

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

ÉTAIENT PRÉSENTS :

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

POUR LA CCEBJ : Mr. PAUL JOHN MURDOCH, président
Mme MANON CYR, mairesse de Chibougamau
Mme MELISSA BROUSSEAU SAGANASH, commissaire

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

PRÉCONSULTATION

VOLUME 9

Séance tenue le 3 juin 2014 à 19 h
Mitchuap Auditorium
Chisasibi

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AJOURNEMENT

**SÉANCE DE LA SOIRÉE DU 3 JUIN
MOT DU PRÉSIDENT DE LA COMMISSION DU COMITÉ
CONSULTATIF POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT DE LA BAIE JAMES (CCEBJ)
Mr. PAUL JOHN MURDOCH**

5

THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH:

10 I would like to thank you for all coming out here. So, I am going to announce everybody who is here that is present, and we will tell you why we are here today, and what we will be discussing.

15 There is three people that I am going to, that were appointed by the Quebec Government to overlook the environment. He is mentioning the people – and Joseph Zayeb is absent, and these are the people that are appointed or named as a separate group to look over the – they are not, they don't speak on behalf of Quebec, nor do they represent them. They are there to help or support Quebec in getting information or understanding.

20 So for us, the other part, there is four of us. There is Manon Cyr over here, Melissa Saganash. There is another woman, Anne-Marie Gaudet, and myself, Jean-Paul Murdoch. It is almost like there is two, there is two tables here, because when we signed the James Bay Agreement it was stated there who had the authorities and powers to decide should there be any developments in the Cree territory.

25 So I think he said 22, is it Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, and when Quebec stated that they wanted the BAPE Committee, the people to my right here, and it was up to Quebec to overlook that, and to really look into this, the uranium, and to do a little more research, and so that is why they were named by Quebec.

30 So for the Cree Government, they stated that there was, they didn't have the authority to come in as a single unit, or a separate unit, and that we, they needed, we had to be there as partners, and so there was an agreement that was signed to approve that. And so it was decided that the both of us would sit together on these discussions on this issue. So about a month ago an agreement was signed that clarified our partnership and our responsibilities and mandates. I am only going to discuss a little bit of it, and the thing that I want to touch on, this isn't about mining. Currently, there is no mine in the Cree Territory for this mineral.

40 This is about finding out how people feel in general across Quebec, and what do they want to know, what do they want, what information are they looking for, and that is the discussion here. It is not just Cree Territory; it is actually, this is covering the whole province of Quebec. So, the way it is set up is we are not here to come for just this one time; we are going to be coming here three times

in Chisasibi. Today, this meeting is just we want to know what you want to know, what information do you want? What do you want discussed? What details do you want?

5 And once, we are also going to, once we are done here we go to Chibougamau and Mistissini, and they are going to go across the rest of the province to find out what the rest of the province wants. Once that is done, it will all be compiled, and then people will be sent. We will find the people that will - we don't want to say that they are going to be the ones solely responsible to respond, it is just an informative session, an informative mandate, and it is - we are going to find, they are going to look at everything that will be discussed to find out where we are at this point.

10 So we will be coming back with responses and information about everything that will be asked so that the questions can be properly understood. We will come back again probably August and September, and the third time, and this is after you have asked your questions and you have been informed; that is when your input will be asked, your position, and that will be on the third trip. 15 And then a document will be made that will state how Quebec feels, everybody in Quebec, how they feel about this issue of uranium, so that Quebec will be using that document. They will be using that document.

20 So like I said, I am going to let this gentleman speak. He will have more details on how, what our roles are here. So, I will ask him to speak.

I am going to ask Chief Bobbish to come and address the meeting.

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

30 **LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR:**

Bonsoir, Mesdames et Messieurs. Je tiens à saluer aussi les internautes qui nous suivent sur Internet dans les différents villages de votre nation ainsi que dans le reste du Québec.

35 C'est en raison des inquiétudes qui ont été exprimées par différents groupes, soit des citoyens, soit des communautés, que le ministre de l'Environnement, du Développement durable, de la Faune et des Parcs, monsieur Yves-François Blanchet, mandatait, le 3 mars dernier, le Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement pour tenir une enquête et une audience publique sur *Les enjeux de la filière uranifère au Québec*.

40

5 Ce mandat, comme vous l'a expliqué Paul John tout à l'heure, ne vise pas l'évaluation d'un projet en particulier, mais plutôt à informer et à consulter la population, notamment sur les impacts écologiques, les impacts sociaux et les impacts économiques de l'ensemble des activités qui pourraient être reliées à l'exploration et à l'exploitation de l'uranium au Québec.

10 C'est un peu comme si on disait, dans le territoire cri : est-ce que vous voulez qu'on fasse une exploitation commerciale, mettons, de la forêt? Ça, c'est une question générale. Ce n'est pas la même chose que de dire : est-ce qu'on fait une coupe forestière ici? Un projet particulier. Nous, on n'en est pas au projet particulier, on examine l'ensemble de la filière uranifère au Québec, pour voir si c'est opportun de la réaliser, de mettre les pieds dans cette filière, quels sont les enjeux qui gravitent autour de cette question.

15 La commission d'enquête qui a été constituée, qui a été créée par le président du BAPE, monsieur Pierre Baril, est composée de trois commissaires, soit madame Michèle Goyer, monsieur Joseph Zayed, qui n'est pas là ce soir malheureusement, ainsi que moi-même, Louis-Gilles Francoeur, qui a été nommé président de la commission.

20 Nous sommes appuyés par une équipe de cinq analystes, en plus des services d'une coordonnatrice, d'une agente de secrétariat et d'une conseillère en communication.

25 Dans sa lettre qui définit le mandat de la commission, le ministre de l'Environnement précisait, et je le cite, il disait :

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

30 Le ministre ajoute dans la même lettre que :

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

Le ministre précise enfin que le mandat de notre commission se terminera le 20 mai 2015, l'an prochain.

5 À la demande du ministre, le BAPE a rendu public, le 16 avril dernier, un document qui s'intitule « Étude sur l'état des connaissances, les impacts, les mesures d'atténuation de l'exploration et de l'exploitation des gisements d'uranium sur le territoire québécois ». Ce document a été préparé par des professeurs de l'Université Laval et de l'UQAM avec l'appui du réseau DIVEX.

10 Ce document, que vous pouvez trouver sur notre site internet, a été préparé, non pas par notre organisme, le Bureau d'audiences publiques, mais par le ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement, de la Faune et des Parcs et par le ministère des Ressources naturelles.

15 Ce document vous donnera une idée beaucoup plus exhaustive, si vous voulez, du portrait général, du principe... je n'entends plus. Qu'est-ce qui se passe? Il y a un problème de micro. On peut continuer? Bon. Excusez, il y a eu un mélange dans les micros.

20 Je rappellerai ici que notre organisation, le BAPE, est un organisme public et neutre qui relève du ministre du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques. Notre organisme a pour mission d'éclairer la prise de décision gouvernementale par des constats et des avis – si vous voulez, ça ressemble à des recommandations – en appliquant une notion d'environnement qui a été établie et reconnue par les tribunaux, une notion de l'environnement qui englobe les aspects écologiques, sociaux et économiques dans une même vision.

25 La commission va aussi analyser le dossier de l'uranium, en considérant les seize (16) principes qui sont contenus dans la *Loi sur le développement durable*. Et pour mener notre enquête, les commissaires possèdent les pouvoirs qui sont prévus dans la *Loi québécoise sur les commissions d'enquête*.

30 Plusieurs mesures visent à assurer l'indépendance et l'impartialité des membres de la commission du BAPE qui sont chargés de coordonner la réalisation de tout mandat, d'ailleurs, que le ministre peut vouloir confier à notre organisation.

35 Pour exercer les pouvoirs de la *Loi sur les commissions d'enquête*, les membres du BAPE, y compris les trois commissaires qui sont devant vous – en fait les deux, ce soir, excusez-moi – ont été assermentés devant un juge de la Cour supérieure. Il en découle que notre commission a un devoir strict de neutralité, d'impartialité et un devoir de réserve et qu'elle doit agir envers tous les participants avec équité et dans le souci du respect mutuel.

5 Pour composer avec notre mandat qui est très vaste, notre commission a décidé de procéder en trois phases, comme vous l'a expliqué tout à l'heure Paul John, c'est-à-dire une phase de préconsultation, qui a cours ce soir ici, une phase d'information et de questionnement qui surviendra en septembre et une phase de présentation des mémoires qui surviendra plus tard à l'automne, probablement autour de novembre et de décembre.

10 Dans la phase de préconsultation, celle qui a cours ce soir, la commission se met à l'écoute des préoccupations des citoyens, des groupes, des associations, des entreprises et des institutions.

15 Tous peuvent donc librement saisir la commission de leurs commentaires, de leurs interrogations, de leurs opinions sur le dossier de l'exploration et de l'exploitation de l'uranium. Vous pouvez le faire verbalement, vous pouvez le faire par écrit ou vous pouvez nous écrire sur le site Web du BAPE.

20 Cette phase de nos travaux, la phase de préconsultation, va nous permettre de planifier les travaux de la phase qui viendra plus tard avec des spécialistes pour que nous puissions les questionner en fonction des préoccupations du public de votre localité et des autres localités du Québec que nous avons visitées.

25 Dans cette phase qui est en cours, la phase de préconsultation, nous avons commencé à siéger dans plusieurs villes du Québec; on a siégé à Montréal, à Chelsea, à Mont-Laurier, à Ville-Marie, nous irons bientôt à Sept-Îles, à Havre-Saint-Pierre, à Québec et à Pointe-à-la-Croix en Gaspésie. Et notre commission va siéger notamment en conformité avec son mandat qui est de travailler avec les autochtones, en conformité avec les dispositions de la Convention de la Baie-James.

