

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

ÉTAIT PRÉSENT: M. PIERRE BÉLAND, président

**AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE  
SUR LE PROJET DE RÉSERVES DE BIODIVERSITÉ  
DU MASSIF DES LACS BELMONT ET MAGPIE, DES BUTTES DU LAC AUX SAUTERELLES,  
DES BASSES COLLINES DU LAC GUERNESÉ ET DES COLLINES DE BRADOR  
DANS LA PROVINCE NATURELLE DU PLATEAU DE LA BASSE-CÔTE-NORD**

**PREMIÈRE PARTIE**

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**MOT DU PRÉSIDENT**

**LE PRÉSIDENT:**

5           Alors, mesdames, messieurs, bonsoir. Bienvenue à tous pour cette première partie de l'audience publique portant sur quatre projets de réserves de biodiversité dans la province naturelle de la Basse-Côte-Nord.

10           For example when you come to this table to ask a question, you may prefer to ask it in English, that's no problem with us and we will try and make sure that everybody here gets an answer to his questions.

**MR. ARMAND JONCAS :**

15           Mr. Béland, I think that it would be more appropriate if this would be done in English because everybody here in this hall, in this audience, understands English and not everybody understands French.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

20           Is that the case?

**MR. ARMAND JONCAS :**

25           Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

30           Are there people here you don't understand French? Does everyone understand English? Okay, not a problem with me. So, if one of the presentations here or a presentator has a problem with his English, I will do my best to translate from French to English.

35           Let me switch to some things that I have to say regarding these proceedings. My name is Pierre Béland and I am the sole commissioner, therefore I am the Chair of this Commission that has been mandated by the Minister of Développement Durable, Environnement and Parcs to hold this public hearing on four projects of biodiversity reserves on the Lower North Shore.

40           Two of those reserves are somewhat west of here, basically north of Magpie, or Rivière Saint-Jean, or Havre-Saint-Pierre; we were there yesterday. And two of those reserves are approximately north of here and north of St. Augustine.

          Our mandate covers the four reserves. Of course, I guess here the public present will be more interested in the two reserves just north of here, but if you have any information or

45 questions regarding the other two, that is fine with us.

So, as I said, the Minister, Mr. Claude Béchar, has mandated the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement to hold this hearing. He sent two letters to our president, Mr. William Cosgrove, mandating the Bureau to hold this hearing. And Mr. Cosgrove, in turn, assigned me to do the job.

50 Let me first introduce the members of this Commission. To my left, analyst David Boudreault. And there is also another analyst somewhere in the back there, Sophie Hamel.

55 At the back of the room, there is Anne-Lyne Boutin who is our coordinator. She is responsible for logistics, for receiving and archiving all documents submitted and received, and also ensuring the link between the Commission itself and between you as the public, as well as other parties who might be interested.

60 Mrs. Catherine Roberge standing in the back there is our communication specialist. She is responsible for relations with the citizens, but also with the media. And she is also the person who is in charge of the register which is a technical term that we use in all our hearings and I will explain to you later on about what this is all about.

65 We will also be assisted by madame Louise Marois who is not with us here tonight.

The setup and technical aspects are all done by Services gouvernementaux. And tonight we have Michel Filteau there who makes sure that you can hear what I am saying and that I will be able to hear what you are saying.

70 Everything said here is recorded by madame Lise Maisonneuve and will eventually be printed and available. Every session is thus recorded and is made available in the documentation centers, repositories, normally one week after the day of the event.

75 Our hearing always have two parts. The first part is what we are doing tonight. It is normally where the public come to ask questions on the project. Sometimes a project comes on the table and you are not familiar enough with it or there are things that have not been said or explained and you want more information. That's the time to do it tonight.

80 The second part is usually held a number of weeks after the first part and is when people come and express their opinion on the project. However, in the case of biodiversity reserves, we accept that you express an opinion during the first part. So, tonight if you have a question, if you have something you want to say on the project, you are welcome.

85 We had a first session on Monday night in Rivière-Saint-Jean. There is one here tonight. There will be one tomorrow morning at Pakua Shipu, the Innu reserve next to St. Augustine. And there will be a session tomorrow night in St. Augustine.

90 So, what will be happening tonight? When I am done with my introduction, I will ask the other people sitting on my left and on my right to introduce themselves. Then I will ask the ministère du Développement Durable, Environnement et Parcs to make a presentation, a short, maybe twenty to thirty minutes, presentation on what they propose to do here. And then we'll break for coffee and that is when the register will be open.

