interest for this subject.

150

And I'm not alone to study that, like our colleagues here from the – I was going to say it in French CCEK – I think it's KECC? Okay, he will tell us.

155

I am assisted in this task by two commissioners, Mrs. Michèle Goyer, who's just left of me here, and also by Mr. Joseph Zayed who could not be here, unfortunately, with us today but he's part of the team that works on the report.

160 We are also assisted by a team of analysts, and one of those, Mrs. Karine Jean who is just there with her computer is one of our analysts. And also Mrs. Rita LeBlanc, the one with, I would say not like "le blanc", but almost white hair – but she's too young for having white hair – blonde. She's the one, she is the coordinator of the whole team.

165 So we are very pleased to be among you for the third time, and we also realize that you have very constant opinions on this matter. So we will hear more closely the explanations of your position today, and we may ask you questions after. So we thank you also for the warm welcome that you reserved to us.

170 So are there some questions?

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT

175 Okay, so just to complement what Gilles said, the Advisory Committee will also be working with the BAPE for the section of the report that pertains to Nunavik. So that report, we'll have the first draft in January, and it will be presented to the Minister in the spring.

180 On Monday this week we were in Kawawashikamach, we were in Kuujuaq yesterday, and this is the final hearing in this set. There's one more public hearing. Betsy was present in Quebec for the beginning of this Phase 3 in September, so she's been listening to a lot of presentations from the south. The very final session in these hearings will be in Montreal on December 15th. So in the afternoon it's reserved for the First Nations from the south, and in the evening of December 15th, it's reserved for Nunavik and Eeyou Istchee, or James Bay. And that final session will be co-chaired by Louis-Gilles from the BAPE, ourselves from the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee, and from the James Bay Environmental Advisory Committee that also comes out from the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

185 So that's the format. We'll open to questions from the members for Hilda and Willie, following which we'll ask the representatives from Makivik and the Kativik Regional Government for the presentation of their brief, followed by the Board of Health and Social Services. And then after that the floor and the microphone will be opened to individuals or groups from the community, if you'd like to say something or make a presentation.

195 So I'll turn to my right and ask the members if they have any questions for Hilda and Willie.

200

QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONER ABEL:

205

Hi Hilda. I heard what you said, what you read, and also Mr. Annanack. I would like to know if you, in your consultations or meetings you held, if you were also... because I heard that you were talking about Category 1 land, Category 2 land, but did you ask your people about what about developing the other category, or the other land outside those? Did you ask questions to your people and how they feel about having development of uranium mining on those lands?

210

Mr. WILLIE ANNANACK :

215

On 2 lands, when we go out to Category 2 lands we... and then when we go to Category 3 lands we go to the Quebec territories. But when we leave this area, this town, which is in Category 1 land, it doesn't take long for us to reach Category 2 lands. So that's why, they're in close proximity to where we are situated. It's the real issue here.

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

220

If I understand correctly, your question is have we ever had a meeting where a question is posed, aside from... Are you asking whether we should enlarge those Category 1, 2 lands, or you're specifically asking about whether if other lands that can be developed on?

COMMISSIONER ABEL:

225

My question was just to know how do you, you feel about... Are you thinking about having development on those Category 3 lands? Do you have the same feelings on those lands than on Category 1 and 2? Do you feel the same? Do you have the same position?

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

230

235

As Inuit, as Inuit we tend to go out on the land, we look for food. There's Category 1 and 2 lands for sure. I don't think... We still believe that even though it's not Category 1 or Category 2 lands, it's not based on the division of the lands, but Inuit feel that no mining activity such as uranium activities should take place anywhere near, whether it's Category 1 and 2 ones, Category 1, 2 or 3 lands, We'd still be opposing uranium activities on Category 3 lands, because we still consider Category 3 lands as part of our land. We still are going to be affected even if it's activities taking place in Category 3 lands. I think you understand me now.

240 **THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

My first question is this. You said that the caribou is not very present in the territory at this time. Since it was an important part of your food and also it is very close to your traditions, what will happen if they're not back within a few decades, because it's supposed to take much time before the herd is, you know, back again to its normal size. What will happen with those traditions and with the food that you will need to harvest in the bushes?

245 **Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:**

Your question regarding the caribou, maybe my answer will not be very precise, but we hear, we've heard... we used to have many millions of caribous for many years, and there's a decline, a fast decline. And we always hear that there's less and less. Each year we wish that we could go back to the high numbers like this, but we don't have total control of all the animals. But one thing is for sure is we want to be able to bring back the caribou, because it's our source of food. Many of our people, they depend on that, and it's something that we crave when we've not had it for a long time.

We often question ourselves and talk about how we could get back, increase back the number of the caribou around our area here, and we don't want them to disappear. This is our, these are our caribous. We want to... I might not have answered your question properly, but we want our caribous to come back to the way it was. For sure the environment, their way... there's a reason for the decline, but we're always working on trying to find solutions so that we keep the caribous at a very high level.

260 **Mr. WILLIE ANNANACK :**

If somebody were to work on this, just on the caribou, if there's no one that is going to be working on trying to figure out how to really work on trying to sustain the caribou, the caribou... 1, 2 and 3, those areas are these areas that have shellfish like seals, mussels, clams, all these. So despite the categories divisions we say no the mining, because all of these traditional meals that we eat are all around us, and so that's why we say no to any mining.

265 **THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

Partly, I want mainly to know what you will hunt if the caribou is not there? What will be the replacement food?

270
275

280 **Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:**

We have many different animals that we hunt. They all have a different flavour. There will be no replacement for us, because we make clothing out of it, it's a delicacy for us, it's... We eat them, it's for survival. If there were to be no more caribou, nothing will ever replace it. Yes, we might be able to hunt others, other sorts of animals, but this caribou, it's a different, it's a different food, so I can just say that nothing will ever be able to replace.

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

290 Part of his answer, previously he spoke about the different species that are harvested. Willie could you perhaps repeat for Louis-Gilles other species that are harvested by the hunters of this community?

295 **Mr. WILLIE ANNANACK :**

There's caribou, but there's any animals, any... close by areas that we go, it's clams, seal meat, mussels, various animals along the shore line, in fjords, for example. If there's animals there, we'll scavenge them, we'll collect them.

300 **THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :**

(Interprétation en Inuktitut).

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

305 One last question. You need... you're not opposed to economic development, and I would like to know if in your mind economic development needs roads, railroads, or to... you know, to give more access to the territory, or if you want a development without new access to the territory. What is your choice when you think of economic development?

310 **Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:**

Your question, I cannot answer that myself, I'd have to consult with my community first. But personally, what I think, in my community, if I don't want my community to be negatively impacted and ensure that animals are plentiful in the future, I wouldn't be supportive of having... making sure there's access roads to here. But I can't speak on behalf of all my people, but personally I am just talking about what I think. So the question... I am here representing my people, personally coming from me... My land, this community is dear to me, I want to ensure that we have plenty of food, sustain... sustainable country food. And if I was to think about economic development, I would try

320 to find options that are best suited to this community's reality. I would try to come up with economic
development that won't... will do as little damage as possible, make sure that any development that
is being considered does not have a negative impact on my community or the animals in the
surrounding. I hope I am making myself clear here.

325 **Mr. WILLIE ANNANACK :**

And maybe if I could add to it. We have to constantly look for ways to have revenues coming
in. And if there's opportunities, we have to do a bit of background information research first. So
we're not opposing an economic development, just as long as we do adequate background
330 information research on it first to see what kind of impacts it will have.

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

335 *Nakurmiimmarialuk.* Thank you for the energy and thought that you put into your
presentation, both by you and the members of the community.

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

340 Nakurmik.

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

Thank you. Right now I'll ask Jobie Tukkiapiik and Maggie Emudluk coming from Makivik
Corporation and from Kativik Regional Government.

345

**Ms. JOBIE TUKKIPIAPIK
PRESIDENT OF MAKIVIK CORPORATION**

350

Ms. JOBIE TUKKIPIAPIK:

355 Hello. Thank you. First of all I want to say hello to the community of Kangiqsualujjuaq and
thank them. The last time, I was not able to be here when there was the first consultation that took
place here, but we did make sure that there was representatives from Makivik that did attend. So
Jean-Marc, for example, is our liaison officer now. We wanted to hire him through Makivik,
because there's many information that needs to be circulated to make sure that our community
members are fully up-to-date in regards to mining activities, in regards to explorations, in regards to
upcoming... And a lot of times our people have this notion that these mining activities are going to

360 start today, but this... That's the kind of information that could be miscued... making sure that they
are aware of what we are aware of, so that we need to also be able to provide them options and
opportunities to understand our position.

365 I also want to thank the community of Kangiqsualujjuaq. I was notified that there were many
that attended this first consultation, and that's very important. That's why I am here representing...
on behalf of Makivik. We've been collaborating close with KRG, making sure that people are aware
that we are collaborating together.

370 So I'll be talking about some elements in our position. Maybe before I start, maybe Maggie
wants to introduce herself.

375 **Ms. MAGGIE EMUDLUK:**

Thank you Jobie. First of all please feel welcome. It's good to see you again in my
community. I am not here all the time, I am here for a short little while. And I think the community,
my fellow community members are listening in on the radio... as well as your fellow commissioners
that are here, Michael Barrett from the Kativik Advisory Committee and Equality Commission. In
380 regards to Betsy Palliser, please feel welcomed. I will be co-presenting with Jobie on behalf of
Kativik Regional Government, and we are going to be I guess presenting to in regards to... I want
people to know that I will be speaking in English, but I will speaking in Inuktituk to conclude.

385 **Mr. JOBIE TUKKIPIAIK:**

Same here. They're here to listen, so I will be also reading in English. I could speak a little
bit in Inuktituk in some of the elements, but you could... They are going to rely on us.

390 My name is Jobie Tukkiapiak. I am the president of Makivik Corporation, and I am here to
present the brief on the uranium file in Quebec, and more specifically in Nunavik. The brief
submitted today was jointly prepared by Makivik and the Kativik Regional Government.

395 Before I get started in that, I'd like to just provide you a brief description of Makivik
Corporation, of its role and mandate in the region. Makivik Corporation was established in 1978
under the Act respecting Makivik Corporation, following the signing of the James Bay and Northern
Quebec Agreement. It is the successor of the Northern Quebec Inuit Association, a signatory of the
JBNQA, and a Native party recognized to represent its members.

400 The approximate population is eleven thousand (11,000) Inuit, and it's to protect... protect
and promote the rights under the JBNQA. It consists of twenty-one (21) board of directors elected
in their community and who are beneficiary to the JBNQA. There are five officers elected
universally, which we call executive of Makivik, and then in the region there is sixteen (16) elected
members. And one of them is here for Kangiqsualujjuaq right now.

405 And Makivik is also a signatory to the 2008 Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement entered in
between Makivik and on behalf of all the Inuit and the Government of Canada and the Government
of Nunavut. And the... that's the one that we had signed for the offshore islands recently. And the
difference between the JBNQA and that is that we own eighty percent (80%) of the land on the
islands there as well as the subsurface of that.

410 Makivik Corporation is a non-profit corporation with the following objectives: To receive,
administer, use and invest the part, intended for the Inuit, of the compensation provided for in
subsection 25.1 and 25.2 of the Agreement and the revenues therefrom, as well as all its other
funds, in accordance with this Act; to relieve poverty and to promote welfare and advancement of
415 education of the Inuit; to develop and improve Inuit communities and to improve their means of
action; to exercise the functions vested in it by other acts or the Agreement; to foster, promote,
protect and assist in preserving the Inuit way of life, values and traditions.

420 In addition to the JBNQA, Makivik has also signed other treaties and agreements with the
Government of Canada, Quebec and Nunavut, as well as other indigenous nations. In the mining
sector, Makivik is also party to agreements on impact and benefit agreements with mining
companies that are active in Nunavik. And there's two other right now that we have in the region.

425 As a Inuit development corporation, Makivik also owns several subsidiary companies in
various fields, including among others, air transportation, construction, shipping, fisheries and
communication.

430 Starting in May of this year Makivik participated in every phase of the public hearing
conducted by the BAPE and the KEAC Commission. I wish to express my thanks to the
commission for being able to travel to Nunavik and to meet and exchange with the communities on
the uranium issue.