30 Nous sommes ce soir à Chisasibi, demain nous serons à Chibougamau puis à Mistissini et la semaine prochaine, nous serons à Kuujuaak.

35 Dans ces territoires qui sont régis par la Convention de la Baie-James et du Nord québécois, la commission va participer à des séances conjointes avec les commissions créées par le Comité consultatif de l'environnement de la Baie-James – comme ce soir, nous sommes présentement avec cette commission – et avec, plus tard, le Comité consultatif de l'environnement du Kativik, dans le territoire des Inuits, et ça nous permettra d'examiner, nous l'espérons, avec vous et avec les Inuits, les enjeux de la filière de l'uranium avec les populations locales, ici comme ailleurs.

40 Les trois commissions, inuite, crie et du Québec méridional, allons travailler ensemble pour produire un rapport commun sur la partie des audiences qui se tient dans le territoire de la Convention, dans la région de la Baie James et du Nunavik, mais cependant, les trois commissions

conservent leur indépendance. Elles peuvent faire un rapport conjoint, unanime, comme elles pourront aussi adresser des recommandations qui leur sont propres au ministre de l'Environnement.

5 Et il y a aussi des démarches qui sont présentement en cours avec les Nations autochtones du sud du Québec afin d'établir les modalités de consultation avec eux.

10 Dans la phase de questionnement et d'information, celle qui viendra en septembre, cette partie des travaux se tiendra principalement à Montréal et à Québec parce qu'il y aura beaucoup d'experts et que ça ferait vraiment beaucoup trop de personnes à déplacer, mais néanmoins, nous avons convenu avec nos collègues Cris et Inuits, que nous commencerons cette phase de consultation avec un certain nombre d'experts, ici même à Chisasibi et à Kuujuaak.

15 Cette seconde phase des travaux va permettre à notre commission de s'informer, et ainsi qu'aux deux autres commissions, de s'informer sur les divers enjeux soulevés maintenant durant la phase de préconsultation, en adressant vos questions et vos préoccupations aux personnes-ressources des ministères et organismes gouvernementaux ainsi qu'aux spécialistes que nous entendons inviter pour pouvoir les interroger.

20 La commission va aussi tenir des séances spécialisées sur des thèmes particuliers afin de les fouiller en profondeur, comme par exemple les problèmes de transport, les problèmes de santé pour, au fond, approfondir ces questions.

25 Ces échanges que nous aurons avec les spécialistes, principalement à Montréal et à Québec, pourront être suivis en direct grâce à la webdiffusion sur le site du BAPE. Alors, c'est-à-dire que si vous pouvez vous brancher, vous pourrez suivre toutes ces audiences par le site Web.

30 Les questions des participants de tout le Québec, d'ailleurs, pourront être adressées par courriel à la commission qui siégera avec des spécialistes et des personnes-ressources des ministères et des organismes publics. Et durant cette phase, les membres de la Commission consultative de l'environnement de la Baie James seront avec nous à Montréal et auront un statut particulier pour pouvoir, eux aussi, travailler avec notre commission pour adresser des questions aux spécialistes durant ces travaux.

35 La troisième phase des travaux qui interviendra par la suite vers novembre et décembre où, au cours de cette phase, les citoyens, les groupes, les associations, les entreprises et les institutions publiques qui vont désirer nous faire connaître leur opinion sur notre mandat, sur toute la question de l'uranium, pourront le faire sous forme de mémoire, en indiquant s'ils veulent nous le présenter en public. Mais ça ne sera pas obligatoire de faire un mémoire écrit; ce sera possible tout
40 simplement de venir faire une présentation verbale et il sera aussi possible de déposer un mémoire

par écrit, sans venir le présenter en audience, c'est-à-dire en l'adressant directement au BAPE à nos bureaux.

5 Notre commission va participer aussi dans les territoires nordiques, c'est-à-dire ici même à Chisasibi, si mon souvenir est exact, ainsi qu'à Kuujuaak, à des séances conjointes avec les Commissions cri et inuite pour recevoir les opinions des différentes Nations de votre territoire.

10 Et plus tard, en 2014, le rapport de notre commission, qui va faire état de nos constatations et de notre analyse du dossier uranifère, ainsi que les chapitre conjoints que nous espérons pouvoir écrire avec nos collègues pour tout ce qui touche les territoires visés par la Convention de la Baie-James et du Nord québécois, notre rapport avec les sections particulières que nous écrirons conjointement – nous le souhaitons – sera remis au ministre, au plus tard le 20 mai 2015.

15 Par la suite, le ministre aura soixante (60) jours pour rendre le rapport public et là, tout le monde pourra en débattre.

20 Au cours de nos travaux, notre commission entend faire preuve de la plus grande ouverture possible, mais dans le respect des personnes et des institutions, ainsi que de notre mandat qui porte sur les enjeux de la filière uranifère. Et afin d'assurer une participation équitable à tout le monde, évidemment, il ne sera toléré aucune forme de manifestation, que ce soit pour ou contre ce que les gens vont venir dire en avant, de remarques désobligeantes ou de propos qui seraient déplacés.

25 Ce qui est dit en audience, comme ce soir, est enregistré et les transcriptions, c'est-à-dire le texte écrit de tout ce qui sera dit sera disponible sur le site Web de notre organisme, le BAPE, dans environ une semaine après chaque semaine de séances, c'est-à-dire disons dans à peu près quinze (15) jours.

30 Aussi, la webdiffusion audio et vidéo des séances sur notre site sera accessible en différé jusqu'à un mois après la remise du rapport l'an prochain, c'est-à-dire que si quelqu'un voulait réécouter sur son ordinateur la séance de ce soir, elle sera disponible sur le site Web du BAPE pendant presque un an à partir de maintenant.

35 Et sur notre site Web, vous trouverez aussi, sur la question de l'uranium, une abondante documentation ainsi que les documents et les réponses que nous obtiendrons des personnes-ressources et des spécialistes que notre organisme, que notre commission va interroger tout au long de ces travaux. Et il y aura une section qui sera réservée aux documents que le public voudra remettre à notre commission.

Alors, notre commission entend – et c'est important de le noter – on entend se consacrer, se concentrer sur le travail d'analyse des enjeux de l'exploration et de l'exploitation d'uranium, et non pas sur la production d'énergie nucléaire ou sur la question de l'armement nucléaire ou sur la gestion des déchets des centrales nucléaires. C'est quand même très différent.

5

On pourra sûrement se référer à ces aspects, s'il y en a parmi vous qui veulent les aborder parce qu'ils disent qu'ils ont des préoccupations soit morales ou politiques au sens large du terme, mais il n'appartient pas à notre commission, ce n'est pas notre mandat, de nous pencher sur les enjeux de l'énergie nucléaire et d'évaluer les impacts de la production d'énergie nucléaire. Nous, on va se concentrer sur la production de l'uranium éventuellement, si c'est le résultat de l'exercice ou pas.

10

Quant à la soirée, nous allons commencer par vous présenter une synthèse, un résumé du document, une synthèse vidéo du document produit par le groupe DIVEX, par les universitaires qui l'ont réalisé avec le groupe DIVEX dont je vous ai parlé au début. C'est un document qui a été commandé par le ministère de l'Environnement et par le ministère des Ressources naturelles pour, en quelque sorte, faire un premier portrait du dossier.

15

Alors, cette présentation va être suivie d'une pause d'environ dix minutes et au cours de cette pause, après la présentation du document, vous pourrez vous inscrire au registre qui est à l'arrière de la salle si vous voulez venir faire état de vos préoccupations ou de vos opinions à la commission. Alors, vous pourrez après ça venir dans l'ordre, on va vous appeler dans l'ordre que vous vous serez inscrit à l'arrière.

20

Alors, chacun aura à peu près quinze minutes pour expliquer sa position et les membres des deux commissions pourront, au besoin, demander quelques questions pour obtenir, si c'est nécessaire, des éclaircissements. Et si jamais vous-même ou d'autres personnes vouliez communiquer une opinion ou des préoccupations à notre commission, vous pouvez le faire en allant sur le site internet du BAPE. Vous pourrez nous adresser, jusqu'au 11 juillet, des commentaires additionnels et ça permettra à tout le monde, ceux qui ne sont pas ici ce soir, de faire la même chose.

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Alors, je tiens à souligner, finalement, en terminant, que le Bureau d'audiences publiques s'est donné une Déclaration de services aux citoyens et qu'il met à votre disposition un questionnaire que vous trouverez sur les chaises, afin de nous permettre d'évaluer la qualité des services que nous rendons à la population.

35

Alors, à la fin de la soirée, je vous invite à le remplir et à le remettre à l'arrière, ça nous serait fort utile pour améliorer notre qualité de service.

40

Alors, j'ai maintenant le plaisir de vous présenter un membre de l'équipe de notre commission, à ma gauche, Jonathan Perreault, qui est un analyste de notre commission et à l'arrière, il y a madame Louise Bourdages auprès de qui vous pouvez vous inscrire pour venir nous adresser la parole, et la coordonnatrice de notre commission, madame Rita LeBlanc.

5

Il y a aussi, qui assure la retransmission ce soir, messieurs Grenier et Filteau du Centre des services partagés, ainsi que notre spécialiste et responsable de l'informatique au BAPE, monsieur Pierre Dufour, qui gère la webdiffusion de nos séances à travers tout le Québec et, c'est une primeur, en trois langues simultanément.

10

Alors, je vous remercie de votre attention, je vous invite à vous inscrire au registre après la pause, et je demanderais à Pierre de lancer le document vidéo qui va vous donner une idée un peu du mandat et des enjeux sur lesquels on veut travailler.