95 The register is simply a list of the people who want to come to this table here and ask a question or express an opinion. Before you are called to come up there, you have to register your name with madame Roberge there. I will ask you to come in the order that your names appear on the list.

100 And then when you come up here, you may ask two questions at a time. Why is that so? It is because if we have a very long list of people, we wish that everyone will have at least one chance to come up there. But then you come re-enter your name on the register as often as you want, and we will go through all the people who have questions and who want to speak until the sun rises tomorrow morning, if need be.

105 When you come to the table there, you always address your questions or your comments to me. You do not speak directly with either representatives of the Department or with the, we call them «personnes ressources» in French, resource persons. You speak to me. You ask your questions to me and then I will address the questions to the person that I think is best able to answer the question.

110 Why we do this? It is because we want to avoid confrontation between the proponent of the project and the public. So, I am here as a mediator or as a judge, if you want, between the public and the proponent of the project.

115 We do not tolerate any negative expressions, you know, derogatory comments on people from anybody. We just want to have a serene presentation on what this is all about and where we are going from here.

120 I want to stress the word «proposed» or «projects». Nothing has been decided yet. Otherwise we would not be here. The Act which is called *Loi sur la préservation du patrimoine naturel* says that when a reserve is proposed, there has to be a hearing. And after this hearing, a decision is eventually made on whether or not the project will become reality.

125 Our report is to report on everything that has been said during all these sessions, plus whatever documents that have been submitted to the Commission and that we have been able to analyze. And eventually we submit a report to the President of BAPE who then submits the report to the Minister.

The Minister will then present his own evaluation, including our report, to the Council of

130 Ministers who makes a decision in the end.

As I said, everything that will be said here tonight and all other sessions will be recorded and sent to a number of places. A copy will be sent to the office of the Municipalité régionale de comté de Minganie in Havre-Saint-Pierre, Bureau municipal de la Municipalité de Rivière-au-  
135 Tonnerre, Conseil des Innus à Ekuanitshit, le Conseil des Innus in Pakua Shipu, Bureau municipal here in Blanc-Sablon. I guess it is this office somewhere. So, everything that is pertinent to this hearing and to this project, a copy of everything is deposited here. And everybody can come during open hours to consult.

140 And you can also get all the information about what was said elsewhere, whether it be in Rivière-Saint-Jean, or tomorrow in St. Augustine, or Pakua Shipu, everything, eventually a copy will be sent here.

The final repository is the municipal office of the Municipality of St. Augustine. And if you  
145 happen to be in Quebec City or in Montreal, a copy is also deposited at the BAPE office in Quebec City, at Université du Québec in Montreal.

The second part of this hearing normally ought to be held during the week of November  
21. That is approximately one month after the first part. We have not determined yet what form or  
150 shape that second part will take. It will depend on how many comments we receive, how many expressions of opinions or changes to the project we get. And whether or not we will go to the very same places again for the second part has not been decided. It will depend on what happens here tonight and what happens in the other two sessions tomorrow.

155 Therefore, I would ask you as soon as possible, for example right after the end of this session tonight, if you intend to submit a brief to this Commission expressing your views, you can do that in writing or orally, but if you intend to do that, I would ask you to tell madame Boutin in the back as soon as possible either by phone, or by mail, or by e-mail. You have all our coordinates somewhere on the poster and in the documents in the back there. So, get in touch with her and  
160 let her know if you intend to submit a brief. That will help us plan the second part of this hearing.

There are many things I could tell you tonight about BAPE. I do not know if you are very  
familiar with the way we operate, but we are delegated to serving the public and we have for that  
purpose a little form in the back, I think it is blue color.

165

**Mr. DAVID BOUDREAU :**

Green.

170 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Green color, thank you David, where you can tell us what you thought of what has happened here tonight, whether it was clear enough, whether you thought we were doing a good job or not. Please fill that form, it is very important for us to be able to serve you better in the future.

175  
All commissioners are committed to a code of ethics which favors fairness, integrity, impartiality and transparency. We also uphold the same rights, powers, privileges and immunity as commissioners appointed under the Commissions of Inquiry Act. And we have been sworn in by a judge from the Quebec Superior Court.

180  
So, without further delay, I will ask the experts, resource persons who are present here tonight to identify themselves and, if need be, to introduce any of their colleagues, and also to proceed with submitting any document that was requested from them at the previous session on Monday night in Rivière-Saint-Jean. So, I will start with you, Mr. Desrochers.

185  
**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Hi! My name is Sébastien Desrochers. I am working for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife and I am the coordinator for the protected area strategy.