435 As the commissioners, the Makivik Corporation and KRG representatives listened to the
concerns and interrogations expressed by Nunavimmiut during the consultation process. Both
organisations decided to set out working groups to analyse the numerous comments, the current
state of uranium development in Nunavik, and finally to develop a regional position resulting from

440 facts, Nunavik priorities in terms of land use and harvesting activities, and not just emotions and misperceptions of the uranium matter.

445 This position in regards of uranium activities adopted by Makivik Corporation and the Kativik Regional Government is based on the representation made by Nunavimmiut during the pre-consultation and information exchange phases of the consultation process held in Kuujjuaq and Kangiqsualujjuaq. Also, as a mandate of the Commission was not to review any specific exploration or mining project, the brief reflects the public opinion and social acceptability of developing a uranium industry in Quebec.

450 As provided in the document, then there is a brief that has been submitted that Nunavik Inuit use the land extensively to pursue substances harvesting activities, such as fishing, hunting and trapping, and continue to access those activities is of paramount importance to them. And that was mentioned earlier by Hilda and Willie. And that applies throughout the region of Nunavik also.

455 Not only the JBNQA contains provisions guaranteeing the right to conduct these activities, but the protection and promotion of harvesting and associated activities are at its core. However, despite their importance in everyday life, these land-based activities are not in themselves sufficient to ensure the well-being of the Nunavik Inuit, and many have different aspirations, needs of change and access to education, skills development in various fields, business development and employment opportunities have also become necessity in today's world.

460 The cost of living in Nunavik is very high, and the region faces major economic and social challenges, including but not limited to low school performance, high school drop-out rates, unemployment, elevated suicide rates, a shortage of housing and overcrowding. To allow greater access to economic opportunity and improving the quality of Nunavimmiut, the partnership agreement on economic and community development in Nunavik, Sanarrutik, was signed in 2002
465 by the Makivik Corporation, the Kativik Regional Government and the Government of Quebec. Mining was defined as an important sector of development.

470 The remote location of Nunavik is challenging climate, limited infrastructure and transportation access are such that there is little industry in this vast region. Makivik Corporation recognizes the importance of economic development in the territory of Nunavik, and believe the mining industry, provided that activities are conducted in a socially and environmentally responsible manner, and fully respect the treaty rights of Inuit, Nunavik Inuit can be an important tool for economic and social development.

475 However, as will be set out in this brief, uranium is a controversial topic. It must be considered separately from conventional mining activities exploiting other minerals in Nunavik. The James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement that was signed in 1975 as an out-of-court settlement in a

480

long legal debate that began following the announcement by Quebec of its decision to initiate the development of Northern Quebec water resources for hydro-electric purposes guarantees, among other things, rights to the Inuit of Nunavik and in the Nunavik territory.

485

The JBNQA being a treaty, Inuit rights derived therefrom are recognized and protected by sections 35 and 52 of the Constitutional Act of 1982 which takes precedence over conflicting legislation. Moreover, in 1976, even before the adoption of the Constitutional Act, 1982, the National Assembly adopted the Act approving the agreement concerning James Bay and Northern Quebec. Chapter 23 of the JBNQA, and environmental and social protection regime (recording interruption) ... which provides at sections 23.2.2 as follows: "(Recording interruption) ...establishment of environmental quality commission which shall be an official body responsible for participating in the administration and supervision of the environmental and social impact assessment process in the region with respect to matters to development projects within provincial jurisdiction."

490

495

Makivik acknowledges the adoption of Bill 70 that amends the Mining Act, including that mining companies are required to report any discovery of uranium ore. Based on the current state of knowledge concerning the effects and risks associated with uranium exploration, exploitation and waste management, and particularly given the fact that Nunavik Inuit continue to rely on country food, including migratory species such as caribou, Makivik Corporation and Kativik Regional Government are opposed to any such activity in Nunavik.

500

During Phase I and Phase 2 of the BAPE-KEAC consultation, community and regional organisations, as well as Nunavimmiut clearly expressed their concerns regarding impact of uranium mining activities on the environment, including wild life, subsistence harvesting and food security, human health and well-being. People are also preoccupied by the lack of monitoring and intervention measures in relation to uranium mining activities. These concerns are also exasperated by the difficulty to find objective information available in English, French and Inuktitut, the mother tongue of many unilingual Inuit, and the limited expertise available to assess technical data and reports.

505

510

515

Ms. MAGGIE EMUDLUK
CHAIRPERSON, KATIVIK REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

520

Ms. MAGGIE EMUDLUK:

525

My name is Maggie Emudluk. I'm the chairperson of the Kativik Regional Government. I'll just give a brief description of what KRG, Kativik Regional Government, KRG is, and its relevant responsibilities.

530

The Kativik Regional Government... I'll keep saying KRG, because it's... it is a non ethnic organisation that was created in nineteen seventy-eight (1978) following the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. Pursuant to the Act respecting the Northern villages and the Kativik Regional Government, known as the "Kativik Act", the KRG has jurisdiction over the Kativik region. Covering roughly five hundred thousand (500,000) square kilometers, the Kativik region is the territory of Quebec north of the 55th Parallel, with the exception of Category 1 A and 1 B lands of the Cree community of Whapmagoostui. The Kativik region includes fourteen (14) communities with a total population of approximately twelve thousand (12,000), just a bit over twelve thousand (12,000).

535

540

The KRG acts as a municipality for any part of the territory that is unorganized. The mandates conferred to the KRG through the Kativik Act or through agreements with the governments relate in particular to municipal and regional matters, transportation, communications, policing and civil security, employment and labour training, technical assistance for the northern villages, sports and recreation, child care, land use planning, environmental protection, parks development and management, hunting, fishing and trapping support, wildlife protection and local and regional development. I can go on and on for KRG, but this is a brief description of the KRG.

545

So I will -- like Jobie said earlier, KRG and the Makivik, we're doing a joint brief to this commission, so I will continue what Jobie started on the impacts on the environment, wildlife subsistence harvesting and food security.

550

555

Harvesting activities are of crucial importance for Nunavik Inuit. Nunavik Inuit rely on country food for a good portion of their food, and for their cultural identity. The practice of harvesting is essential today for food security in the communities. Country food is not only a preferred diet, but it's our natural diet, and has also proven more nutritious than store-bought foods. The high costs of store-bought foods are also making harvesting essential for many families. It has been demonstrated that the Kangiqsualujjuaq area holds uranium potential that mainly yields no uranium concentrations. If any operations were developed, it would mean that huge volume of extraction would give way to large opened pit sites. As illustrated by governmental surveys and industry field work reports, the majority of uranium anomalies and showings are located in proximity

to Kangiqsualujjuaq Category 1 and 2 lands, which are important... our area is important for harvesting.

560

Human health and well-being. As part of the determination of social acceptability, the psychological effects cannot be underestimated. People are afraid of uranium in general, but when a population is so dependent on locally-sourced food, the fear and uncertainty escalate. It is known and recognized that Canadian Arctic populations are subjected to industrial chemical contamination. Study results from the Federal Northern Contaminants Program reveal that Eastern Arctic communities are the most affected by contaminants. High levels of PCB's and mercury are found in blood samples taken from northern populations, with the most affected populations being from Nunavut and Nunavik. These documented high contamination levels and their sources are usually not derived from the immediate surroundings of communities, but coming from greater distances and accumulate in the food chain.

565

570

Eventual uranium mining activities around the communities would bring additional contaminant sources, and contribute to an increase in health problems to Nunavimmiut.

575

Monitoring an intervention. After having been introduced to regulations and monitoring measures on nuclear energy and uranium mining development operations by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, we'd learned that there is no systematic monitoring of any uranium exploration activities carried out on the provincial level.

580

Despite the environmental and social protection regime provided in the JBNQA, the Quebec Government is confronted with a lack of resources to guide and monitor industry practices. For now, uranium exploration projects are not subjected to surveillance except for projects involving more than one thousand cubic meters (1000 m³) excavated material, access ramp development, or underground works. That government relies on the industries' good faith.

585

Nunavik is in a very remote area, which is difficult and expensive to access. Even with adequate regulatory measures, it is not at all clear if the capacity of the governmental authorities exist to actually properly monitor uranium mining activities, and enforce regulations in Nunavik. Equally unclear is the capacity of agencies to respond to an accident or emergency in an effective and timely manner. With too many unknown details on uranium exploration and exploitation and despite regulations, measures and control on uranium activities, many concerns arise about the uranium industry environmental practices.

590

Consultation and information. Nunavimmiut want more communication from governmental bodies and the industry when it comes to uranium projects. The efforts of the BAPE and the KEAC are appreciated, however the information provided was not satisfactory. Until much more is known

595

about the uranium industry and the information provided to Nunavik Inuit in a comprehensible way, in their language, it is not possible to make an informed decision.

600 I'll bring you back to Jobie.

Mr. JOBIE TUKKIPIAPIK:

605 Hi. *Nakurmiik*. This is not the first time the Nunavik Inuit and their representative organisations have engaged in discussions on the nuclear industry. In 2005, Makivik Corporation along with representatives of all other Inuit regions in Canada participated in a consultation conducted by the Nuclear Waste Management Organisation. In August 2005, the Inuit Tapirit Kanatami produced a report entitled... which contained the following...

610 "We are left with an easy feeling leading to a conclusion that collectively, as a society, we just don't yet enough, we just don't know yet, know enough about how to safely manage nuclear fuel waste, and yet at the same time we will continue to produce it. ITK advocates for a non-nuclear society in Canada, where nuclear materials are neither mined, produced or transformed. Inuit brought forward recommendations related to alternate sources of energy that could eliminate the
615 need to continue... for continued reliance on nuclear fuel.

In conclusion, Makivik and the Kativik Regional Government are opposed to any uranium exploration, exploitation and waste management activities in Nunavik. There's a strong consensus among Nunavumiut and regional and local organisations that the development of a uranium
620 industry in Nunavik is currently not socially acceptable based on the significant uncertainties surrounding that industry. More precisely, the state of knowledge is limited, and many contradictions exist. The debilitating effect of fear created by the perceived danger of development of a Nunavik uranium industry must be taken into account. The risks from the entire production chain are not well understood... are not well known, understood or communicated. It is not clear
625 whether regulatory agencies, however well intentioned, have the resources and capacity to monitor activities related to the uranium industry and to intervene and enforce regulations in such a remote area.

630 Nunavik has specific characteristics. Immense watersheds, migratory wildlife resources, permafrost, bedrock, et cetera, making it very difficult to import experiences from other regions. Inuit continue to depend on wildlife for a significant portion of their food. Most of the wildlife they harvest is migratory, caribou, fish and migratory birds, and any local contamination will therefore affect the food source of other communities -- for other communities, because Inuit rely on wildlife for food and effect on wildlife can also have a direct effect on human health. Arctic ecosystems are
635 fragile and rebound very slowly, if ever in some instances. As uranium disintegrates very slowly, impacts will be multi-generational, and as responsible global citizens, Nunavimmiut are concerned

with the potential use of uranium in the production of nuclear weapons, despite Canada ratifying the Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons 1969.

640 Finally, while participating outside the scope of the BAPE- KEAC mandate, Makivik Corporation and the Kativik Regional Government continue to insist that Quebec and its citizens would be much better served by promoting energy production from other sources, hydro-electricity, tidal bores and wind generation being the obvious. *Nakurmiik*.

645 **Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:**

I am just going to give you some quotes that we've heard from the community of Kangiqsualujjuaq and Kuujjuaq. I'll say some in Inuktitut and in English. I'm sure you've already heard these quotes, but we would like to highlight these quotes from the residents of these two communities.

650 A resident from Kuujjuaq said: "I will be afraid if there is uranium mining in our region. What, is it to say that my kids or my grandchildren are not going to be eating geese or caribou meat that are contaminated?" That's from someone from Kuujjuaq. "And so, for having a uranium mine in the region, that could impact not only humans, it would also impact wildlife. I totally disagree with even thinking of opening a uranium mine nearby our community." A Kuujjuaq Elder said: "Mining always has impacts, imagine what uranium could do." Another Kuujjuaq official said: "The word that we use for uranium is *nungujuittuk*, meaning it is something that will never perish, it will be there forever. And it is a very strong word, and it always catches everyone's attention when we use that word. What are the impacts on health? Whether it would be the one working at the mining site, the impacts on health even after the mining is closed, how much can it affect our health?"