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

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**MOT DU GRAND CHEF
DE LA NATION CREE DE CHISASIBI
M. DAVEY BOBBISH**

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THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH:

Okay. Before we take a break, I am going to ask Chief Bobbish to come and address the meeting.

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CHIEF DAVEY BOBBISH , Chief of the Chisasibi Cree Nation :

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Greetings. I would like to greet everybody. I wrote, we wrote a statement that I will relay to you, and those who don't understand Cree will – I will actually, I will read this in English, and the Elders will have to depend on the translations in Cree.

20

As a leader of the Cree Nation here in Chisasibi, the way we view our, and our position as the Band Council. Commissioners of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement, commissioners of the James Bay Advisory Committee, Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark, other guests who are here in the evening, and the people of Chisasibi, and people listening on the radio or internet, I would like to welcome you here this evening and thank you for being here for this important meeting. I would like to begin by explaining where you are being welcomed to.

25

Chisasibi is the largest community in the Eeyou Istchee. We are a community that has been relocated from its original location just five kilometres west of here on the island. For the last 35 years Chisasibi has continued to grow from a small village with only the most basic of services, to providing modern-day services to its citizens today.

30

With the arrival of hydro-electric development in 1975 our community has been required to evolve and adapt faster than any other community in the country. From a purely traditional society with strong sacred ties to the land, today we are still hunters with sacred ties to the land, and circumstances demand that we become more electricians, mechanics, engineers, and so on. It is important to know that every community member loves the land, as our ancestors did, and will always fight for her protection.

35

Every member combines traditional activities on the land with demands of modern life, and a significant percentage of communities still live out on the land, and off the land, as a primary way depending, the majority of the year, as the families -- at their family's traditional hunting grounds. You arrived here right at the end of a traditional spring goose hunt; as is in the thousands of years

before this means that there were many youth that got their first goose this spring, which entails the decoration of the head and other family ceremonies.

5 This spring also brought walking-out ceremonies, underlining the moment when toddlers take their first steps and rightful place as members of our community. At the ceremony, toddlers are allowed to touch the land for the first time that will provide for them, and which they are responsible for. I am introducing you to a small part of our traditions, because I want you to understand where our words will be coming from. You are here to discuss a matter that is very scary for my people. Sometime something that we, something that we want no part of because it is contradictory to
10 everything I have just explained. I understand that this visit is to hear our preoccupations and assist you in determining what it is you will investigate over the next year. Please understand that my community has already been through so much sacrifice, so much, to satisfy the energy needs, demands, of our corner of the world, so it is hard to listen when you are told that someone would like to consider that we make another sacrifice.

15 I do not want to take too much time, too much of your time, because I would like to reserve it for my people, my community members. I understand that you will be back with more information, so I will ask you two specific matters that I would like you to consider and address when you come back. First, since the diversion of the Rupert River, and with the diversions that preceded, and with the other diversions - I mean, the diversions that preceded it as part of La Grande Complex, the water from all my fellow Cree communities now pass through La Grande Watershed, and eventually in front of this community where we live, where we fish, where we travel, where we get our water from, and exists as part of the land. How could the water be contaminated and be cursed versus the lifeblood that it represents from my community? Your Government has changed the
20 behaviour of the water on the surface. What is the groundwater doing? Does your Government have a sufficient understanding of the nature and behaviour of the groundwater to know that, how it could be impacted? What is the risk that is posed to my community by any uranium development in the Eeyou Istchee?

30 My second question is related to the first. We have lived a difficult existence with Hydro-Québec since their arrival 45 years ago. We hold them to a very high standard in regards to the monitoring of the safety of their installations and their operations. They are required to provide us with a monitoring programme and results. Most importantly, they are required to demonstrate to the community the worst-case scenario, so that we as a community can plan and manage the risk for ourselves. This requires the company to present what would happen if dams and dikes fail. I
35 want to know what could be the worst-case scenario for the Cree Nation of Chisasibi if a uranium project, if a uranium project's dikes, safety, and environment protection measures fail. That is what I wanted to know; that is what I want to know, what would happen in the worst-case scenario.

5 You cannot ask a people to consider anything if you do not give them the whole picture, even the bad parts of that picture. If you are really going to investigate the industry of uranium you have to examine and properly inform the population of the dirty side of it, instead of sweeping it under the rug as companies try to do when they are looking only at their bottom line. The people of Quebec, like the Cree, need to know exactly to what extent they are being asked to sacrifice or expose the beautiful and pristine lands that we live in just to make sure that some shareholder who lives thousands of miles away makes a few more dollars.

10 In closing, I just want to say that I don't need to see your final report to know that the Cree Nation of Chisasibi has sacrificed so much, and we do not need uranium. Uranium only adds a threat to what we hold the most sacred, the futures of our children and grandchildren.

Thank you very much, merci beaucoup.

15 **LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

Je vous remercie, Grand Chef, et je ne sais pas si mes collègues d'à côté veulent poser des questions? Avez-vous des questions supplémentaires? Non?

20 **THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH:**

Est-ce que vous en avez?

25 **LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

Bien, je me demandais simplement si j'ai bien compris un point. Est-ce que vous vouliez dire que s'il y avait un déversement dans le territoire quelque part, que tout passerait ici à Chisasibi?

30 **CHIEF DAVEY BOBBISH :**

Oui.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

35 Et vous voulez connaître l'impact pour la communauté. Alors, je comprends très bien votre préoccupation, c'est bien noté. Je voulais juste m'assurer que j'avais bien compris.

CHIEF DAVEY BOBBISH :

40 Oui.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

D'accord. Alors je vous remercie beaucoup.

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**MOT DU VICE-GRAND CHEF DE LA NATION CRIE
Mr. RODNEY MARK**

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THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH:

We are going to ask the Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark to also make a statement, to speak.

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DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF RODNEY MARK:

I would like to greet all the people of Chisasibi, and also Davey and Daisy, the leaders. I am going to read a document that we, I will read it in English just like the Chief had done. So, I greet you all.

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I am the Deputy Grand Chief of the Cree Nation. I am pleased to join here with Chief Bobbish and the people of Chisasibi in welcoming you to Eeyou Istchee. Over the next few days the people of Chisasibi and Mistissini, as well as other communities, as other Crees from other communities and Eeyou Istchee will speak to you about their concerns and questions regarding uranium development. You will see, I am sure, that the Cree Nation as a whole stands together in opposing uranium development in our territory.

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On the issue of uranium, as with many of the important issues that have confronted the Cree Nation, we are led by our people. As you know, Eeyou Istchee is subject to a unique environmental and social protection regime under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. The James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement is a Constitutional treaty and takes precedent over any legislation, including the Environmental Quality Act. The James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement affirms the Cree Nation's special Constitution-protected rights. It includes important guiding principles that apply to all development in our traditional territory.

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One of these principles is the protection and respect for the Cree way of life. Because of the unique social, environmental regime that applies to the territory under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement the BAPE does not ordinarily have jurisdiction in the Eeyou Istchee.

5 The Cree Nation entered into a nation-to-nation agreement with the Quebec Government prior to the announcement of the BAPE mandate, to permit the BAPE to enter our territory. The agreement also confirms the Quebec Government's commitment to uphold Cree rights under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. We will conclude this agreement because we recognize the need for a broad and independent inquiry, and a consultation process regarding the uranium sector as a whole in Quebec.

10 Project-specific hearings, such as these undertakings for a Strateco Matoush Project, which I will discuss shortly, have not facilitated such inquiry. I am pleased that the BAPE has also entered into an agreement with the James Bay Advisory Committee on the environment. John-Paul Murdoch and Melissa Saganash are here with us today as Cree representatives on the Advisory Special Commission. The Advisory Committee is co-hosting these hearings in the Eeyou Istchee, and participating actively through the BAPE process. This is an essential step in ensuring that Cree treaty rights are properly respected in this process.

15 Before turning to uranium, I will start by telling you a bit about Cree's experience with development in the Eeyou Istchee, so just to expand a little bit of what Chief Bobbish had touched base on. The James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement was the first modern treaty in Canada; there is much in the agreement that makes us proud. It must be recalled, however, that the Crees did not freely choose to sit down at the negotiating table to conclude, to conclude this treaty. Until the early 1970s we lived on our lands and practised our traditional way of life, as we have always done. We did not need a treaty to recognize and affirm the rights we had always had and had always exercised.

25 But the traditional practices and way of life we had always taken for granted were forever altered when those in the south took an interest in our territory's hydro development potential. The mass hydro-electric project in Richelieu, in Quebec's -- by the Quebec Government on the La Grande River required flooding of thousands of square kilometres of our land. Rivers were to be diverted in reservoirs, and dams built, and all of this was planned for the land where we had lived, trapped, hunted, practised our traditional way of life since time immemorial. Our hunting grounds, 30 our burial grounds, and even some of our communities would be lost or transformed by flooding.

35 The community now known as Chisasibi was one of those communities; despite the irreversible and immediate effects this project would have on us no one thought to talk to us, let alone consult with us. Planning and construction began without regard of our use. When we raised our voices in opposition we were told that the people had occupied this land - we were told that we, the people who owned this land for thousands of years, had no rights. This experience has directly touched many of the people who are here today, and the community of Chisasibi was directly shaped by this history.

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5 This community used to be based on the Island of Fort George, at the mouth of the La Grande River, but the river diversions that were part of the La Grande Complex caused an increased water flow and made the island inaccessible throughout most of the year, and so the community's relocation was part of the price to be paid for the development.