190  
Some resource persons can be called tonight if you need some more information: Mr. Donald Gingras, Linda Tremblay and Johanne Labonté. They are all working for the MNR.

195  
And I would like to inform the Commission for some documents you asked on Monday night. First is the results of the inventory for the woodland caribou. And the other one is just a precision for the trapping activities.

200 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Just for clarification, on Monday night, we asked whether you had any data on the abundance of the woodland caribou throughout the Lower North Shore. And this is the result of your surveys.

205 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Yes. As you can see on the ...

210 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Can you explain a little bit these figures?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

215

Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

220

And give us what I should call a bottom line, whether there are plenty or not or whatever.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

225

As you can see on the map, the third page, there are no inventory for the woodland caribou on the territory of...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

230

Can you show that map?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

235

No, I don't have it. I don't have it. I just received it yesterday.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

This is the map you're talking about?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

240

Some copies are available at the back.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

245

There are a few copies at the back if some of you want to look at it.

Basically, it is an issue that came up on Monday and that you can find in those reports. There is a concern about the abundance of the woodland caribou and we wanted to have more information on surveys and actual real data.

250

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

255

So, as I mentioned, there are no inventory just on the biodiversity reserve, so just all around. So, we do not have information on the biodiversity reserve specifically. So, we have information around. And you can see it on the first page, you have the density by 100 square



kilometers just to give you some new information.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

260           What is your opinion on the basis of these data? Is the caribou abundant, rare?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

265           As we can see, the density... I just want to be sure, it is Rivière Saint-Jean the closer one... no, the closer to the Magpie River. So, we do not see any caribou. And the other one is Natashquan, is closer to Guernesé, but it's very far. So, we do not have a lot of information. So, it is difficult to say if there are some or not on the biodiversity reserve.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

270           So, data are missing. We are not able to determine on the basis of scientific information whether or not...

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

275           Of course.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

280           ... the caribou is abundant or not.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

285           Of course.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

          And what is the other document?

290           **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

          Maybe we can just...

**Mr. CHAD JONCAS :**

295           Well, I was just told that the studies are still ongoing. That is what I was told, that the studies are still ongoing and there is no results yet. There are still studies being made. So, it is impossible to say at this time.

300

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

But the animal is present in the area?

305

**Mr. CHAD JONCAS :**

There is a possibility, yes. They cannot say for sure.

310

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

You don't know? You haven't seen any or...

**Mr. CHAD JONCAS :**

They don't know yet. They are still doing the studies. That is what I was told to tell you.

315

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Mr. Joncas?

320

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

I can tell you, on the Guernesé lake foothills, there are caribou.

325

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Is it woodland caribou?

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

330

Woodland caribou.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, it is present, we know it is present?

335

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

It is present in that area.

340 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Nobody knows...

345 **Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

And Pakuashipi, at Pakuashipi tomorrow, the Indian will tell you where they are too.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

350 Good.

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Okay?

355

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Good.

360 **Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Because we are not allowed to go and kill it, but the Indians are allowed to go and to kill it. I don't know what kind of rights they have but they kill several caribou every year.

365 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, for non-Indians, there is a ban on hunting caribou on the basis of it being relatively rare.

370 **Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Well, yes, the woodland caribou.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

375

Mr. Desrochers, you also have another document here?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

380

The other one is about the trapping. Just to precise something, in the document of the Ministry of Environment, page 21, they mention there are eight trapping lines cross in the Guernesé lake foothills. And the information we have is only six on this territory.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

385

Is this document also available in the back?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

390

Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

395

So, basically it shows a map with the two projected reserves and trapping...

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Trapping lines.

400

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

... lines or trapping areas that are within or without...

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

405

Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

410

... outside or inside the projected reserves.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

415

Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

420

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

But the important thing to say is that if... I don't know how to say that in English, but if the trapping territory is abandoned by the trapper, it is not possible for him to continue to trap on this territory as it is mentioned on the document.

425

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, any trapping area that falls within the projected reserve, if that trapper decides not to trap anymore...

430

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Yes.

435

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

... it will not be renewed.

440

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

445

To him or to anyone else. Okay, thank you.

Mr. Joncas and Mr. Joncas, will you please introduce yourselves?

450

**Mr. CHAD JONCAS :**

Chad Joncas, I am chef d'équipe at the bureau de Blanc-Sablon et je fais partie du ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, secteur Faune Québec. I'm a wildlife officer, a seasonal wildlife officer from May to November.

455

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you. Mr. Joncas?