655 A regional health official as well said: "So it would make us very concerned. I know that we are not going to understand it today, but we will still be concerned, and I think that we have to focus on the future and our next generation, and protect our next generation and our wildlife."

660 An Innu working at the uranium exploration camp once said... listening to this is very hard: "We were drilling without masks, and samples were left in an unsupervised cabin for anyone to touch." A Kuujjuaq Elder said: "Mining companies always say it's no problem, and because there are regulations it is safe. I don't believe you." Kangiqsualujjuaq Elder said: "We need to be told the honest truth, because this is our hunting ground you are playing with. This part of the country, from the shore to the inland, we have been living in it for over four hundred (400) years." Another Kangiqsualujjuaq Elder said: "And so, even if it's in the water or inland, as communities we need to know what is happening truthfully, transparently, whether it's in Kangiqsualujjuaq or Kuujjuaq, and to be very involved in the early stages of development. We want total transparency, especially if there's going to be interest in the future."

675

So these are just some of the quotes that you've already heard, but we wanted to highlight them in our brief. *Nakurmiik*. Thank you.

680 **THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :**

Nakurmiik Maggie and Jobie for a very comprehensive and clear presentation. I am going to turn to the members of the Commissions to see if they have any questions at this point for you.

685 **THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

690 My first question. You quote an Elder here that said that.. he said: "I totally disagree with even thinking of opening an uranium mine nearby our community." And you made the statement, saying something like that when you said: "Even though uranium mining activities around communities would bring additional contaminant source and contribute to an increase in health problems." What do you mean by "nearby" and by "around" communities? Does it mean that if there was a safe distance, and if science was indicating that there could be a problematic perimeter around the mine that it could be, if it is quite far from the activities you have, that it could be something you could look at?

695 **Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:**

Are you referring to uranium?

700 **THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

Yes.

705 **Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:**

Jobie will add to my answer.

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

710 Yes.

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

715 In terms of mining development, I think the region is not against mining per se, mining development, but particularly to uranium mining, from the comments and what we've heard in the region, especially in this community of Kangiqsualujjuaq and Kuujjuak, and as well listening to

720 regional voices, uranium is... we are against uranium mining, whether it's just around the community or not close to... to potential uranium mining. Uranium in general is... it's not accepted. Uranium mining is not accepted at all within the region, but that's specifically to uranium mining. And maybe Jobie would like to add.

Mr. JOBIE TUKKIPIAPIK:

725 It was rather interesting the questions that you had asked Hilda and Willie. The one thing I can say is as a hunter, as a harvester, we Inuit have a big footprint in all of Nunavik. We go not only to Category 1, Category 2 lands. This was an out-of-court settlement that we had on the size of the Category 1 and 2 lands. We use all Category 3 to go harvest. And if you can find the maps on the land you study, you would see how far Inuit have gone to harvest caribou and other animals in the region. For us, any distance within Nunavik, and for us and Inuit we totally are opposed to
730 any uranium exploration mining in Quebec. It affects many other aboriginal groups as well as us that have a big reliance on the land for our country food and our food security. We go far. My father, from forty (40) years ago, would go to the middle of Nunavik to go catch caribou, and many Inuit have done that, and we still do that today.

735 **THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :**

Jobie, could you perhaps share with the members of this Commission the distances, even now, that people are travelling, hunters, that you may or your family may go with other hunters? Just approximate distances you travelled this year?

740 **Mr. JOBIE TUKKIPIAPIK:**

745 Okay. Thank you, I'm glad to do that. I went the spring... for me it's not the first time I went the spring, basically three hundred (300) kilometers inland, from Kuujjuak going along the river basically to the middle of Nunavik. We're at the halfway point of, almost, Nunavik to go catch caribou. This is something that my fathers did and many other groups of hunters. I did that, I was proud to do that with my son and a friend of mine. And we went there because we needed caribou meat. In the springtime, many hunters go now because of the restrictions on... the court on the beluga, they go from here, and they'll go to Quaqtac, and that's the trend that's coming now. That
750 trip can take -- it's a two hundred (200) mile trip, and that trip can take anywhere from a few days to three weeks, because of the ice conditions that are there. And that's why I say it's... the footprint we have in the region is very big. Although we may not have a very big population, the resources, the food that we have to go out and harvest are not necessarily just outside of town.

755

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

760 You also wrote in your brief that with too many unknown details on uranium exploration and exploitation, and despite regulations measures and control on uranium activities many concerns arise about the uranium industry environmental practices. What are those uranium industry environmental practices that you have many concerns about?

Mr. JOBIE TUKKIPIAPIK:

765 Okay. I'd like to refer that to Jean-Marc, who we hired as a mining coordinator for the region in the expertise, because I'm not a full expert in all that is there, and then also... if you could come up, Jean-Marc.

770 I want everyone to know who he is. Jean-Marc is our advisor in regards to mining activities. So if you have questions, concerns, you can go directly to him cause he is our advisor, he is our liaison. He liaises between our people and mining activities.

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

775 I just wanted to say the word uranium in Inuktitut we call it "nungujuituk", meaning something that will never go away. It will always be there. Even just the word is... scary. In other mining practices, with the regime that exists from the JBNQA exploration stages, exploitation, Nunavik being such a vast region, how can governmental agencies, or how can there be proper monitoring that will make us believe that it is under control? We have not yet seen that. We see... every summer, especially around, surrounding this community, we know they are poaching, but we can't really do anything about it because there is no conservation. We try to do as much as possible in terms of trying to check if any illegal activity is taking place, but because it's such a vast territory, it's very difficult, it's a challenge to try to work on these. So imagine uranium mining activity? How can we be ensured that it's not... that it is safe? I don't think I answered your question, but we have an expert with us that can probably answer you better.

780

785

790 **M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN**

M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:

795 Good afternoon.

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

800 Oui, pourriez-vous, dans un premier temps, donner votre nom de famille? On vous a appelé Jean-Marc, mais pour les fins de la transcription ça va être très utile à nos sténographes officielles.

M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:

805 Oui. Bonjour, bon après-midi. *Ullukkut*. My name is Jean-Marc Séguin. I'm the mining coordinator for Makivik, as explained by Jobie. I wouldn't call myself an expert, but I may provide some comments and answers to your questions.

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

810 Hum, hum.

M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:

815 Actually, the reason why we put this section in the brief is coming actually from the previous phase of information and question when you... the Commission came here in Kangiqsualujjuaq last September. And we heard from your expert panel that there is like a... The people from the government explained, they admitted there's a lack of resources in terms of monitoring, not only uranium projects but any exploration projects. And I know for a fact that the mining industry made very good improvements, very good progress, they actually collaborated in the clean-up of different
820 abandoned mining sites, but still there's some measures, or lack of measures being actual. And I can't recall the name of the lady explaining this, but they don't have financial resources, they don't have human capacity to visit every site and monitor those sites.

825 So that's a concern for us. So when it comes to uranium exploration, it was not well described if it's considered as a hazardous material, a dangerous material to be extracted or to be drilled. Of course, someone else, an expert said it doesn't raise much the danger of the environmental, but still we felt that there's a need to be more, not restriction, but more measures monitoring these activities, these particular activities. And that's a big concern for Inuit when it comes to the land use and campaigns that are being developed in the territory.

830

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

835 So if I understand the point that you just made, it's less the practice of the uranium industry that you question than the lack of measures, control and monitoring from the governmental process relating to mining in general? Because we don't have uranium industry in Quebec, so I was

wondering why you are concerned about the uranium industry governmental practices. Here, we have not.

M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:

840

That's true.

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

845

So your comments are mostly targeting the mining in general? Or exploration practices?

M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:

850

The exploration, exactly.

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

Of the... okay.

855

M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:

860

The eventual uranium. If there is a uranium exploration being carried out, what will be the structure, the guidelines to control these? Because we learned that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission have very strict rules for advanced projects, operations, mining uranium. But for exploration, on the provincial level? There was no existing procedure per se. So that's why we... There's big steps, big efforts for agencies concerned, governments or ministries to implement something or to... actually to create from scratch a framework for uranium exploration.

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

865

Louis-Gilles, in English we use the uranium industry to include exploration, exploitation and the management of uranium. So when they say there's lack of enforcement of the uranium industry, I understand... when I hear that, it covers all aspects, not just focussed on one.

870

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

Yes. And it's a fact that there was exploration for uranium in the past, because we have many, many coordinates about, you know...

875

M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:

Yes.

880 **THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

... interesting spots, you know?

M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:

885

Yes.

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

890 Do you want to continue?

COMMISSIONER GOYER:

895 Yes, a little bit. I'll do my best with my English. Before questions more specific, for the ten last years, how many projects, exploration projects did you have on your territory? Just an idea. I know... I don't want a sheet with specific numbers, but I mean just for understanding the impact of... an average, just to understand the impact of exploration? There's big projects, a small projects? How much, about?

900 **M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:**

I can say in the last ten years there was three different major projects...

COMMISSIONER GOYER:

905

Okay.

M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:

910 ... that involved lots of claiming first, and then a major campaign. So two projects happening right here in the Kangiqsualujjuaq area, and there's another one further south, further the 55th Parallel that was being carried out.

915

COMMISSIONER GOYER:

And those campaigns, it was campaign with a lot of people? Small camps?

920 **M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:**

I believe like a maximum of twenty (20) people per camp, let's say. But I know for a fact that people from Kangiqsualujjuaq worked on these campaigns as well, so they would be more aware.

925 **COMMISSIONER GOYER:**

930 Yes. The question is because we understand the second step of the information panel expert that under twenty (20) persons, there's no obligation to say anything to anybody. So the question is do you need more specific regulations to give to the municipality to know what is happening on the territory? Because we saw, like you said in your memory, that under one thousand (1000) meter excavated, you don't need regulation, before twenty (20) persons, no regulations. So we want to know what you want. It's got to be any kind of exploration project you want to be informed? How do you want to be informed?

935 **M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:**

940 Definitely, and even the Kativik Regional Government receives applications for authorization certificates when a company comes to build or set up a camp for their exploration projects. So that would... I guess to be, let's say, addressed if a company comes in to look for uranium. That should be the first thing to mention or to inform.

COMMISSIONER GOYER:

945 Yes, but we are speaking about uranium, but you... how many other kinds of projects did you have on the territory? Because we received a map about all the kind of exploration projects for other metals. There's a lot too, so... There's three projects for uranium, but all those other ones, it's like a lot of projects in the area for the...

950 **M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:**

955 Of course, there is many, there is a multi-commodity potential in Nunavik, and some of them are currently in progress. Like Jobie said, there's two mines in operation, there's about seven, eight major projects...

COMMISSIONER GOYER:

Hum, hum.

960 **M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:**

... in a very advanced phase, and about forty thousand (40,000) mining claims designated.

965 **COMMISSIONER GOYER:**

And those companies, at the time they were in exploration phase, did they inform you? Did they have another kind of attitude with you?

970 **M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:**

Yes. Many of them, the majority of the companies go to the... let's say the concerned organisation. And that's why Makivik recently launches a mining policy to become the point of entry. So we would have, from now on, the idea... an overview of what's happening on the territory. Because the companies want, of course, to act in good faith, so they want to inform the local communities, the municipalities. But sometimes they don't address to the right organisation. So, by creating the Nunavik Inuit Mining Policy, Makivik would like to funnel the information, and then direct the companies to the right organisations when it comes to their exploration projects.

980 **COMMISSIONER GOYER:**

Somewhere Madame says that it's important to you to be informed very very... before the beginning of the operation. So they should address, the company should address that new... with the new policy they are going to have a point to make the management of those kinds of consultations? Is that in the policy, the way to address first, very soon in the process? Is that in your policy?

985 **M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:**

Yes. One objective of the policy is to create a clear line of communication and to have a transparency in every project that may happen on the territory. So, and it's beneficial for both sides, for the industry, for the Nunavik Inuit. So, a relation would be created, and if a project has to come to development, then both sides, if I may qualify them as "sides", will know how to talk, to communicate with the other ones.