10 The La Grande Hydro Project was undertaken in circumstances of uncertainty; many of these risks were unknown and uninvestigated, and had not been planned for. No thought was given to use, the use of the land, or the traditional way of life. The flooding of our territory was deemed an acceptable collateral damage, and once the flooding was done and power was flowing into the south we were left to bear the costs of this development, to deal with the risks associated with it, and to rebuild our communities. The people of Chisasibi learned from this experience, and the people of Chisasibi, along with their Cree brothers and sisters throughout the Cree Nation, resolved that we will never again be subject to development that did not include us and did not respect our way of life.

15 The Cree Nation is opposed to development in our territory is grounded in these past experiences. We fought hard for the recognition of our rights. The James Bay Agreement is one of the results of that fight. There is no simple yet powerful principle at the core of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. Development activity in the Eeyou Istchee that has the potential to affect us requires Cree participation and consent. This principle was confirmed in the Paix des Braves which affirms that the Crees in Quebec will work together on the basis of nation-to-nation respect and partnership, to achieve our common goals.

20 The Cree Nation has indicated time and time again that we are not anti-development. We recognize the vast resource potential of our territory, of our land, and we will be prepared to support and participate in responsible resource development within our territory. We have consented to numerous responsible development projects, including mining projects, but these projects must respect our rights, and they require our participation and consent. For example, in 2000 the creation of Wemindji, and the Grand Council negotiated a collaboration agreement with Goldcorp regarding the Éléonore Gold Project. This agreement is an example of how, with Cree participation and consent, mining development can take place and prosper in the Eeyou Istchee.

25 Our connection to the land, and our understanding of responsible resource development, has led to our opposition to uranium development activities. Uranium mining has the potential to be destructive to our land, to our communities, and to our way of life. Our ancestors lived off the land, and we must protect this way of life for our children and our children's children. If uranium mining is permitted to occur, large quantities of radioactive waste will be left behind on our land. This waste will remain dangerous and toxic for thousands of years. This places a burden on our future generations, and that is incompatible with our stewardship responsibilities.

5 There is believed to be a potential for uranium mining in many parts of the Eeyou Istchee. One of the so-called hotspots for uranium exploration is near Chisasibi. This issue of uranium mining came to the forefront of the Cree Nation as a result of Strateco's Matoush Project in the Otish Mountains near Mistissini. The project is located at the crest of two major watersheds that bring water to and from our communities. The damage that would be caused by potential contamination to these watersheds upon which our communities, the animals, the plants rely on poses risks that the Cree Nation is unwilling to accept. Due to the environment and health risk associated with uranium mining, the Cree Nation of Mistissini has continually expressed its opposition to the Matoush Project and uranium mining, in general. In 2011 the Cree Nation of Chisasibi passed a resolution to support Mistissini in its opposition to mining the uranium.

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15 As I have mentioned, the Cree Nation is open to responsible development in our territory. Uranium mining is a special case. When it comes to uranium development in our territory the Cree position is very clear: uranium development is not welcome. As you have heard, and will continue to hear, we oppose uranium development because the environmental and health risks are too high, and the unknowns are too numerous. It is important to understand that we do not reach, we did not reach this decision lightly. This is the beginning of a BAPE study of uranium mining, but this is not the first time that the Cree Nation has considered this issue.

20 We undertook to study when Strateco began requesting permits to continue exploring for uranium on our territory. Hearings on the Strateco Project were held in Mistissini by COMEX, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, in 2010 and 2012. At the time we listened to Strateco, what they had to say, and we listened to what they did not say, and the questions it could not answer. Strateco could not explain its plans for the contaminants of the radioactive mining waste that will be toxic for thousands of years. It could not explain its plans for decommissioning the site, or to ensure the supervision and management of tailing ponds in the centuries to come. It was never forced to talk about what would happen to the surrounding Cree communities if there was an accident or an environmental disaster. Every time our people asked these questions Strateco's answer was the same; it is unnecessary or premature to devolve into these questions.

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35 Through the process we listened to what the experts had to say, and we sought out additional expertise and advice. We confirmed that there are no methods that are proven to safely and securely contain radioactive waste for thousands of years, let alone several thousand. We learned that accidents and natural disasters can cause contamination to the water on which we, the animals, and plant life used to rely on. In short, we learned that the unknowns and uncertainties relating to uranium mining far outweigh the limited experiences of uranium companies, and uranium Government regulators, but one thing is clearly known: we Crees, the people who live here, we are the ones who will bear these burdens. Us, and the future generations.

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5 The Cree Nation reached an educated guess to oppose the uranium mining in our territory. To reinforce the position in August 2012 the Grand Council decrees enacted a permanent moratorium on uranium mining exploration, uranium mining, and uranium waste emplacement in the Eeyou Istchee. This was a decision led by the people of our communities.

10 We urge the BAPE and the Advisory Committee to consider all of the issues surrounding the uranium exploration and mining, without constraints. Our people will tell you what we told Strateco and the Canadian Nuclear Science Commission; you cannot talk about exploration without talking about what will happen when you find what you are looking for. You cannot talk about uranium exploration without talking about uranium mining. You can't talk about uranium mining without confronting the problems of uranium waste, and with this, and with these problems, when all these problems are considered the path to be followed is clear: the uranium must stay in the ground. So, therefore, we oppose uranium mining.

15 Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH:

20 One of the things that was discussed is social acceptability, and what this was, and how, what our stance was going to be. So what I wanted to ask you, when you were the Chief in Wemindji I had heard that you had been Chief, and when you spoke with the company, when you created your agreement for the mining in Wemindji what were you certain of? What was your position when you knew that your people, when your people kind of appointed you to be their representative to that company?

25 **DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF RODNEY MARK:**

30 The first thing was, when the mining company came around, at first the trappers, the tallymen saw that, how it could help the general population, Cree population, and how the territory could benefit the people, and that it was important that the land not be completely destroyed, and that is why there was an opening for a conversation and negotiations, and it implicated very much the tallymen and the people. That is where we got the opening to speak with the mining companies.

35 **LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

40 Monsieur Mark, j'aimerais vous poser une question. Quel type d'impact devrions-nous surtout évaluer comme étant ceux qui pourraient le plus frapper votre communauté? Quels sont les impacts que vous appréhendez le plus?

THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH :

5 You are not wearing your headsets and I know you have not finished your French lessons, so I will translate for you. He just wanted to know what, in your opinion, is the most important impact that should be evaluated? What impact could be the most significant on your community that needs to be evaluated?

DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF RODNEY MARK :

10 Environment. I mean, the thing is, going back to the negotiations we did, I mean if the environment was not going to be protected then we wouldn't have agreed with the mining. So, it is the environment, because it relates to the water, it relates to the animals, it relates to hunting, it relates to the wellbeing of our community. So, the environment.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

15 Okay. Between a convention mine and uranium mine, for you what is the main difference?

DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF RODNEY MARK :

20 I mean, the thing is when we did the - I mean, there was a lot of mining activities in our territory, and one of them was Strateco doing the exploration activities. You know, I think we, I am not going to say we supported them, but we didn't bother with them, too, at the same time, because it is just mining exploration. So, I mean, I think we have expressed sort of an implicit understanding that we are not very supportive of uranium because of the - just because of the danger to the environment of it.

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30 I mean, just to go back to the negotiation, to go back to our discussion, I mean before we ever got into negotiations with the mining, with our community with a collaboration agreement, one of the things that we did was we had workshops, and examples of - we just had basically a mining workshop to discuss all mining, not just gold, you know, and one of them was uranium, and just sort of - there was just so many uncertainties and unknowns, I guess, in terms of uranium after that workshop. I mean, when we did all this, I mean these were people that we brought in that were mining, you know, they were supportive of mining, and we had people that came in who were academics, and we had people come in, and Mine Watch was there, too, and we all - but ultimately when I walked out of there, I mean my conclusion was that uranium was not something that I would support.

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LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

5 So we thank you very much. We should have a pause, a break, of ten minutes, and if you want to register in the back to come and tell us your opinions or what is upsetting you about this type of industry, you could come just after the break to tell us.

Thank you very much.

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PAUSE IN THE HEARING

15 **LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

20 Yes, we received at the BAPE a questioning from a group of Cree people, Mr. Sam Cox, Jimmy Fireman, Thomas Seahunter, George Lameboy, Pahren Tangey, Sarah Moar, Reggy Bearskin, William Neacapo, and Violet Bates. They wrote us this contribution to the debate. They said:

25 *“We met as a group, and came up with the following questions and concerns: How have other native communities who live near uranium mines been affected? For example, communities in Saskatchewan; can we talk to somebody, a native person, who has been affected firsthand? What are the risks to human health of living near a uranium mine? How will the water supply be protected? What happens if the tailings leeches or gets into the groundwater? How will the fish be affected? How will migratory birds be affected? Patterns of bird migration change from coastal to inland. How can we make sure the moose and caribou won't be negatively affected by uranium mining? What happened to the waste in the long run? What are the risks of burying radioactive waste? Who are the BAPE experts? How can we trust them? Who decides who the experts are? How long will the moratorium last?”*

30 And as a last question

35 *“A very important concern for us is the protection of the quality of our bush food.”*

We take this note as part of the questioning of the Commission.

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ANDREW MAXWELL

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR:

5 And now I will call a first people, Mr. Andrew Maxwell. Mr. Maxwell, are you there? Bonsoir!

Mr. ANDREW MAXWELL :

10 Okay, I am a little nervous; there is a lot of people. Anyway, you will have to forgive me if I leave quickly after; I have a baby at home, and my wife is probably freaking out trying to stop him from crying right now, so I will go help out. Actually, I will mention him a little later. I just have some comments; I don't have any questions, is that okay? Okay.