995

COMMISSIONER GOYER:

1000 I saw the policy in another document some people of you have sent to the Commission. I'm not sure if we have received specifically the policy, the mining policy. If it's not, is that possible that some of you guys, they sent it to us?

M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:

1005 It's, actually available on line, on the...

COMMISSIONER GOYER:

I know, but we need... I'm not so sure.

1010 **M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:**

Yes, yes. We will.

COMMISSIONER GOYER:

1015 It's where I saw it, but I need an official depot for that.

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

1020 Sure. For sure deposit is very important.

COMMISSIONER GOYER:

1025 It's important for this side.

M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:

Okay.

1030 **COMMISSIONER GOYER:**

1035 Okay. And do you have some pre... some preoccupations about the way they enter on the territory? You know, on the two first steps of the commission, we heard about hélicoptères, airplanes, noise, stress, stress on people, stress on animals, wild life. On soil, on terrestrial... sur la terre, is there a problem with winter roads, roads in general destroy the wildlife? When the

companies enter on the territory, the way they enter on it, does it have an impact on the land? Not only the penetration, but I mean destruction. Is that a problem or not, or... There is a lot of in terrestrial way or it's always air... airport way?

1040 **M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:**

1045 A few years back, I think in the Ungava region, there was a boom in exploration in Kuujuaq, on the Kuujuaq River, and there was a plane flying over every day at low level. And that causes a disturbance with the population. Many, many people have said, as well as... not only here but... the impact on caribou, on the caribou migration with that kind of low level flying will for sure have a disturbance for the caribou. And I'd like to say that I think Quebec has very poorly managed the George River caribou herd.

1050 And I know from – we had cousins in Kawawa Schefferville, they have seen that with the sport hunting and the metal exploration all combined together. The effects of the decline of the George River caribou herd I think is really a big part of that. I can't say scientifically that it did, but for sure we see that and we know that, and... And going back to it it's... and that's the big worry that we have also. We have the Leaf River herd that, from what I understand, numbers about three hundred thousand (300,000).

1055 But the George River herd, it used to be a huge number also, and then they are down. And are they going to survive? And that's where Quebec also has to basically take... own up and add in that, we have rights to harvest, and that should be the number one priority that they have with the policies that they had put in place. Makivik is pushing hard to have the sport hunt ended in the region, because of the Leaf River herd and also the way the George River herd was managed by Quebec.

1060 **COMMISSIONER GOYER:**

1065 But the companies are not obliged to to the municipality or to the board to say which is good period to make those kind of aiported "levée", I mean. They don't take care to make that "levée" at that time, because the caribou is there or something... something else is there? They don't take care?

1070 **M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:**

The only reason I think they do believe, they do go around is for social acceptance, other than the regulations that are there. It's... we've been pushing on Quebec also for a... in the Sanarrutik Agreement itself that it only... the wording in Sanarrutik is that Quebec encourages

1075 mining companies to sign impact-benefits agreements. It only says "encourages". And that's a thing, that's the weakness of that Sanarrutik Agreement also.

1080 When mining companies come into the territory, from what I understand they have no obligation to come and let us know what they're going to do in the region. The approval I think happens at the provincial level.

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

1085 With the new Mining Act, Quebec Mining Act, we understand that there's an obligation now for the mining industry to consult with the municipalities. KRG being a supra-municipality, for example, and the surrounding.

COMMISSIONER GOYER:

1090 They are obliged if they have claims. If they want to make a "levée" somewhere there is no claim, it's not... it's not clear. So I just want to understand if the majority of the companies have responsible "comportements" with... trying to communicate with authority offices, or if the majority is a good way of work, and just a few of them have "comportements" not very acceptable? I just want to understand the proportion. Instead... even if it's uranium or not uranium, but...

1095

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

1100 I guess if we compare that to let's say many years ago, I can just remember twenty (20), twenty-five (25) years ago, when I was the mayor in this community, there used to be helicopters going in and out with no, no communication at all with the community. I remember calling Makivik and say: They're opening a mine here. I thought it was just... that you open a mine just like that. But there are, in the environmental regime that we have for exploration... Exploration in those days were not really like drilling, but then today, in the exploration stage, we see drilling. So that's what we were trying to fight for... to put in the Mining Act, that those need to be updated, because when drilling, it's drilling in the land. For us it's almost like mining. So it should be beyond exploration, of the exploration stages.

1105

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

1110 Sorry, I'll just comprehend, to add on to Michèle's question. When Michèle, when we were at the hearings here last, there was discussion on one of the uranium mining exploration companies in this area who received a letter of infraction from Environment Quebec. They were drilling samples. But they didn't stop there, they tried to bulldoze a road in order to get their drills into one

1115 of the sites. So that's just an example of things that happen that was brought up at the last hearings when we were here.

Louis-Gilles, you have another question?

1120 **THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

1125 Both your two organisms have a mandate quite specific for developing the economy of the region. I'd like to understand if in your opinion, having a link by road to the south of the province, by road or by railway, or maybe with an important harbour in the area that could be used by mining industries and other companies, is it something that is important, feasible, that you would wish to have, or if the area prefers to be isolated up to a certain point, but not totally, because airplanes, helicopters, you know, can go very fast. But is it important to be kind of protected for the purpose of protecting your traditions, your environment, and mostly also the abundance of the game that you need for food? What is your opinion on that? As you are both leaders in that area, I'm very interested to hear about that.

1130 **Mr. JOBIE TUKKIPIAPIK:**

1135 I'll just refer to the consultation that happened Kuujuaq concerning a connection either by road or by rail. The majority of the population of Kuujuaq did not want to have that connection. And a lot of it, it goes back to as being we, us using the whole Nunavit territory for our harvest, our food security. We know, being a population of eleven thousand (11,000) people, is that the influx from the south can have quite a detrimental effect. And that's the thing, is that we're Inuit. We're Inuit here, and that's of a very big importance to our region, our language, our culture. We've done the consultation tour going forward, Inuit going forward, that was done in 2013. And that was a very big thing that came out.

1145 We know we have work to do in, in also securing a better life, and also some wealth for the equitable sustainability. On that part it's... in Kuujuaq, if there was to be a road, the preference was to have a railroad, to have some control over what development can come, because it's the... And that was the big concern. I know there are other Aboriginal groups that had... one had a road, and that... I know also that there was discussion at the Kativik Regional Government about the cost of living in Schefferville. They're connected by a railway, but it did not reduce the cost of living over there. The prices they have at the store are either the same or sometimes higher in the products that they have at the northern store in their community. So, on that part it's the...

1150 And the big thing now is with the consultation that we did also is self-autonomy, autonomy... The ownership of a road, if it's built for the Inuit by the Inuit on where it wants to go, it's not foreign to us. It actually helps us in that. So one day there's a control of it, that's probably the biggest

1155 measure that we would like to have coming forward. And that's why when governments come
around, and that was a big thing in the consultation that we had, is that we want our self-
governance. In that sense, is yes part of Quebec, part of Canada, but also having more authority
on the way life is in Nunavik, and that. And that's... the road itself is that, It's... And we've seen the
experience of the Cree that have a road, and the sport hunt that happens there, with the Leaf River
caribou herd also.

1160

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

1165 For sure that's a very interesting question. I guess you are aware that all of 2013, the major
organisations, Makivik, KRG, we... we went to all the communities for the Parnasimautik
consultation tour, and this was one big question that the population were discussing, development
in the region, and how do they see the development happening.

1170

For sure I guess human beings, we tend to want to always go further, try to make roads, or
go to our hunting camps. I guess it's a natural thing to do. But breaking the isolation, it's a very
challenging concept that we have to fight as Inuit, because we are very close to the land and to our
wildlife, but at the same time we know in the 21st Century we cannot live without computers, with
the Internet, energy. We're just next door to the hydro grid, and our communities still have diesel
generators for their electricity. Why can't we have electricity, a cheaper electricity for our
communities? A lot of this electricity is coming from one of our rivers in the region. We still have
satellite systems for our Internet, which is extremely costly to maintain. We always have to kneel
down in front of the governments every five years to get funding. I mean all these challenges are
very... it's difficult to tackle.

1175

1180 The gasoline price, it's two dollars two cents (\$2.02) a liter up here. But thanks to Quebec
Government, we have a temporary subsidy. The cost of living up here is extremely high. Forty
percent (40%) of families... Families use forty percent (40%) of their income to buy food, just food.
Try to access to country food is very challenging, because equipment is very, very costly. Skidoo...
snowmobiles, they cost fifteen (\$15,000), sixteen (\$16,000), seventeen thousand (\$17,000) a
snowmobile, and who can afford this?

1185

Anyway, it's... if I had the choice, maybe yes I would like to have a road link or a land link.
For sure it would create spin-offs maybe for many businesses, maybe possibly reduce cost of
living. But like Jobie said, just last week we heard from the Naskapi Nation leaders that in their
community they do have a railroad link, but the cost of goods are still extremely high.

1190

But these challenges are for our children, our grandchildren to tackle with for sure, but we
have to look five, ten (10), fifteen (15), twenty (20) years down the road, and hopefully we will be
part of the population that receive the same type of services. Why can't we have... the question

1195

always comes why can't we have the same level of services? We are taxpayers, we're not like the First Nations, we pay all sales tax, federal, provincial income tax, and then transportation taxes on top of these taxes. Like we're... I can go on and on, but maybe one day I will not be around when there will be a road link, but it's possible in the future. And hopefully additional... the quality of the life of our people would improve with such development happening in our communities. Like energy, telecom, all this stuff that we don't enjoy today in our communities.

1200

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

It was my last question. *Nakurmiik.*

1205

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

Nagomik Maggie, Jobie, Jean-Marc for your presentations. And certainly we will have written copies of that, and that will be included on the websites, so thank you very much again for responding to the questions.

1210

We'll take a short break, and after that it would be the Board of Health and Social services.

M. JEAN-MARC SÉGUIN:

1215

Michael, just one last comment. On December 15, in Montreal, they are going to have their first consultation. We will be down in Montreal as well to make sure that our concerns are heard. So we will have another opportunity to ensure that our concerns are heard December 15th. I just want people in this community to understand that there's another opportunity.

1220

FEW MINUTES RECESS

1225

1230

**Dr. SERGE DÉRY,
NUNAVIK REGIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH AND SERVICES**

1235

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

1240

Perhaps we could reconvene. Serge Déry is here from the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Services. Welcome Serge.

Dr. SERGE DÉRY:

1245

Thank you Michael. First of all I would like to say Ullukkut to Kangiqsualujjumiut. Every time we come here we can feel their very warm welcome. So, Nakurmik. Also, I would like to acknowledge the great work that was done by our environmental agent, Mrs. Sylvie Ricard, who is sitting at the back. You know, it's always the privilege of the chief of the department to present, but the work has been done by somebody else. So Sylvie is sitting at the back, and she did a great work in summarizing every document and, I would say, putting together all our comments.

1250

1255

To finalize our brief we went to quite a few documents, scientific documents. Some of them were already presented to the BAPE and to the CCEK, namely from the Quebec Public Health Institute. Also we looked at the transcriptions of the public hearings that were held in Kuujuaq. We participated to the previous public hearing here in Kangiqsualujjuaq a few months ago. We reviewed also research documents that were done in Nunavik about the mining sector. So I would say that our position is a summary of all those documents and also of the evaluation that we did about the potential effects of uranium mining in Nunavik.

1260

1265

The present brief is based on the guiding principles adopted in the health risk management framework for the Quebec Public Health network. This framework has been adopted unanimously by all the public health directors of all the Quebec region in 2003. And it's used by all of us to try to evaluate public health complex situations and in order not to forget about some important issues. So the following principles underlie the entire brief: Empowerment, equity, openness, primacy of the protection of human health, precautionary principle, scientific rigour and transparency. So the whole brief has been written according to those different principles that apply in different sections.

1270

I would like to draw a brief picture of the health status of the population of Nunavik. Nunavik is a very young population. In fact, more than... about fifty (50%) of the population in the region is twenty-five (25) years old, and below. So it's a very young population. It means that we have young parents with many children. It means that we have a population that is increasing very fast, much more than in the rest of Quebec. But also the indicators of different health issues are not so favorable for Nunavimmiut.

1275 If you look at drug use and alcohol use, it's much higher than in the rest of Quebec. The hospitalization rate for physical health is about three times higher than the rest of Quebec. You know, when we look the population health, we are used to look at indicators that help us compare population. Life expectancy is one of them. So in Nunavik, the life expectancy at birth is about fourteen (14) years lower than in the rest of Quebec, both for men and women. One other internationally used indicator is the infant mortality rate. So in Nunavik the infant mortality rate is
1280 twenty-two per one thousand (22/1000) live birth, when it is four point six (4.6) in Quebec, so about five times higher. The mortality rate by suicide is about seven times higher than in the rest of Quebec. So the portrait is... it creates a lot of confers for the population and for the health authorities.

1285 So if we look at the impacts on population health about uranium mining, the review of the scientific literature doesn't show that many negative impacts, I would say, proven negative impacts. One of them is the cancer, lung cancer incidents among mining workers, but again that has been showed, I would say, quite a few years ago when the protective measures were not applied the same way. But that was documented. Other than that it's more hypotheses or... but nothing was
1290 demonstrated.

But we must also say that in some aspects of the health impact, there were too few studies to be able to conclude. For example we have very few studies about the impact on the health of pregnant women and children. This is a concern for us because, as I said, we have a young
1295 population, we have many young children, many pregnant women, and that has not been studied, I would say, enough.

Therefore, the Department of Public Health supports further research to better document the health effects associated with uranium exploration and exploitation activities. These studies would however be difficult to conduct in Nunavik. With its small population, it would be problematic if not
1300 impossible to successfully document a statistically significant increase in risk for the region. So it means that those researches would probably have to come from other regions because of the small population that we have.

1305 The Department of Public Health Department is of the opinion that uncertainty about children and pregnant women, specific vulnerability to the effects of uranium should be taken into account in the assessment of health risks for the population of Nunavik, especially in view of its large youth population and rapid growth.

1310 The Department of Public Health is concerned about cumulative effects that may potentially result from the combination of substance emitted into the environment by mining activities and various contaminants to which Nunavimmiut are already exposed, whether from other parts of the world, like mercury PCB's, or from hunting, for example lead, or lifetime, cadmium in tobacco.

1315

The last one as our recommendation on population health, the Department of Public Health stresses the need to clearly characterize the environmental background noise and current state of health of the people of Nunavik before any uranium mining projects are launched. To that end, the Nunavik 2016 Health Survey should provide baseline data on the population health status, and should serve as a future reference point for assessing the future impact of any development project. And for us it's like something very important, because it's either for the region state of knowledge, than for even the mining companies. You know, if you don't know where you start, after that everything is could be put on the back of the mining activities. So it's not just... I think from both sides we would benefit from having those baseline data on health of the population.

1320

1325

The last survey was done in 2004; we are already ten years after. We have, we'd say, evidence that things have changed, but how much, we need to document it.

1330

1335

Traditional food, it has already been talked about by Maggie and Jobie. The importance of country food. Country food contributes significantly to the dietary intake of Nunavut Inuit. Despite all the changes that Nunavik has experienced in recent decades, hunting and subsistence fishing, as well as berry picking are still preeminent in the lifestyles of many Inuit. Country food is an excellent source of many vitamins and nutrients, including protein, Omega-3 fatty acids, iron, magnesium and zinc. It plays a key role in the nutritional status of the population. Generally speaking, the production, sharing and consumption of country food are integral to Inuit culture, and plays a central role in the well-being of Inuit communities, and their cultural identity.

1340

1345

For food security, just to make you sure that when we're talking about food security we are talking more about access to food than food safety, which is more about the kind of contaminants in the food. So, food security means access to food in enough quantity.

Food security in Nunavik is a priority for the Department of Public Health. A number of families have difficulty obtaining enough safe and nutritious food in the region, a situation that affects their physical and mental health and may be linked to conditions like chronic diseases, obesity and depression. In the 2004 Nunavik Inuit Health Survey, nearly a quarter of individuals stated they have lacked food during the month prior to the survey. The problem of food insecurity in Inuit communities is due to a combination of factors including poverty, the high cost of food, cost of living, availability of healthy food in grocery stores, and climate and environmental changes.

1350

The cost of store-bought food is eighty-one percent (81%) higher in Nunavik than in Quebec City. Access to country food is an integral part of food security in Nunavik. The role of country food in food security is all the more important in view of the cost of imported food in stores. In fact, better access to country food will form the basis on which the regional food security policy will be developed. In fact, that would be a kind of a coalition of all the regional organisations to work on a food security policy in the next coming months and years.

1355

About the impacts on hunting, fishing and gathering, uranium mining exploration is likely to disturb animals, especially caribou, and cause them to move away from mineral extraction sites and neighbouring access roads, port facilities and communities. The cost of hunting, which is already a prior to accessing country food in Nunavik, would increase even further if hunters have to go further afield to locate it. According to Salluit and Kangiqsualujjuaq residents who were interviewed on the impacts and benefits of the Raglan Mines, when helicopter traffic is too busy in one location, animals tend to run away to avoid it. Inuit have also already raised other concerns, including the possible impact on hunting beluga and seal in Deception Bay if they are disturbed by the noise of maritime traffic.

1360

Residents in Salluit and Kangiqsualujjuaq have also remarked that the clearance of paths by icebreakers carrying ore can impact on winter and spring snowmobile trails by weakening the ice which must then be avoided by hunters. Locations may therefore be more difficult to access after the passage of one of these ships and excursions to hunting sites may take longer and be more hazardous.

1365

1370

The opening of a mine is often viewed as having a mixed impact on food security because of its financial benefits, job and profits distribution. Mines are often thought as an additional source of income that increases material comfort by making it possible to purchase food, hunting and fishing equipment and so forth. However, the increase of jobs in the mining field could result in decreasing the amount of control food available to the population and jeopardize the transmission of skills and knowledge to younger generations.

1375

1380

Concerning contamination fears, one researcher pointed out that the most important potential consequence of environmental contamination for aboriginal people is not the actual occurrence of toxic effects, but the negative consequences of the worry and anxiety generated by the prospect of contamination apprehended risk. Fear of contamination of country food, even if unproven, could undermine confidence in the safety of hunting and fishing products. Adverse effects would therefore arise primarily from the disruption of hunting, fishing and gathering activities, country food and nutrition. Changes in the fauna and flora in connection with neighbouring mining activities have already been observed in Nunavik. In the report from Blais in 2013, some residents in Salluit and Kangiqsualujjuaq, close to the Raglan mine, have noted changes in the taste and quality of fish harvested in areas near the mine. Several women in these regions also commented that berries harvested off travel road near the mine were covered by dust. Other residents claimed they have even stopped eating some country food.

1385

1390

Contamination or fear of contamination of the environment and food by mines can lead to major changes in the lifestyle, including more sedentary activities and a decrease in the consumption of country food. So, one of the recommendations, given the great importance of country food for Inuit, the Department of Public Health is concerned that perceived or actual

1395 contamination of the environment caused by the establishment of a uranium mine in Nunavik may cause distrust in the safety of Inuit food. Any reduction in consumption of country food could significantly impact on the food security of Nunavimmiut.

1400 The Department of Public Health estimates that the presence of mining companies may affect the Inuit way of life, and particularly their hunting, fishing and gathering activities. In view of the Inuit people strong attachment to their territory, the Department of Public Health estimates that mining companies must demonstrate great social responsibility and a commitment to reduce the impact of their activities on the environment. Should a uranium mine be established in the region, the Department of Public Health considers that it would be critical to estimate exposure using a model that approximates the eating habits of Inuit, and then properly monitor the health status of the population, and establish an environmental contamination monitoring program. That was an exercise that was requested to the NSPQ, but from what we've read, you know, they did not address specifically a typical Inuk diet. It was more aboriginal in general, but we think that the exercise should be repeated with a typical Inuit diet.

1410 About the psychosocial impacts, communities can react differently to a mine opening. An important factor to consider in assessing impacts, especially psychosocial effects, is the proximity of the mine and the probability of mining workers entering the community.

1415 Generally speaking, the smaller and more remote the community, the smaller the distance between the community and the mine. And when the community psychosocial health is already compromised, the greater will be the anticipated negative impacts.

1420 In Nunavik, two scenarios are likely. Mining camp whose workers are all ferried or flown into the mine by plane, which we call a "FIFO", "fly in/fly out", which is the case in Raglan for example, or a hybrid mining formula with FIFO, but located nearby a transit community that is generally small, as is the case of Oceanic Iron Ore in Aupaluk.

1425 It is in the second case that the most significant impacts are likely to occur in communities, due to land use conflicts and possible contact between workers and the local population.

1430 The FIFO system is characterized by atypical schedules, requiring for example a two weeks stay at the mine site, and two consecutive weeks at home. For Inuit workers, this schedule may result in disengagement from the community, a sense of guilt, work overload, escalating emotions and increased family discord. According to Blais, FIFO is well perceived by some because it offers a respite from family responsibilities. However, it can be very hard for young couples with children, to the extent that many will quit their jobs to stay with their families.

1435 A researcher also observed that spouses of mine workers, mainly women, are burdened by
their increased domestic responsibilities. The Government of the Northwest Territories has
concluded that with the development of diamond mines on their territory, the percentage of single-
parent families has doubled, from fifteen percent (15%) to over thirty percent (30%) in small local
communities. Women who are forced to move to remote a mining area lose their support network
and often struggle to function in male-dominated social structure. It is also known that violence
1440 against women increases in mining communities. The psychological well-being of women may be
substantially affected by changes in the social environment. Changing traditional male roles can
also increase family stress.

1445 In the study by Blais in the Raglan mine area, several respondents reported that Inuit
working in the mine were discriminated against, and could be culturally marginalized. Coping
mechanisms often involve alcohol and drug abuse. This phenomenon has been reported in
communities near the Nanisivik mine in Nunavut. Nonetheless, most respondents in the study by
Rodon... Rodon studied again different aspects related to Raglan mine. So most respondents were
of the opinion that mines negatively affect Inuit culture, health, well-being, gender relations, families
and communities. According to Brisson, from the Quebec Public Health Institute, the literature
1450 review confirms that despite its potential benefits, a mine often results in negative psychosocial
effects. The impact is potentially greater for aboriginal communities, which are especially affected
by changes in income, lifestyle and values. For example, shift to individualism and consumerism.

1455 Because of their special attachment to the environment, and the importance it holds, they are
much more affected by any change in the natural environment than other populations.

1460 Nunavik communities would also be more vulnerable in view of the psychosocial they
already have. A large array of indicators, including number of people with drug addiction,
prevalence of domestic and sexual violence, high suicide rates confirm the extent of the existing
psychosocial problem.

1465 The Department of Public Health considers that an influx of foreign workers to Nunavik may
cause psychosocial impacts, especially on gateway communities which may have difficulty
adapting to this new reality. The Department of Public Health is of the opinion that mental, social
and other health problems may be exacerbated by mining projects in the region, especially if they
are located near communities.

1470 One quite specific issue is the Department of Public Health stresses the importance to
consider archaeological sites, including burial sites during the impact assessments carried out prior
to a mining project. Not to disturb those sites.

1475 Given the scarcity of studies on the subject, the Department of Public Health considers that psychosocial impacts on the Inuit population must be documented as the mining project progress, beginning at the exploration phase. And again it's a request to receive funding for the general health survey that we're planning to do in 2016.

1480 Protection of workers. Concerning medical emergencies, health services for workers are usually provided by the establishment, or the mining company, on the mine site. However, access to health care is inherently limited at mining facilities in remote areas like Nunavik, as it is in the communities. A worker in need of urgent health care beyond that offered by the mine must be transferred either to the nearest community or to one of the two health centres located in Kuujjuaq and Povungnituk. The worker may even be referred to a large centre like Montreal or Quebec City. Except in the case of mines connected by road to a community, the transfer is often carried out by government air ambulance or helicopter. Adverse weather that prevent planes from taking off and landing are not uncommon in Nunavik. And ideally, transporting a worker requiring emergency care from a mining or exploration site to a health care facility may have serious consequences for the worker.