15 So, I grew up in New Brunswick, and I don't know if you have ever been there but it is very beautiful. I spent my childhood mostly outdoors playing in the ocean, the forest, fields that were, at the time, largely unspoiled, and I consider myself very privileged to have been a child just before Xbox 360 came out, and I got to live outdoors and not be stuck on an iPad all the time. My power in New Brunswick came from Pointe Lepreau, which is a nuclear energy station. It employs quite a few people, and I was raised learning about that station, and that it was clean energy, and I suppose in terms of carbon emissions it is, but as I grew older I started to question why our neighbouring Nova Scotia had banned uranium exploration and mining, and it was following British Columbia. So that stands today; British Columbia and Nova Scotia have both banned uranium mining.

25 I also didn't know at the time that the power plant yielded tons and tons of waste that are stored, but it is an indefinite question how do we deal with this, and to come to my point, I didn't think about where the uranium came from, and it turns out the uranium from Point Lepreau came from Saskatchewan, northern Saskatchewan, places like Uranium City, and these places have a tendency to be boom towns and then ghost towns. So, Uranium City, for example, in the '40s was a Mecca for industry, and even provided the very uranium that went into the bombs used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and now it has got a population of 150, many of whom are dealing with drug and alcohol addiction, and it has essentially not even basic services for those 150 people that hold out living there.

35 And my concern is when you look at the history of mining in Canada, whether it is in white communities, or especially aboriginal communities, and the history of aboriginal communities and mining in North America, you see a dangerous trend of almost one-night stands so to speak. The mining operation will come into the community, or near the community, and it will promise jobs, it will promise economic benefit. Then when whatever they were mining is gone they will abandon

the mine, and effectively abandon the community, leaving very little in the way of economic benefit or jobs, and sometimes leaving a huge void where those things were.

5 So just in our own province, we have the community of Schefferville. Schefferville is getting worse every year, and there is huge open pits of tailings there. They don't know what to do with them, and they are essentially left with them. Across the Bay we have Attawapiskat where De Beers went in, got their diamonds, and you know they claim they have no responsibility for that community, but the contract was very shady. Obviously, Attawapiskat is an infinitely complex social situation; it would be foolish to blame the mine for everything going wrong there, but at the same time you couldn't argue that the mine coming and leaving wasn't integral to those problems.

10 And if you look in the United States it becomes even more severe; if you look at the land of the Diné people, commonly referred to as the Navajo people; their ancestral lands are riddled with uranium mines which have been abandoned. There are over 1,000 of those mines, and those mines, many of them, have been abandoned for so long that you cannot distinguish them with the naked eye from the surrounding natural landscape. So, children will go, they will play in those mines, but if you run a Geiger counter over the mines you find out pretty quickly that they are, in fact, still bearing tons of radioactive tailings. I think the history of resource colonialism, environmental colonialism in Canada and the United States, it is basically companies come in, they take advantage of aboriginal communities that may or may not know better, and they leave them to pick up the pieces.

15 It is just like, it is just like they were saying before I came up here, when the dams were built in Chisasibi the land was flooded, and the residents of Chisasibi were left to deal with not only the fact that their ancestral lands were largely altered, but also mercury poisoning, which greatly affected elders who relied on fish for their diet, the symptoms of which were shaking and nausea constantly, and you can't help but wonder if someone would come, set up a uranium mine and leave us once again with whatever negative effects that mine might bring, and I am not reactionary; I don't want you to think that I am just saying I don't want uranium because it is in my backyard, let someone else deal with it, knee-jerk reaction. It is not that; I do want you to look at every side, and I want you to hear from people that support it, but I can't support it, and to go back to the fact that I just brought through Youth Protection here in Chisasibi a foster baby into my home who I am raising according to Cree traditions, even though I am not, myself, Cree, I look at him and I know that it is not just our world, our Eeyou Istchee, our Canada and Quebec that we are talking about.

20 25 30 35 It is his Quebec and his Eeyou Istchee 20 years, 50 years, 100 years down the road, and we need to worry about our children and our grandchildren and their children.

40 We can say no now and you have a hundred opportunities to say yes in the future, but if you say yes now you never get another opportunity to say no, and I want that baby to have the opportunity to grow up in nature like I did, and play in the same forest, the same water that I did,

albeit in a different province, and not have to worry about pollution. And to echo what Chief Bobbish said, Chisasibi has already given far too much; certainly enough when it comes to supplying the energy demands of places that are 2,000 kilometres away, and that is all I have to say. Thank you.

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DENISE PÉRUSSE

10 **LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

J'appellerais maintenant madame Denise Pérusse, s'il vous plaît. Bonsoir, Madame.

Ms. DENISE PÉRUSSE :

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Good evening. I'm here as – I am wearing different hats for this speech, and the concerns I have. I have recently been hired as a Cree Health Representative for the Cree Health Board, and part of my mandate is to inform other people and disseminate information and raise awareness about our health in Eeyou Istchee. I am also part of the New Mothers Committee for the wellbeing of our people, and I am also sitting on the Parent Committee.

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My involvement in these committees, and in my job, is in order to create a wonderful community for my children and my children's children, and of course the uranium projects that they are considering exploring and considering here affects that, and the quality of life that we have here. We are working at improving our quality of life in our communities, improving the quality of life for my children. That means education and health, and this has a tremendous impact on health, but also on an education level. Looking at the presentation my concern is it is way too technical; it is over a lot of the people's heads. I asked my daughters to come join me to sit - they are right there, sitting next to me - to be part of this, to be informed, and I think it is important for our youth to be informed about everything that is going on in our communities and in our territory.

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And I asked them, did you understand? It wasn't clear. So my concern is the clarity of this, this endeavour. I feel like people like to talk over our heads, not only before consultations but during, and even after. I have taken part of dealing with the hydro-electric projects, and men in suits coming in, talking about how everything has been affected from the past up until now, and a lot of the times they talk over peoples' heads, and they - it is like they are encouraging apathy or they are encouraging disinterest, and I don't want that. I want my children to be interested in what is going on for their future, and for my grandchildren, my future grandchildren, and for their future grandchildren. So that is one of my main concerns, is the clarity of the information that you are giving here. Whether or not, if these comments that have been said time and time again about how

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5 it is going to impact us, it is going to affect, because a lot of people come from somewhere else to tell us what is going on in our own land, and I don't feel like it is really a two-way communication sometimes, and if there is going to be job opportunities, I would rather see the youth learn to be doctors, lawyers, you know, things that are much more useful than a miner, you know? Something that has a future for our community, something that has a longer effect for our people; to have these professional people that are here on the land improving our communities and improving our land, and I don't think uranium is something that is part of that whole vision I see for our people.

10 So I am obviously not for this because there is too many questions, there is too many variables. I would rather go with something that has a guarantee. I would rather have one of my daughters become a nurse or a doctor, even, so that I know that she is going to be working to help heal our people, or one of my nieces and nephews being a psychologist or a therapist to help heal the person's soul and their psyche because we have a lot more other issues to deal with, and every time there is these projects that come in nobody takes into account the impact it has on the person's wellbeing as a whole, not just physically, but mentally, emotionally, even spiritually, and I am tired of seeing these privates come in and strip away our identity, and our identity is tied to the land.

20 So, those are my concerns. I would like to see more clarity with the presentations; use laymen's terms, really explain what you are truly saying and what is going on for these, what is being considered, so that my kids can have a choice to have a say on what this is all about. So, that is it. Thank you.

25 **THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH :**

Thank you. I just had a question. So in the second phase we are going to hopefully come back with experts in different areas to try to explain things, so if you had that expert in front of you, and he is getting ready to come here to explain something, let's say it is, I don't know, water or something like that, what like single most important piece of advice would you give that expert?

30 **Ms. DENISE PÉRUSSE :**

35 Well, I would like them to talk to us, like really come down to a level of - a humane way of saying things instead of being all technical and all, you know, uppity? You know, I feel like experts come in here, and I say 'experts' in quotes because they don't take into account the experts we have here. They don't have diplomas to say they are experts, but they are experts, so I would like a two-way conversation. I would like them to understand that we have our own experts. They don't have diplomas on their walls, they live it. So yeah, I would like them to take that into account and to give us the respect we deserve.

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LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

Thank you very much, madame.

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ABRAHAM RUPERT

Mr. ABRAHAM RUPERT :

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Thank you for giving me a chance to speak. I have quite a few concerns over uranium. First of all, I don't think there is technology that has been developed as of yet today where people or companies or experts can say we can control the impacts, we can manage the impacts. There was a story on CBC this past winter on mining; a gold mine that was opened in 1942, I believe, up north, either the Yukon or the Northwest Territories, and just recently, maybe a year, closed down. Now, what happened to that mine, as a result of that mine, there was a gas that is stored below ground up there, and it has to be kept frozen, but if ever anything happens, or that gas leaks or whatever it is there is enough to affect every human being on this planet, and I guess the reason why they ran the story is because it would have a negative impact on humanity, and this is gold. And uranium, I believe, is a global concern, the effects from it. So, if it is a global concern I find it very hard to say to any expert that they understand when they try to explain and say that they control or manage whatever impacts that result from it, but we do know it is dangerous.

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There is some that can be seen, but there is some that cannot be seen by the naked eye, and some particles travel by air. It is like at this time now there is a lot of water on the bedrock, small ponds, but if a person were - if the person had the patience to sit beside one little pond, after summer it continues; the water will start disappearing because it is evaporating, but you cannot see the water evaporate, and I believe that is how some of the impacts will come from, particles that cannot be seen by the naked eye; they will travel through the air. There was concern about acid rain globally, and we do know there are dead lakes that exist, lakes that have no life in them as a result of acid rain.