1490 As for the planning of occupational health and safety, the mining companies are urged to plan for health and safety considerations right from the initial design of their facilities, whether for extraction or ore concentration, or for other activities such as water treatment or machinery maintenance. From the experience we had with the Raglan mine, it would have been much more easier to plan at the beginning of the building of the site, the example we had was about the diesel engines that were producing the electricity over there. There were four of them, they were producing so much noise, you know, that it was considered a health, a... a big, a real, real health concern for the workers. So even wearing protective devices was not sufficient.

1500 Finally, after many years they were able to build like a casing for them, but at more, much more expensive way. And that would have been able to be planned at the beginning. And that's what we are encouraging companies to work in collaboration at the beginning, so that that would be avoided.

1505 As a recommendation, the Department of Public Health is concerned about the degree of enforcement of the principles and regulations regarding workers protection during uranium exploration activities in a remote region like Nunavik. And that comes from the public hearings that we participated in. We heard that local workers were hired and sent without any protective material, and that poses a concern that that could be repeated, and it should be avoided at any price.

1510

1515 Another specific issue, given the high proportion of smokers in Nunavik and the cumulative or even synergetic effects on lung problems caused by occupational exposure to various contaminants and smoking, the Department of Public Health insists that control measures must be in place to prevent this problem in Inuit workers. So the technology is there, it's just to apply it, and that will prevent that exposure.

1520 Given Nunavik's harsh and unpredictable weather, the Department of Public Health is concerned about the risk inherent in working in remote region, especially the dangers of medical evacuation of injured workers, and the consequences for other people involved, pilots, medical personnel and others.

1525 The Department of Public Health underlines that it is vital, and even critical to consider, for all stakeholders, the potential added value of including occupational health and safety concerns at the initial design phase of mining facilities in Nunavik. Because of – I don't know how to pronounce it in Inuktitut, I think Marie did it much better than me, but *nungujuittuk*, or what is there forever... Because of the long life of the radioactive compounds involved, it is imperative to guarantee the long-term safety of mine tailings. The Department of Public Health is concerned about the ability of managers to ensure long-term environmental monitoring and measure health impacts associated with the presence of this waste product in the region, particularly in view of the fact that they will remain contaminated for several thousands of years.

1535 About the organisation of services, the Department of Public Health raises concerns about the challenge posed by the increased numbers of users who would be served by Nunavik health facilities as a result of the influx of hundreds of workers from outside the region. And this is particularly important in the, I would say not in the "fly in/fly out" situation, but the other situation where the mining site has a direct link to the community. All communities have a small CLSC with a few health workers. If you take a community of two hundred (200) people, and you have a mining site with five hundred (500) people, you know, but you have... you still have two nurses in the community, she will have, or they will have to "desserve" three and four times more people. So that's a concern, that it will impact the use of health services.

1545 Concerning the long life of those by-products, the Department of Public Health considers that tailings from uranium mines pose a long-term danger that can affect future generations, especially if tailings containment is compromised.

1550 About social acceptability -- I'm almost done. According to Rodon, who studied the issue in Nunavik, the establishment of a mine in aboriginal territory is subject to a tremendous social acceptability hurdle. The colonialist attitude that historically strained relations between the government and indigenous people may increase mistrust of authority, thus making openness and transparency essential, especially in view of the fact that interested and affected parties in

communities far from decision centers are principally underprivileged, have little formal education, and therefore have trouble airing their concerns.

1555 Ensuring equity is also an important issue. While profits flow out of the area, local communities near mining sites may be exposed to the drawbacks of environmental erosion and psychosocial impact far in excess of those that affect the rest of the population in the region or in the province. Few benefits from employment due to highly vulnerable and underprivileged population. The gross benefits of mine may even serve to keep vulnerable population from flourishing.

1560 There are a number of factors that can increase the social acceptability of a project, namely openness, transparency and equity. Transparency ensures easy and quick access to all critical information, and all relevant explanation for interested and affected parties, which mean the Inuit population. Openness ensures that Inuit take part in the process, express their view point and concerns, and help search for solutions and influence management decisions. Ongoing two-way dialogue must be initiated without delay between mining project problems and the population, and be maintained throughout the life of a mining project.

1570 Impact and benefit agreements, IBA's, are one way to ensure that the principle of equity is applied by spreading out the benefits and disadvantages of a mining project in a fair way. It is therefore important to accurately identify the disadvantage that Inuit might experience, particularly the most vulnerable of them.

1575 IBA's leveraged Inuit involvement in economic development through various measures, such as job training and creation, ensuring the implementation of mitigation measures, and financial compensation for disadvantage through the payment or through the participation to the benefits. An IBA alone is not a guarantee of social acceptability. The agreement must be based on genuine transparency and the participation of not only community representatives but of the population as a whole. Inuit must be consulted early in the process so every possible facet of the project is discussed and their opinions and concerns are taken into account.

1585 The Department of Public Health considers that better access to employment and business opportunities and participation to the benefits for the local population are significant additional source of income for residents overwhelmed by high unemployment and low income. The Department of Public Health would expect measures to be implemented to promote training, employment and business opportunities for Inuit by way of appropriate training programs, employee support, programs to foster intercultural coexistence, targeted dissemination of information on employment opportunities in Nunavik community, and so forth.

1590 The Department of Public Health believes that a special attention should be paid to the IBA
funding distribution system, individual versus collective, in order to minimize the negative effects
and maximize the positive economic spin-off of mining exploitation.

1595 The Department of Public Health estimates that mining companies that want to establish
themselves in Nunavik, including uranium mines, must pass the test of social acceptability with the
Inuit population. To this end, they must clearly guarantee advantages that exceed the negative
impacts for Inuit. Transparency and Inuit participation in the process must be emphasized. Mining
companies must maintain acceptability by sustaining an ongoing dialogue throughout their lifespan.

1600 As for the conclusion, Nunavik holds considerable mineral resources. Mining development
could be an important economic engine in northern areas where there is a critical need for job
creation. However, the risk would undoubtedly depend on the type of ore extracted. Projects must
be selected carefully to maximize positive spin-offs while minimizing negative impacts. As
1605 radioactive substances, uranium and its decay products have the potential to cause chemical and
radioactive health effect. What is more, given the close connection between those two nuclear
hazards, they raise fear of environmental and country food contamination. Real or apprehended,
these concerns could be a barrier to the maintenance of Inuit way of life, especially in terms of
hunting, fishing and berry picking.

1610 The scientific literature demonstrate the imbalance between the negative and positive impact
of uranium mines, and their long-term adverse consequences, particularly on psychosocial health,
eventually outweigh the anticipated advantages. There is reason to fear that the already fragile
health status of the Inuit population tend to worsen. Given the primacy of the principle of human
1615 health and fairness, the negative consequences and the benefits of such a project must be
weighed in order to ensure that the outcome is favourable to the Inuit. Many uncertainties remain
as to the effect of a uranium mine would have on the physical, psychological, social and spiritual
health of Inuit. These uncertainties call for the greatest caution and scientific rigour in the pursuit of
research documenting the impacts of this type of project on northern population.

1620 Finally, it is essential that Inuit appropriate their powers and chose the type of economic
focus they wish to emphasize on their territory, mine, tourism or other, and, in terms of mining
development, the type of mining they want to promote. Their ability to make informed decisions
and take actions against the risk that concerns them must be reinforced by the application of the
1625 principle of transparency and openness throughout the life time of any project. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

Thank you, Serge. Do the members of the Commission have questions for Dr. Déry?

1630 **THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

Vous avez dit, Docteur, vous avez noté au début que la communauté est en train de bâtir une politique sur l'alimentation naturelle, je dirais, là, avec des produits locaux. Mais qu'est-ce que vous entrevoyez comme conséquences si, comme la science semble le démontrer, historiquement, les cycles d'abondance du caribou c'est très lent, ça peut prendre des décennies à se reconstruire. Alors, je... I'm sorry, I will explain in English so that the people can follow. Okay, I switched to the wrong one.

1640 Yes, you're saying that the community is trying now to build a policy on food security, but with country food, you know. But you know that the cycle of the caribou abundance is very long, those cycles are very long. So it takes a few decades before the herds can go back to the former numbers we had, you know. What will happen between them? We were told that there are other species that they can hunt, but this one was so central, and in the past it ended up by being a real problem, a very serious problem for the community when the caribou was quite scarce, you know. 1645 What do you expect, and what will be the solutions?

Dr. SERGE DÉRY:

1650 Thank you for the question. In fact, you know, we are planning to bring all the major regional organisations together in order to tackle the food insecurity issue. That includes, I would say, possible scarcity of caribou, the... I would say the most basic principle of that food security policy... I don't want to...(recording interruption)...

1655 I would say people will work on that in the future, but you know, I would say that one of the basic principles would be that we have to promote country food. And for different reasons. It's culturally adapted, it's socially adapted, it's very nutritious. So, there are many reasons to promote country food. And, you know, the policy will have to address the issue of, let's say caribou scarcity, but as it was told by other people, there are other good food sources.

1660 For example, we have been promoting, in the last fifteen (15) years, for pregnant women in Nunavik, we have been promoting eating arctic char, which is the best food for a pregnant woman in Nunavik. So even if caribou is not there, you know, we can promote arctic char. We were told that seal meat, I would say, walrus on the Hudson Coast, for example... there are different of country food. But, for sure, if we have to face a caribou almost extinction, we will have to consider 1665 all the possible measures, other country food sources, but also store-bought food. You know, we have to live in the current reality. People are also relying on store-bought food. That's for the majority of Nunavimmiut now.

1670 **THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

1675 You also wish that health facilities should be designed at first to be able to take in account larger volume of population, different type of risks that are known or unknown. What were you meaning by that when you said that you were... health facilities should have been designed at first differently?

Dr. SERGE DÉRY:

1680 I'm not sure that is exactly what I... I think there is like two things there. One thing I mentioned is that in planning, I would say, let's say a mining site facility, I would say the mining company should invite the Public Health Department at the beginning, because from the experience we had with Ragan, if we would have been involved in the beginning, they would have saved a lot of money. Because we had to bring them under the Public Health law, because the workers were threatened on the hearing side, you know. But if we would have been, I would say, 1685 involved since the beginning, we would have told them: Let's put a case on those generators, and that will be... there would have been no problem. So that was one thing.

1690 The other thing I mentioned is that we do anticipate an increased pressure on the health services in Nunavik whenever there will be a mining site directly linked to a community. And for example in Aupaluq right now, the way it is designed, there will be a road linking the mining site to the community. So you can imagine that workers can, can drive to the community, but the health services that are there... You know, Aupaluk is a small community, so the health services have been designed for a small community, but if you bring five hundred (500) more people, it's not the same game, you know. So we don't want, like, the population to suffer from the fact that there will 1695 be too many people now in the community. So those were the two concerns.

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

1700 Thank you. I think that those precisions were important to me. At the end of your presentation, this will be my last question, you wished that among the conditions that the community should have, you said they should have, they should make informed decisions and have the tools to make that. In their presentation before you, the ARK and the Makivik Corporation said in their brief, until much more is known about the uranium industry and the information provided to Nunavik Inuit in a comprehensive way, in their language, it is not possible to make an 1705 informed decision. So both of you two organisms have insisted on the fact that there should be informed decisions. Does it mean that the decision to oppose to mining is not an informed decision? That it could be a misinformed decision?

1710 **Dr. SERGE DÉRY:**

1715 You know, I have not mentioned it in what I presented to you, but it's in the brief. Right now in the scientific world, especially among the Scientifics that are working with aboriginal communities, there is a consensus that traditional knowledge is as valuable as scientific knowledge, and that you don't need to have statistical tests to confirm that when Elders are saying, "we have seen that", they have seen that, you know? And I would say some major research from the agencies like NCP, Norton Contaminants Program, if you want to apply and make a research project in the north; you have to include a section about traditional knowledge. You cannot come in Nunavik make research without trying to find what is the traditional knowledge about that issue.

1720 So what I mean by that is that when we heard, you know, that people are concerned about... they even have a word saying that it will be there forever. For me it's traditional knowledge. When people studied around Raglan mine, you know, when people are saying the berries are not the same as they were, for me, they know what they see, you know? People, those people have been living very close to their environment. I don't know how many words they have to describe snow. In French, we have one, but they have... Maybe they can tell me, but I think they have like fifty (50) or seventy (70) different words to describe snow, you know? So they are, I think, very close to their surroundings. And for me, we need to consider that. And when they told us -- I was here in Kangiqsualujuaq the previous hearings, and I heard a lot of people that had concerns about... In fact, they have fear about uranium. And, as I said, being apprehensive, a confirm apprehension, if you have that fear, you know, that, for me, it's enough. We talked about food security, and we're quite sure that that will have an impact. People will, like, disregard country food if they think it's contaminated.