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And uranium, I think, is, well we all know, is dangerous to mine. So as they said before, our leaders that spoke before addressed some of the issues that this community had to go through, had to deal with. There are still some impacts that are left unresolved as of today which we know. So, there is really, to me there isn't anybody that can say, address this community and say I am an expert at this and that, and it is going to have a minimum impact on your way of life, unless they fully understand our way of life. So maybe it is time, but some of the issues that this community has, especially concerning the coastline, could be resolved before having to deal with another

project. We all know all the lakes and rivers inland from here all flow into James Bay, and all the major rivers flow by this community and out into the Bay, where our people travel and hunt and fish.

5 So, there is no partial impact, there is no minimal impact as far as I am concerned, and I don't think there is a manageable or a controllable impact that can be done. No such thing as a minimal impact on a way of life. As the young lady said before, that is our life. It is who we are. So, we have great concerns, and I for one also cannot support such a project as uranium mining.

10 So I thank you very much for taking the time to listen to me.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

We thank you very much. Next is Mr. Larry House.

15 _____
LARRY HOUSE

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

20 *Wachiyeh!*

Mr. LARRY HOUSE :

25 Good evening. I greet you all and thank you all for coming here. I have a lot of thoughts going through my head, and one thing that is not being mentioned, even with this meeting, and I was anxious to hear of it, that we would be told, that we would be informed that there would be this meeting and that the people would be made aware why there is this meeting and what are the issues that will be discussed. I thought about it a lot.

30 I watched something on television with the Inuit, a story about the Inuit, and it touched me very much, and he is talking about a discussion about a river, what is the extent on the Kuujjuaq community, and the Inuit live off of that, that area, and they couldn't make use of the water to go hunting, they couldn't reach the game that they usually hunt under water, and since this dam, I don't know if it is still discussed or that there has been a report, a full report of, or a full study of the effects that we have had, and it is not just because of the on-land effects, also our spirits, and it is the people who have the hunting territories that they say are affected the most, and that they - and again, that is now a multitude of thoughts that aren't synchronized, and I think about why a Cree person, what is breaking us apart. When they signed the agreement I remember there was an

Elder that spoke; it is almost as if only the Chisasibi people had signed this agreement, but he included all the people in the south, all the Crees in the south.

5 The reason I am speaking, we have had a lot of issues to think about because we live here, and what our stance would be and how we would feel and think about these issues, and when there was - they signed the agreements in the south we were told that we weren't affected, and yet now all the water flows through our community, our river, because of the diversions. Even the Mistissini Lake is now coming through our river, and whatever is, whatever is touched or affected inland will affect us. Our leaders, I would expect them, or hope them to think - hope that they would think of these issues, and that they would be studied.

10 There is not that many Elders left. I sat with them. I thought about all the knowledge that they have, and today, what we see today and the way we live today there are things that were - there is something spiritual about what has been bestowed upon us as this generation, from our Elders, and I don't know much, or I don't assume to know much, and that is who you should use. There is few of them now, and I am not talking about our leaders. It is not because I don't have respect for them, or, you know, or negotiators and lawyers that got us these agreements, and yet as we sit here, and I don't even know that since they have built this dam if there has been a study of - they seem to just differentiate or separate some of these studies, and yet as we sit here collectively there is all these different things happening, and yet we haven't done a full study of the effects of this dam that was signed in '75. The Bay is still being affected all the way up north with the flow of the water, and recently I have seen also another, a TV - with the Inuit in Labrador; they are having issues, too, and the Government they seem to be removing the people who have been studying these lands or the effects, and that is the ways of the Government nowadays.

25 And with our partners here, Goldcorp, if we had been in South America they would be shooting us, in Honduras. They don't have a lot of relations, they go after what they want. Let's have a complete study, and the people that we employ, who do they work for? I am the one who took them to the Post Office, the pamphlets, or I got my pamphlet from - from the pamphlet, and what was in the pamphlet was not very exciting. There wasn't even a mention of where the meeting was going to be, or what was to be discussed, or what the issues were going to be, and I think a lot of, with the dam, it is like we don't know, and if we were given strength or power from these agreements let's use it, let's make use of it, if we really do have any authority that we can wield, and the knowledge of those that are here all the time, or that are out there all the time.

35 When they discuss the islands I asked an Elder do you know what they are saying to you? They are saying you won't be able to go out through the islands without being given a permit, without putting a licence on your motor or your canoe, and he was surprised, and I want to share a lot of this, and I don't know if this is, if this is the place to say it but I had to share it because I am talking about, to the Cree people, that when we think there is - I am not very approving of this, with

5 these projects. He is talking about a specific person that was for the project when his salary was tripled. There is a lot of work ahead of us, and it is not just with mining, and it is not just forestry or the hydro-electric projects. There is a lot of work elsewhere, and yet we haven't studied all of it. It is like we just go on ahead with what is decided on our behalf, and it is 50 years now that we will have these developments coming at us. In 1996 there was a meeting in Vancouver, and these were the things that they were discussing, was this issue.

10 So of course I am not for this; I don't agree with it, and that is because we don't even know the full effects of what we have already gone through, and even he mentioned something that happened in Oujé-Bougoumou, and they are still trying to recover the territory instead of just kind of sweeping it into the agreement, and they are saying that they came to check our water. The Swan people said they came to check our water, and they still don't know what the effects were, and then after they left when the water came they could see the effects right away and they hadn't even warned us, and I don't know if I am doing this properly, that I am talking about it here, but I wanted to put, include my opinion. The people that are out there, the ones that are living off of the hunt, they must be included and they must be put at the forefront because they are our champions and our heroes, so to speak, and there is very few of those people left.

20 Thank you for listening to me.

WILLIAM NEACAPO

25 **Mr. WILLIAM NEACAPO :**

30 I would like to welcome everybody; a lot of new faces I haven't seen, but everybody is welcome to Chisasibi, and also, I would like to, on behalf of Chief Davey Bobbish, I guess thank him for having visitors like you down, so *wadjja*.

35 The uranium mining, my concerns that I will be raising, I will just summarize them, but I will do that in Cree.

40 We are still being affected by our river Hydro Project, LG-4. We did some fishing at the LG-4 area, and we did put in our nets in the water. We got some fish, and the fish they were being cleaned and that we were going to have fish for supper. One of the fish that was cut open to be cleaned for the supper and the woman that was cleaning looked at the fish, the way it looked she said it smelled like gas, the fish, when they opened it up. There was some Hydro that were here, Hydro-Québec people, and they were talking to them about that fish. They found that fish. They couldn't eat the fish because it smelled like gas, and the Hydro representative was very surprised,

5 and they thought that were wasn't such a fish being, smelled like that fish, and they couldn't, they didn't say there was any fish that had been found like that before. The Hydro representative told me that there was - nobody has ever mentioned about anything, next time you get the fish like that bring it to us. And why is he asking me to do that? Why don't he come and check it themselves? I just wanted to let them know how it is still affecting us, Hydro, the Hydro Project.

10 There was one thing, one more thing. The river, Chisasibi River, and the river - it is funny that in the wintertime and trees are sticking out in the middle of the river. All along the river - it is ridiculous, trees sticking out in the middle of the river, you know? All kinds of things, branches, you know? But not only in the area of this, in the river, as well as where the reservoirs, it is like where LG-1, where the reservoirs are, tons of stuff are floating around, trees you know, and branches here and there, and these are just the stuff that I have - in our experience with this. Sorry, all this is how I talk, I mix up with the Cree and English, so excuse me then.

15 That is when I find out, looking at the river there was bushes and trees sticking out from, on the river, during the winter. I do small games, mostly. Like, I go out on the weekends and I did some - I do a lot of road hunting, you know, just highway hunting and just off the roads and I am still harassed by SQ or Securities in the LG-2 area, and I do, I just do small games, like rabbit hunting, rabbit snare hunting, stuff like that, or shoot some whitebirds, and I still get harassed by - you know, 20 this is something that should be - that I will be concerned if this uranium mining going, if it is - well, it is going to happen. Stuff like that, not only - there is a lot of things as Chief Davey mentioned, that there are still effects with this. But I guess we were expecting more, that unexpected unforeseen as he called it stuff that could happen, and as for the - in the mining.

25 My concerns are like just comparing people in the Amos area, our brothers in the Amos area, and as well as in Matagami. There were people that were there, and I think there was mining, I am not sure what kind of mining was going on there, but more or less the people, our brothers that are there, like they were pushed on the side. Pushed on the side, you know? This is something that I wanted to understand, what did they experience on their mining, even depending on what kind of 30 mining in that area, what happened on that area of Amos and Matagami, and I don't think Matagami now people live there anymore, the Crees or - and so this is stuff that I would like to know. Where are they, and what happened to them during the time of the...

35 I guess the other concern I have is like what is going to happen in the area of Chisasibi? Is there going to be a town like Amos or Matagami in the area, you know, and it is a part of our social, concerns of social life of our people, and these are the only things that I wanted to talk about for now. And so that is my concern, like it will be another town will be in the area, like Amos or Matagami. So that is my concerns that I have I wanted to bring up. Thank you very much for your 40 time.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

Thank you very much.

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LEONARD HOUSE

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR:

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There is another person who has been registered in the back, I don't know his or her name for the moment, but it is coming. It is a matter of seconds, now.

THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH:

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(Not translated). Leonard House.

Mr. LEONARD HOUSE :

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Good evening.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR:

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Good evening.

Mr. LEONARD HOUSE:

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I don't know nothing about uranium mining, I don't know nothing about - I mean, on the procedures you take, but I worked at Noranda Mines once upon a time when I was a student in Noranda. They had the coal plant, still. They put me in a coal plant, and I was all black when I got out at five o'clock, but it was - but they did away with the coal plant.

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We all need jobs, I think that is what this thing, these mines or these - you know, the - I presume there is a lot of people in the territory prospecting, and it all has to do with jobs. And Quebec is not - I mean, I don't know what's going on in Quebec, the state of the economy is not too good, but at what cost do you let, you know, jobs prevail putting jobs over life? If you know that this mine will cost you your life what is the cost? It is okay for me to die? Is it okay for me to die so that you can have jobs? You know, there is a lot of like talk, we can say no. We said no to James Bay, but we know it went ahead anyway. What part of no don't we understand?

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5 You know, James Bay, this river used to be our highway. It doesn't work, that highway doesn't work no more. We can't even - my territory, my father, we travelled our hunting grounds is just across the river. I can't go there, I can't just cross there. It is only there, but I have to go all the way around. You know, I like to work. I think people should work, but at what cost, you know? Life, don't we care about our life? But this uranium mine, I mean if we let it go what benefits will it bring? But, you know, what is the cost?

10 All the mines, most of the mines, Noranda Mines, that lake - there used to be a beautiful lake when I used to go to school there. People went swimming in that lake, Noranda, Noranda Mine. Yeah, Noranda, Rouyn-Noranda. People went swimming there. People went there during the weekends, they swam in that lake. Now they cannot, at what cost? Yeah. I think greed, you know, has a lot to play in what we do. It is okay, money is good. Money is good, but love of money is not good, and - love of money. Money is good. Even God wants his part, wants his share, and that is the way it is, but you know, our view of what we do, what are the effects of what we do.

15 Like environment. My father, he did not, he didn't work, he hunted. That is all, that was his livelihood. He enjoyed it. He didn't stay in one place; he moved around in that place, let it settle, you know, the animals, more the plant, I guess. He went to another place, but he didn't dam the river, he let it - he couldn't, he couldn't, because he loved the land. It was his life. The land brought things so he can live, but what is our standard today, eh? What is our standard today? What is life? It seems that life is meaningless, you know? We don't care. We don't care about the animals that we kill. Like, there must have been a lot of animals, a lot of beaver being killed when they flooded the place here. Like, people came here. We were alone here, you know? I grew up here. I didn't have money when I was growing up, I didn't have money, but I enjoyed my life. Today, we have lots of money, but it's not the same. Life is not the same. I mean, like here in Chisasibi there is a whole bunch of dams over LG-1, LG-2, LG-3, LG-4, a whole bunch of dams. It is like we invited people in, into my house, and they kicked me out, out of my house. I was kind to these people and then they kicked me out of my house.

25 I mean, but what can I do? Like, the environmental - here, like here in Chisasibi. Everything will flow through here. Everything that is mined all will flow through here. Everybody will be affected; all the animals will be affected. Everywhere like that happened, the same thing happened to Noranda Mines. That lake, it is dead. Nothing can drink out of that lake. You know, it is okay to have - people don't care, like - like those people that want the uranium mine, they are investing in that mine, but they live - they don't live in Mistissini. They don't live in Chisasibi, or they live far away from, you know? They are not affected.

30 I read in - as I was in Air Quebec, I read in the - there is a, I forget which newspaper it is, that they were talking about these mines, and they talked about uranium, and the investors that were, they are not happy with the native people who reject, who don't like - who oppose the uranium

mine, and they said let's destroy their tents. I mean, even now I don't think native people even want to destroy their tents, even though - with all the impact that they are living in. I mean, it has all the - I don't know, I can't really say what the impacts were because I am not a scientist. I am not a - but they most likely will have impacts. I don't know where, but you know, and I don't know if I can believe every study because I went to Waskaganish by plane, and I just was at the airport and I was sitting in a chair and some guy came from Waskaganish, came over and talked with me, and he said they are studying the fish here, the impacts of the - I guess diversion, and I guess, I don't know exactly, the spawning, and he said they are studying that at the wrong time. I don't know if it was intentional, but if you study it at the wrong time it will have a different impact to a different report, and I mean, deception.

Deception is not good anywhere. Like here, in Chisasibi I thought the people, course mostly governed by people who wanted to improve the system in our benefit, the peoples' benefit. You hire Government to look out for people, the small, the small, the small people, and they get paid. Some of these people they get paid good, but more and more I think Governments are for business rather than for the small people who they are supposed to look after, and there should be, you know, like reports, environmental reports, if we can trust those reports, on what effects.

Like here, we have this water, our water from the river, and the filtering needs to be looked at, what are we drinking here in Chisasibi. There is a lot of environmental impacts that is affected. All this mining, all this stuff that is going on in the territory, it is all - it seems like it is all money. Life doesn't mean anything, yeah. I don't know how many people, or what is going on with the health condition of people in Noranda, Noranda Mine, you know, in that surrounding area, but there used to be - they shipped me off to La Tuque Residential School, and we had this smell, rotten-egg smell all over the residential school, and we had to put up with it. I don't like my eggs to smell the way that pulp mill smelled. And they had a nice lake, nice lake; that is dead, too.

People used to go there Sunday. People used to go swimming there; they don't swim there no more. So I don't - more should be - I don't know how long would it take to have better, better reports, better, you know, analyze this thing, uranium for, you know, not only people but animals that affect our lives. I don't agree with just doing something in a hurry. I know it is going to create a lot of jobs, but at what cost? I mean, even if we had this movie in the - on TV, it has aired here, about the birds, the effects from this project here. I guess they are dying off, their way of life. The native people there, in that island there, Belcher Islands I guess, they are affected by it. Their lives are affected, and the generations to come, it will have an impact on them.

So, that is about all I have to say. It is life, at what cost? Okay, thank you.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

Thank you for this message, and I would call Mr. Eddy Pash.

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EDDY PASH

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

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Good night.

Mr. EDDY PASH :

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Good night. Greetings. I thought I was further down the line to speak. I will speak Cree because it is the only language that I speak; I am not a very - I would like to thank my friend there for speaking, and I thank you all for letting us be heard at this meeting to share our concerns.

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I wanted to make my statement very short, to say what I want to say. I don't want to be in the way; there must be more people who want to speak. I am worried about prolonging this meeting longer than necessary. I just want to say that what I am hearing, the way I am hearing it, like I said I don't want to speak for very long. I just want to share where I am from, and that will be the perspective of my comment or statement.

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I was born and raised in inland, and that is where I grew up, and I am very grateful to have been shown what I saw in my youth, in my upbringing, and with what I wanted to say here, sometimes I don't like what I see when I look at our history, our history leading to where we are today, and when there is talks about what we disapprove of we seem to be treated the same way. We are asked these questions, and even though we state why we disapprove or disagree with something - he is answering his phone. So what we are asked sometimes, and then we disapprove, we seem to go misunderstood.

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We have so many trials, and then they try another way to get another perspective or another response or another point of view, and the reason I say that is that my father taught me everything that I know, and my beliefs and point of view, and one thing, and one of the reasons that I disapprove and don't like what I see sometimes, it is as though I put my father in the highest regards, in everything, with what he showed me because he showed me very much in my upbringing, and what I disapprove of when I think back, and I am pretty certain, almost one hundred percent certain, and it comes from my father's, that he wasn't around as much. And it is like when we talk about, when we talk about the environment there is something that seems to be

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going around that is affecting with the projects that have gone on, that have occurred in the territory. Even though we said that they supported it, even though they said they didn't support it, and they stated why they disapproved of the projects on the land.

5 There is so much that has happened that has seemed to have kept hidden the results and the effects of our people. We think that everything is fine, that everything is good, and we are grateful for what we seem to have acquired with the damming of our river, and when we look at the hydro-electric lines, when I look at - or electricity, when I look at - about my grandfathers and our lineage, and how well and healthy that they lived off of their territory, and with their healthy way of life that is where - we look at life today. We look at our lives today, and the state of it. There is so many things going on. There is many things that are being, that is telling of us. Even if it is just a little, a little thing, it is not - it doesn't just come from what happened to the river. It is one issue, it is one angle, a perspective, and some of it is sickness and disease.

15 There is also something that is airborne, and that affects us, too, and you have seen it. If you look at the transmission lines there is something there that emanates that seems to be cancerous, as you call it cancer, and there is even more health effects from these transmission lines. Many people are getting sick from it. Animals, many animals, even the fowl, the waterfowl that comes in from very far, they take that, those effects with them, and that is how the environment is affected; it is things that are just airborne, and it is like it just flies and wherever it lands that is where it begins to affect its environment.

25 We have learned a lot from this project and what happened to our river, and what has been shown to us or discovered. Is there more to come, something that might even be more obvious and that we have to prepare for yet again? And there is all these, the communities, even the bigger communities in the different territories. You even often see the non-native areas, they are already disapproving some of this, and I have heard in our province, in Quebec, that there is mostly a disapproval of what we are meeting here to discuss today. Is this going to keep recurring, as I said earlier. Nobody seems to listen. Even if we speak at length, nobody seems to listen to our concerns or experiences, and even if we say we disapprove then it is like somebody is issuing an order that to try hitting us with another angle to try to get a different perspective or a different response, and this is just my perspective as I stand with - I don't even know how many people I stand with or who are standing with me. And as far as questions going, that is my question, is will this be a - if we are asked, yes or no, I think it is at the forefront, that most people are against this, and that is - I stand on that position, too, and that is all I wanted to say.

35 I wanted to make sure I empowered my stance. We have gone through a lot already, and we have experienced and seen very much. There are things that I could not approve of, and that some of these effects are the reason that, like, I couldn't see my parents as long as I should have.