1735 **COMMISSIONER GOYER:**

1740 J'aurais – I'll say it in English. I have some few questions. In the beginning you said it's... it's going to be very important to know the background of people health before beginning any kind of uranium activity. Does it mean that the DSP, Département de santé publique has the capacity to know about if there is some uranium in the body of people or in the environment of the people as... for the comprehension of what is the real background? You're going to follow all the radionuclides in people and food in the... How do you... you will characterize the radioactivity for the background you need to have?

1745 **Dr. SERGE DÉRY:**

Again, I think there are two things. One thing I mentioned is that it would be important to have the baseline health status of the population, I would say. And it would be good for, I would say, for us, for the Nunavimmiut but also for the companies. Because, you know, the last time we

1750 measured the health status of our population on the global basis, it was in 2004. That means that
ten years later, probably quite a few things have changed. So, that's one thing. If we have the
baseline status of even the social health of the communities, when we're talking about the
psychosocial impact, if we don't know where we're standing right now, maybe a few years from...
1755 after a mine will have settled, we will evaluate it and we'll say oh, what impact they had. But maybe
it was already there, but nobody will know. So that's one thing.

But about the background of uranium, we won't measure the background all over Nunavik,
because it's not necessary. But if ever there is a mining project more, I would say more on its way,
that would be important again to measure the background exposition of the population of the
1760 surrounding area. That could be after that monitored, so that you can see you have an impact from
the mining exploitation.

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

1765 But I'd like to understand. From that background, once you have measured it, how will you
explain the changes you could see and attribute them to uranium in such small communities? And
being able to say it's not the effect of "hazard"?

Dr. SERGE DÉRY:

1770 Of what? Hazard?

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

1775 "Hazard".

Dr. SERGE DÉRY:

1780 I would say depending on what you are looking at, you know, for example when we... when,
you know, they compared... Concerning the Raglan mine, they compared the two communities that
are like the closest to the mine, and they found differences. And at the beginning they were quite
comparable. After a few years, they had differences. You can say, oh, but there are many other
issues we may have in time, their health status... But one explanation was that the benefit sharing
1785 system was different from one community to the other. Again, it's not one hundred percent (100%)
proven, but that's one explanation.

Again, you know, if you have a community that is naturally exposed to uranium, you will have
the background, but if after two years or three years of exploitation you have a twofold, a threefold
increase, again you can say how can you say that it's not hazard. But that would be a strange

1790 hazard that it would, like, triple because there is... There is a mine there that is exploiting and you
can even, you know, identify more exposed people and, I would say intermediately, even if it's a
small community, for example those who will be working there, those who are closest to the mine,
those who are the more remote, and you can try to compare, and try to find if the exploitation has
something to do with the exposure of the population.

1795
COMMISSIONER GOYER:

It's the same way, you... maybe it's possible there are some population actually exposed to
naturally...

1800
Dr. SERGE DÉRY:

Yes.

1805
COMMISSIONER GOYER:

... uranium background. But is that a possibility, to take that in consideration in your study?

1810
Dr. SERGE DÉRY:

You know, as I said, that would be interesting if we all, if there is a kind of a possibility of
development. But just to tell people: "You have very small exposure to radon"... Because we know
that it's natural. What we know, you know, for example we did some study about the indoor air
quality. And down south, you know, if you have radon and you have basement, you will find radon
1815 in the houses. But here in Nunavik, there is no basement, and what we found, there's no radon.
But it was not in Kangiqsualujjuaq, it was in Kuujjuaq, and... So maybe if we, we could repeat the
same study here, we could find small amounts of radon. But again, what would be the... I don't see
the benefits now if we don't expect to develop uranium mining in the north.

1820
COMMISSIONER GOYER:

Another point you mentioned is the importance of "accommodements" to reduce the impact of
activity, mining activities. And you said a company must have to do that. For the moment, in other
kind of mining activities, the companies beginning to make those kinds of "accommodements" for
1825 the... reduce their impact on the way of life, or the... What do you see here?

1830

Dr. SERGE DÉRY:

As you know, we don't have that many examples, hum? Active mining sites, we have one that is fully active, and we have another one close to the same one, who is using almost the same infrastructure. But I know that in that specific mining site, they have reduced the... You know, they were used to have icebreakers transporting the ore, I would say maybe two... every two... every two or three months. But now, because they were told that that has an impact on the hunters, I would say, trails, they have accepted to stop those transportations during the winter months, so that it will no longer break the trails and... So they are... I think that it's an example that companies or mining companies can accommodate and... to try to decrease their impact.

1835

1840

COMMISSIONER GOYER:

And there are some committees that have dialogue about those impacts? It's that DSP, or Makivik or... who gives those kind of...

1845

Dr. SERGE DÉRY:

In the case of Raglan there is a committee between Makivik, Raglan and... I think the communities are there. But probably Makivik could be better placed than me. But I know that there is a structure where they discuss those issues together.

1850

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

Okay, thank you, Dr. Déry, for your presentation and response to the questions.

1855

Dr. SERGE DÉRY:

Thank you.

1860

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

And I will have a copy of your brief. Okay.

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

1865

We are having it in English first, and after that in Inuktitut. So as soon as we have the English copy, you will get it. Okay?

1870

Ms. KITTY ANNANACK

Ms. KITTY ANNANACK:

(Inuktitut, not translated)

1875

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

Okay, recall your name, say your name properly so we can record it.

1880

Ms. KITTY ANNANACK:

Thank you, thank you for coming here today. I'll be leaving today because I'll be... I just wanted to support Doctor Serge Déry in particular, the fact that we need to be well, that our communities and our community members need to be well, like the rest of the world.

1885

We are country food eaters, and when we no longer have country food available we become very short-tempered. In 1990's, the beginning of the 1990's, I have mercury in my blood because I eat lake trout. I also have PCP in my blood from the food that I eat. This is coming from country food that I ate. I wonder... my question is if I have uranium in my blood, whenever time I shake someone's hand that they are going to explode. And it's so true, the words said that are being presented to you today are all valid. Inuit knowledge is valid. Just imagine if you had a uranium mine fully operating, bad weather comes, bad weather. Add that. Even though that there's access roads, that weather would be a determining factor in regards to any emergencies. No matter how serious the situation is in a particular area, we wouldn't be able to proper... provide proper support. Just imagine. That's something that needs to be considered. This is in a very harsh environment. It's not an easy environment to be living in. And so those are things to be considered. Thank you.

1890

1895

1900

Mr. DAVIDEE ANNANACK

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

Thank you, Kitty. Davidee Annanack.

1905

Mr. DAVIDEE ANNANACK:

Thank you. My name is Davidee Annanack. This particular weasel in... that was a weasel that was a nuisance in our culture. They used to bother us with our traps. So to see it is...

1910 *Nakurmiik.* Thank you. All above a weasel, it's just something that is very contradictory in regards to uranium.

It started in this community. When it... we weren't looking... (In Inuktitut – no translation).

1915 My father used to say that the trails, these trails, once they're covered again the caribou will come back. Not all of us are going to be miners. We have no caribous. We even have to order from Kuujjuarapik now through hunter support to get caribou into our community. Now we're in a very precarious situation. That's a reality. Our animals, all the animals are on the... are all within the vicinity of these mining companies, whether they're uranium or not. I think we need to do an inventory, a check-up in regards to how these mining companies are affecting the animals now, and have to do this regularly, to take inventory. We need to develop and we need to create these roads, whether it's for mining activities or not.

1920
1925 The Raglan mine that's in place for the last twenty (20) years, do we need to... We already have a benchmark to look at to be able to compare certain data. When I keep on hearing about the negative impacts of uranium, everything seems to be horrible. I have a son that's in the hospital right now, he has got a stomach cancer. He had to be radiated, to go through radiation this morning. We need proper information, we need to know exactly what are the advantages and disadvantages of a uranium activities.

1930
1935 We are not well informed, we're not making informed decisions because we don't have these information at hand. Food, that's supposed to be for wellness, for a community wellness. But we know that wildlife is depleting everywhere. And yet we hear how much more healthy they are from farmed animals. We have court systems in place now, we are probably going to have conditions to follow for other animals. What are we going to eat once all this important food that's for part of our culture is depleted completely?

That's all I want to say for now. Thank you.

1940

Ms. LUCASSI AMNAQ ETOK

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

1945

Nakurmiik. Thank you very much David. Lucassi Amnaq Etoq.

1950 **Mr. LUCASSI AMNAQ ETOK:**

1955 Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak. I am Lucas. I have three questions about caribou. The caribou, when they come from far and when they're coming in, they don't eat just in one area. The lichen, they don't eat them in just one area. Let's say he came from Labrador and he came towards here. They're not eating in just one area. So imagine if we have a mine, the food that the animals consume will have an effect. It's the same for the ptarmigan, in the winter and the spring they come, they migrate towards here. And the same thing, they don't eat in one particular area. If we're going to ever bring a mine here, it will be very detrimental. And because, like after your visit, we looked more into details about the uranium, and we... it's almost like it just kills anything around us. If it travels through the clouds, through... even if we try to get away from it, it will eventually catch up to us. Our trees, our trees will maybe just die, the water. So it... so uranium is very alive, and you can never get rid of it. So I'm very concerned about this, so... We didn't agree to this exploration of uranium.

1965 And when they were exploring that time that they did... they never told us what they were looking for. And the only thing that they were saying to us is they were just trying to see what was available around us, in Kangiqsualujjuaq area. And they were... young people, they wanted, they requested for young people to work with them, and we weren't told for what reason. And in the end, we found out that it was because they had found potential uranium, and they weren't told what they were exploring and they did the work. And sometimes I wonder if one of our young ones, he's never feeling well. It's like, is that the cause? That just makes you wonder, because he was part of the search for uranium... the exploration of uranium.

1975 And so the others that were never informed of handling, exploration for uranium never told maybe we should make sure that they get looked in, because they probably will have side effects from that. And we don't want to end up someone passing away because precautions were not taken. And if somebody was exposed enough and their health was affected, maybe there should be monetary compensation. Because they were never informed because of that.

1980 And at one point there was many brook trouts that were dead around the area where they were drilling, and they were asking the young people that were there not to say anything about it. They had... they burned the dead fish, and they were told not to say anything about it. But despite being told not to say anything, they could not contain themselves, so they had to tell someone and say, well, they were drilling to check... Many of the fish ended up dying and they could no longer keep it a secret. And so, because of that impact, imagine if we did have a real uranium mine how much our animals would be affected by it.

1985

1990

All the seasons we hunt, we follow the seasons of the animals, so these animals are very crucial for us. Imagine that caribou, then the design of the caribou, we use everything of the caribou. There is nothing that is wasted. We consume everything, and we use everything from the caribou. Not just the caribou, but many of the animals around our area, the fish that come... go up river. I have many, many things to say, but I just wanted to make a short version to say that the animal is very important to us, and thank you very much for allowing me to voice my concerns.

1995

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

Thank you very much Lucassi. Kenny Angnatok, a famous hunter.

2000

Mr. KENNY ANGNATOK

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

2005

Please feel welcomed. In other words, don't feel unwelcome.

Mr. KENNY ANGNATOK:

2010

We're here to... we're supposed to help each other. You're here just to get a better understanding of how we, as Inuit, live. First of all, when you hear about the uranium, it sounded pretty bad and bleak. Just to... even the exhaust that's... that you can't see, and that can affect your body in a way that... like no other. And once you start digging and exploring, looking for uranium, it has... it's pretty bad. In the wintertime we have snow, there's lot of blizzards that take place. And then there's the melting of the snow. And these melts then trickle down to lakes and rivers, in particular when it's raining. When you start uranium activities, you can imagine the consequences that may have on our environment and the people. There's fresh... not just freshwater animals, but there's also shoreline animals, such as shells and crustaceans and various seafishes.