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So, I thank you all for listening to me.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

5 Thank you very much, Mr. Pash. Ancita Bugden is the next person to speak.

ANCITA BUGDEN

10 **THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH:**

Ancita Bugden is the next person to speak.

15 **Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :**

Hi, how are you? Can I ask why you are here? Can you give me a brief response to this question I have?

20 **LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

Yes, I can; because the Government has asked --

25 **Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :**

This thing here?

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

30 Sorry?

Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :

No?

35 **LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :**

40 Yes, we are from that organism. The Minister of Environment gave to our organization the mandate to examine what are the challenges that are surrounding the exploration and exploitation of uranium, if it is ever done so in Quebec. The Government has created a moratorium on this type

of mining, and has said we want to have a complete inquiry on this question before lifting the moratorium. So, the Government is waiting our report to know what would be the good thing to do on this question, roughly.

5 **Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :**

So as it says here, the processing of a project before the BAPE. Are we at the bottom part here, 'Once the impact study is deemed sufficiently complete the Minister is ready to entrust the BAPE with a first mandate.' Is that what you guys are doing right now? No?

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LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

No.

15 **Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :**

You guys are at the beginning, no?

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

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No.

Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :

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He says 'no', she says 'yes'?

THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH :

It is because this is a review of the industry as a whole, so there is no, there is no project.

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LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

No project.

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Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :

Okay, but they are planning?

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LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

5 It is the general question of mining uranium; can it be done, should it be done? What would be the challenge if Quebec goes in that direction, and those are the questions our Commission has to answer. There is no project. If at the end of that process the answer, the Government will decide what, it will decide on this question, but the Government wants first that there is a broad
10 debate on the question so that all the different aspects of it are covered, are checked scientifically, and to see if there is social acceptance, if it is reasonable to go in that direction from an environmental point of view, from a social point of view, from an economical point of view. So all those questions are asked to us, and that is why we are --

Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :

15 So you are going to every place in Quebec?

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

20 Not every place, because there are many, many, many places...

Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :

25 Yes.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

...but we are going in most of the region of Quebec.

Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :

30 Okay.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

35 South, north, east, west; every place where they seem to have a potential for uranium, and because the people are more aware in these areas of what could be the impacts. So, they are telling us what they expect on that.

Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :

40 So you are going to the places where there is a potential of uranium?

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

Yes.

5 **THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH:**

I am relatively new to the process as well, and I think my recent experience with the BAPE and working with them might shed some light on the opportunity that is in front of you right now. In talking about Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3, I am not sure if you heard that explanation at the beginning?

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Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :

This is the first time I hear about it at all, this afternoon.

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THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH :

No, at the beginning of this evening, we talked about how the process...

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Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :

Oh, I wasn't here. I just heard about it.

THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH :

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Okay, I will explain it again. The first phase is they are going to travel to different communities; they can't make all of the communities, that is why it is live. That is also why people will be able to make submissions until July 11th. You can keep making written submissions.

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So this first phase is just asking people what are you worried about, and just to underline how important and legitimate this phase is, when we were talking about Phase 2, Phase 2 is then going and finding the experts to try and address peoples' concerns. Now I say 'try and address' because we are not going to assume that everything can be addressed.

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And then Phase 3, we come back and we say in light of all of the preoccupations, in light of all of the expert testimony, what is your opinion? That is what we will be asking people, and I remember when we were talking about Phase 2 I said okay, we have got a lot of work here in Phase 1, let's talk about Phase 2, and Mr. Francoeur and his colleague said well we can't really talk about Phase 2. We can't talk about Phase 2 until we finish Phase 1 because we can't decide who the experts are going to be until we find out what the preoccupations are. So in that sense, what is

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in front of you is a blank page, and right now they are filling up that page with preoccupations and concerns, your preoccupations and concerns. It is nobody else's agenda. This will be the agenda that will be established with Crees, Inuit, Montagnais, Québécois, everybody.

5 **Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :**

Okay.

10 **THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH :**

So that is where we are, in Phase 1. This is what we are doing here this evening; it is to get what are your preoccupations so that we know what to look at.

15 **Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :**

So there is a potential of uranium here, why you guys are here; that is what you said?

20 **THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH :**

There is uranium in the ground in Quebec. The Government...

25 **Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :**

Yes?

30 **THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH :**

And the Government has decided that before we go forward they should know what is the situation in Quebec; how do the people from Quebec, how do the native people from Quebec, how do the Crees under the James Bay Agreement, how do they feel about it?

35 **Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :**

Okay.

40 **THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH :**

That is why we are here; not because of a specific project. There is no specific project.

Ms. ANCITA BUGDEN :

5 Well, just the word 'potential of uranium' scares me. I mean, if you are here, you are here for a reason, that there is potential for uranium, and I know for one that I do not want it here. I have children, we are going to have children, and they are going to have children, and if that thing is put here it is going to affect them and their lives, and their livelihood. The dam has already destroyed a lot of our people, especially up here near Chisasibi.

10 I am a little troubled by this because I don't see much youth here at this meeting. Their voices need to be heard, because they are the ones that are going to be living for another 40, 50, 60, 70 years. I feel that this consultation process has not been well-publicized in the areas that they need to be. If you put up a poster that looks like this in front of a youth, or anything that says 'consultation' or big long words, they are not even going to look at it. They are not even - our youth don't even listen to the radio because they don't know about it. I mean, like I am 40 years old and I didn't even know about it. There is a lot of people here in this community that I am sure they have something to say. There is a lot of youth out there that would come and express their views if they knew what it is about.

20 I feel that letting them know that this is happening, and why you guys are doing this, they would probably feel empowered knowing that their voices would be heard, and you guys would hear them and bring that up to the Government. If you are going to be consulting in other communities, I think that someone should go ahead and start announcing it publicly in all the areas in the community, because if the youth are not here who are we hearing? We are hearing the older people, who will speak for the youth, but they can't always do that. We need to hear from them. Just by looking at some of the impacts that I have seen in the world, the pictures that I have seen of these mines being in certain places, I don't want to see that happen here. It is sad that - it is sad that - how can I say this? It is sad that knowing that this Commission, of course you are going to hear us, you are going to write down your stuff, you are going to record us, you know, but I know most of the time the Government will do whatever the hell they want to do, no matter what consultations happen. If there is money involved, they are going to go for it.

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30 So, I am hoping that this moratorium stands in Quebec, because we don't want it. The Crees don't want it. Every community you are going to go to people are going to say no, we don't want it. I understand you are a neutral body in this, and I respect that, but I do hope and pray that we don't have to deal with any of the uranium here in our community, or any of the Cree communities in Quebec. I say no to uranium.

THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH :

40 Thank you very much.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

Thank you.

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WILLIAM BEARSKIN

THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH :

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The next person will be William Bearskin.

Mr. WILLIAM BEARSKIN :

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I wanted to share that I heard on CBC a story today that there was tests done across the country, it is about 14,000 homes that were studied, I believe that was the number, and this had been a study that covered Canada, it was Canada-wide, and what they discovered, according to this story, was that - this also included the World Health Organization. They said - I guess there is ten times the amount of - what Health Canada said there was - I am sorry - 200 times the proper levels, I believe. Yes, 200 times the proper levels. They also mentioned that there is a woman from Simon Fraser University in BC who said that there could be more work done into these studies, something about 3,000 times a year - I am sorry, his statement is not clear. When they discussed cancer, the World Health Organization said that these numbers would increase, and they are trying to find the sources of this, of these statistics.

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What he is saying is that every time a study is done there is more to discover, it just keeps going that way. It seems to unravel, these issues. And now actually there isn't very many of us here in the Cree territory, we might disappear pretty fast. I am guessing it is the studies of cancer in these households. Like, I don't exactly understand, and if - we have seen also even issues - it states in Saskatchewan, northern Saskatchewan. I think this place is called Uranium City, and they face these issues often, and they get sick from it. So I think that even when we take the greatest care for some things, I don't trust it. I can't put my faith into it. Even the mining companies will say that they are doing their work with the utmost care and expertise, and yet I still don't trust it.

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And I had heard that there are good purposes for these, this mineral, and yet, but I am also aware that there is weapons and bombs that can be made of the same mineral. So, when the mine expires what is going to happen to us? What are we supposed to do, and how is this going to affect us, and even just the dam. The people still can't encompass everything that we have gone through. And even the effects on like on our way of life and the hunting, even then it hasn't been complete, and this is a way of life that I was brought up in, and there are still many things that I am

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5 discovering or I am having a hard time understanding, effects. And with this discussion here, if there is an approval of some sort it scares me when I hear this, and there should be more - with Health Canada's discoveries, there should be more awareness. Their findings should be made more aware, and those that are in charge seem to be - it is as though we are driven more by the finances, and the story today was actually released on the CBC by CBC. That is what I wanted to share, thank you very much.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

10 Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT MURDOCH :

15 That is the end. We want you to know that it is very important, that it is still open for you to make your submissions of your concerns and your questions, and so we are very grateful for you to speak and for attending, and it will help us greatly in our works. And so like the man said, that we will be back and we will bring you more information, and there will be more opportunity for you to speak.

LE PRÉSIDENT FRANCOEUR :

25 I want to thank you very much for your participation; it is very precious for us to hear what you think about this, and as the lady said a few minutes ago, if you know that young people are interested in debating this we would be very interested in having their opinion. They can write us through the internet at the BAPE, and they can easily reach our Commission. We would highly appreciate to have their point of view on this very complex question. So, I think that we can say goodnight to everybody, and thanks for your participation, and we will see you in the next step of this debate, as we told you. So, see you next time. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

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

5 ET J'AI SIGNÉ :

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Yolande Teasdale,
Sténographe officielle

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