2015

2020

There's also various minuscule crustaceans and the fish feed on these small, small sea creatures, and then they climb up the rivers. So when... so you can imagine if these little crustaceans that fish rely on are already impacted and infected, and then fish eat these, fish then get impacted. Then there is larger predators that eat the fish.

2025

So there's a chain reaction here. It wouldn't just be just the animals within the vicinity, it would spread well far... wild flower. And there is also... if there was activities taking place within Category 3 lands, and if that's feasible, that Category 3 lands is not far from this, for this

2030

community, and animals that are not stationary, there's geese that fly, and migratory birds that fly in after passing through Category 3 lands to get to Category 2 and Category 1 lands. And then there's these animals, these migratory animals that rely on the food that's provided here. So you can imagine that it has negative impacts not just for the people, not just for the animals, but for migratory birds as well, migratory animals. And that's one of the reasons, one of the major reasons why we're opposing this idea of having uranium activity take place within this region. And Nunavik is abundant of wild animals that are always circulating and are always on the move.

2035

2040

Also, what was brought up earlier that I wanted to respond to, in regards to access roads, as you guys were asking questions relating to access roads. When I think about it, it's... I don't know, it doesn't seem really beneficial. In fact, it's going to have a negative impact on our society much faster. So there's going to be some implications taking place once there's access roads made available. There's drugs, alcohol. I know that even today we have been trying to prevent them from getting out of hand, but you can imagine that this might get out of hand if we have access roads. As well, if we have access roads, we know that even though air transportation is really expensive, there's many of us that tend to go down south. So you can imagine if there's access roads, many would attempt to try and drive down there, and if... if there is access roads, say, and I get stuck in the middle of somewhere?

2045

2050

In regards to caribou, depletion of caribou, it's not us, it's not us Inuit that have depleted this. We have, we take a little portion of the overall population. It's not us. We are not to blame. There is sports hunting that take place, where there's a nominal fee to try and catch one with the most points, with antlers. I have worked for these sports companies, and all they are worried about is getting a bull, or a caribou with the biggest antlers. So that has really contributed to the depletion of our caribou herd.

2055

2060

And then we've been hearing from the Quebec... There's poaching that's taking place where they are taking out a bunch of their fellow... their friends on trips, hunting trips. So, as a result, that caribou herd has depleted. We even, in fact, have already ever seen the herd within this vicinity. We have even made it a point to no longer hunt from that herd. So that needs to be considered, sports hunting. All they are concerned about is how well they shoot. So I just wanted to bring this up, because this is a discussion that I frequently hear in this region. I am not angry, I am not bitter, I just... I'm here to try to make you understand. Thank you.

2065

Mr. WILLIE ETOCK

2070

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

Thank you Kenny. Willie Etok. I believe he's the last person. I don't believe there's anyone else that have raised their hand. Okay.

2075

Mr. WILLIE ETOCK:

Hello my fellow Elder. I believe he's just my fellow Elder now, he's talking to Mike Barrett there. If I had... I could talk for quite... I'll try to make it short, cause I could go on forever.

2080

We have, in this community, in the past we didn't segregate that between people living in Labrador and people living in Nunavik, we just lived. We had access and occupied all this land. It didn't... it wasn't based on Category 1 lands, 2 lands or 3 lands, we just made sure that we had access to country food, had access to country food that allowed us to make traditional garments.

2085

So our Elders, our ancestors are fully aware of what is in this region. Luckily, as I child I was never... I was a kid that was adamant to be not left behind, and so luckily I learned a lot from following my father. So, as a result, I have a pretty good idea of the use of land here. Please feel welcome. It's important for us to all know and share information amongst each other. You are here because you're also concerned to make sure that we're moving forward, and everything we try to start always has something to work on. We always... it's not presented perfectly.

2090

We just want to make sure that you are aware that uranium activities is something we're not supportive of. Elders used to say they never say that the food was scarce. Whoever the person was, despite... even if it was from Labrador, Kuujuaq, they always shared their knowledge. There was no telephone, but they always shared to say you can find this particular animal there, and they would inform each other while they were travelling by dog team. That's how the Inuit are, to share their knowledge. So I know we were speaking about Category 1, 2, 3. It wasn't existing, it was only : There's many caribou there, there's many ptarmigans there. This is how it was. They helped each other despite where they came from. And that was how the Inuit are, they help each other. This is what they do.

2095

2100

And our ancestors used to tell us that the animals will never completely disappear. They said you always have to share the animals that roam. Don't fight towards with... don't fight each other about animals, because even now, like, I'm doubtful there will be... because sometimes it's always scary, it's like are we losing... But it was never said...

2105

2110 Some days there's nothing. For example, like fox, one time there was completely no more
and Lucassi Etok, because we found out... We were out, it was beautiful, we were walking during
the winter. We saw two foxes. These foxes that we saw, like they were walking around and they...
2115 So there's just many different stories about how animals. It's not... there's a higher being that
provides all these animals for us. It's not just Inuit, there were times where it seemed like there was
new people that were no close to starvation, there were days where it seemed like I would have
nothing to eat. I would go hunting. We would go hunting, and then we would find something to eat
all the time. At low tide my father would just go under a rock, find some fish. There was always a
way that Inuit found ways to survive, find something to eat, because they knew their land. And
we're always worried that our land is going to be destroyed, because it was our survival.

2120 All of this that we're working on cost a lot of money, but if we don't come into agreement and
just fight with each other, it won't work. We hear a lot about mining around the area. And then
what we're discussing, the uranium, we're talking about the dangers of it. But even if it's not
uranium, if it's not done well, it always... it turns out not very good. So even if it's not uranium, and
then as we saw on the map, we have potential uranium that could be mined... But when you look
2125 the map, we have many creeks, rivers that connect with each other, and all of these, because of all
of these little connections, for sure there is going to be destruction to all the sea animals.

And then what I'm thinking, let's say that if we became, we got a mine here, the money that
will come, let's say they're exploring, exploiting it, and there's no more value, like the land will just
be left damaged, and there will be no more animals around. Like, I often wonder if that would be
the case if ever there were to be a mine that was opened around here. We want to live a healthy
lifestyle, and I am part of a couple of committees in this community, so I am always in meetings,
listening, discussing about these.
2130

2135 But I'm not just trying to talk in negative terms, but I heard it many times and I hear it
continuously that they don't want... I just want to voice my concern to say I am not in agreement
with it as well, because my other members don't want it either.

2140 So I just want you to... I just want to voice my concern about that. You guys are... you're
more than welcome here. We're just trying to work to try to understand each other about what we
want. But I can tell you that I say I am not in agreement with this. And thank you very much.

2145

Ms. MAGGIE SUZIE ANNANACK

2150 **Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:**

Thank you Willie. Maggie Suzie. Maggie Suzie will speak, and then Johnny Etok will speak and after that we will break for supper.

2155 **Ms. MAGGIE SUZIE ANNANACK:**

2160 Hi there. My name is Maggie Suzie Annanack. Some people call me Maggie Santi. Michael, welcome, and the rest of you. From what I'm hearing I'm not sure who is this for. Who... are you trying to plan for our future, for our future generations to deal with this? Are you planning for future to come? What are you preparing for? From what I'm hearing it seems like you're planning something, but when?

2165 There was the Hunter Trapper Association that was here last week, and they indicated to us that many of our species are depleting. And there's our camping grounds where we go fishing for our salmon... to a point where I'm thinking that these resources, these country food resources that we have access to will eventually get affected by these mining activities.

2170 And if there was a mining centre in place, and then it gets abandoned, and once it's abandoned there's an effect on the population that's been... So that's my preoccupation, is making sure that if we are going to talk about a mining site, that it needs to be sustainable.

2175 And are we jumping the gun thinking that mining is going to take place now when in fact it's going to be for our future? When I've been hearing all these activities, potential activities, I'm preoccupied with concerns. I have a sister that just went through chemotherapy. I'm happy that she went through that, and that her body had to endure radiotherapy, not chemotherapy. It's good in one hand because her health is better, knowing that it could actually help alleviate cancer, knowing that my sister just went through that, and she's finally going to be able to go, because she's going to be on recession. So I'm not sure if I'm pro or anti uranium. So I'm in a situation where I don't know. I'm feeling like I'm in-between, because I don't have all the information at hand.
2180 We hear that our... we hear that our country food is going to be jeopardized. And, you know, maybe we need to be aware that this is something that our future generations are going to have to deal with. And this, today this afternoon, we mainly... the ones that attended this consultation today are mainly Elders, and I think our youths need to listen on this because they are the ones that are going to be impacted by this.

2185

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

2190 (Inuktitut, not translated).

We will be returning after seven thirty (7:30). Johnny.

2195

Mr. JOHNNY ETOK

Mr. JOHNNY ETOK:

2200 I think you can hear me now. My name is Johnny Etok. I work. As a worker I am not sure who I am going to be directing my comments to, but I'm here. I think I'm going to be talking to people from the Quebec Government.

2205 I'm a worker. You know, we have vehicles that we use for our working. After a while they deplete, they wear down. I'm against uranium activities. I was told by my fellow worker, who had worked with exploring for uranium deposits in the nearby vicinity here, apparently he did some exploration between here and Kuujjuaq. I knew of this person, but I didn't know the dangers and the negativity, the side-effects that impacts. It's just I'm here, this is all... but it has negative consequences. I watch television and I look at shows that rely on nuclear energy. And I know why
2210 the people are aiming for nuclear energy, why people are pushing for that. In Quebec, if... if it's something that's not... if it's not needed in Quebec, they want to sell it, to sell it to the people that are, who want nuclear energy, for nuclear warfare. Is it for atomic bombs? Nuclear bombs? It's what I am kind of understanding. And which country is that that's asking for this nuclear energy? I know there's two in particular that are demanding on nuclear energy. So they're looking, they're
2215 seeking to find deposits, to find other areas of the world they could sell them nuclear energy.

As a result, I don't support this for potential nuclear warfare. And I know for a fact that this
2220 is... it's been sought out for people that are creating nuclear warfare, nuclear weapons. We don't want our animals within these vicinities of these activities to be impacted, because they're our livelihood. It's just our priority, it is our things that we want access to. We don't want them to be destroyed. We don't want this in place because it can have negative consequences on our animals.

And then we talk about access roads. I don't think that access road is going to be beneficial
2225 to our region here. It's just going to expedite the negative consequences of an access road. And then this is going to also create divisions between us, a small population of close to twelve

thousand (12,000). That will be a fact. That's why I don't support uranium activities. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

2230

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

2235

Thank you Johnny.

THE PRESIDENT BARRETT :

2240

Thank you Suzie and Johnny. *Nakurmiimmarialuk* for your comments and most important, sharing your knowledge with the members of the commissions. It's very important to hear what you said, so we can write the report together and make recommendations on the uranium exploration, exploitation and the management of the uranium in Quebec. So we'll do our best to write the report and reflect what you have presented.

2245

Also we would like to thank the community Kangiqsualujjuaq for welcoming, hosting us again. We have a little food to share. We understand there is church tonight, and certainly we don't want to interfere with the community for the church. So we'll be here for a few hours if people want to come and see us, we can take the comments, or you can send us other comments. But with the fellow commissioners I think we'll have to bring this to a close. Louis-Gilles, do you have closing comments?

2250

THE PRESIDENT FRANCOEUR :

2255

Just one very simple one, because sometimes we say too much. I will just say one thing that I feel really deeply. *Nakurmiik*.

Ms. HILDA SNOWBALL:

2260

I want to say thank you to the community of Kangiqsualujjuaq. The work that we have been doing will be put on paper into a document, into a report. And so we'll start work, working on the report. We will be having our last consultation December fifteenth (15th) in Montreal. We will have a public hearing. I want to thank for welcoming us.

2265

We heard that there's going to be a church activity, a baptism taking place this evening, so we can't continue on forever, but we will be here for a couple of hours extra to ensure that people that do want to say something have that opportunity still.

END OF RECORDING

ADJOURNMENT

2270

I, YOLANDE TEASDALE, Official Bilingual Court Reporter, duly sworn as such, do certify that the foregoing is a true and faithful transcription of the evidence herein to the best of my skill and ability, THE WHOLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW

2275

AND I HAVE SIGNED:

2280

Yolande Teasdale
Official Bilingual Court Reporter

2285

2290