460

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Armand Joncas, I am the mayor of Blanc-Sablon and also I am a member of the Council of Mayors of Lower North Shore.

465

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, thank you. It's for the record, because I guess everybody here knows who you are. Thank you.

470 Now, we will ask the ministère of Développement Durable, Environnement et Parcs to introduce its team and then to make a short presentation on the project.

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

475 Good evening everybody. My name is Patrick Beauchesne, I am the acting director of the Ecological Heritage and Parks Direction at the ministère du Développement Durable, Environnement et Parcs.

480 I am assisted with Olivier Bérard at my right who is the leader project for those four biodiversity reserves here in the Lower North Shore. And there is also Miss Marilou Tremblay who is an analyst from our Regional Direction here for the North Shore. Marilou is working in the office at Baie Comeau.

485 So, Mr. President, I will invite Olivier to make a presentation, to explain rapidly with the two projects that concern the region over here.

**Mr. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

490 Good evening everyone. Thanks for coming tonight. So, I will do the presentation in English and I hope I will be clear enough in that language.

495 So, our expectation tonight is to present these proposed biodiversity reserves, hear your concern and views about these two projects, discuss the different aspects of these projects and also improve our analysis and comprehension of these territories, and also insure that the local population is supportive of these projects.

500 So, as we said before this week, public hearings also have been held on two other proposed biodiversity reserves on Belmont and Magpie Lakes Massif and Sauterelles Lake Knolls that are located north of Havre-Saint-Pierre.

505 So, just some historical benchmarks. In 1992, the Earth Summit in Brazil, protected areas have been identified as a key element to ensure the protection of the biodiversity. The biodiversity is all species fauna and flora.

505 In 1999, Quebec made a summary of its protected areas. And in 2000, the government decided to adopt some strategic orientations to set up a network of protected areas.

The first target was a qualitative one. It is just to make sure that all the different elements that are part of the biodiversity are protected.

510 Social target, it is to take into account the socioeconomic condition of the population and its communities.

And the quantitative target, it is to protect 8 % of the whole Quebec by 2005, but it has been reevaluated in 2008.

515

In 2002, the Strategic Plan of Action for Protected Areas has been adopted and also the Natural Heritage Conservation Act. Under this Act, the government assigned the status of proposed biodiversity reserve to the two territories that we are going to discuss tonight.

520

In Quebec, we decided before to exploit or harvest the natural resources by forestry, mining, wildlife management activities and hydraulic exploitation. So, our objective is to make sure that we can protect a piece of natural elements of the biodiversity.

525

So, that is a map just to help locate the two projects. So, we are here tonight. That is Brador Hills biodiversity reserve. It is 32 square kilometers and it is located about 15 kilometers north of Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon. The lake in the middle is the Three-Mountain Pond and that is the five hills around the lake.

530

And Guernesé Lake Foothills, it is a little bit more than 2,000 square kilometers. There are major rivers protected, that's Coxipi River and Napetipi River, Saint-Paul River, ruisseau Chagnon and rivière Bujeault. So, that is the river just to help you to locate yourself.

535

The first question that we can ask is why protecting these two territories. These two territories are contributing to protect some elements of the natural province. I am going to explain a little bit further what is the natural province.

540

So, in Brador Hills, we can find some five hills with limestone outcrops specific to this region. And with this kind of soil, we have presence of specific plants.

545

In Guernesé Lake Foothills, there is many old spruce forest on a well-drained moraine and also dry heaths in the east part of the territory. And these foothills are very representative of the physical environment of the Lower North Shore.

550

There are also important salmon rivers and also they used to record presence of caribou and more precisely the herd of St. Augustine.

So, that is an image of Brador Hills where we can identify different parts of the proposed biodiversity reserve and the different kinds of landscape that we can observe.

That is White Mountain, Black Mountain and the Three Mountains and the Three-Mountain Pond. And that is the kind of landscape that is inside the limits of the Guernesé Lake Foothills and so we can have a look at the different landscapes and the different kinds of

vegetation or rivers that are inside these limits.

555 Just to give you an idea of the two other territories that are also concerned by these public hearings that we held in Rivière Saint-Jean on Monday night. They are also protecting other natural elements, but different elements that are concerned here.

560 For example, Belmont and Magpie lakes massif are large U-shaped glaciated valley. We can also find a grey pine forest. In Sauterelles Lake Knolls, it is a complex of well-drained monticules and it is black spruce forest with lichen and also with moss.

565 So, how have they been selected? We use a tool to identify the territories that should be protected to make sure that we can get our targets. So, we use different criterions. And the main information, we have identified thirteen different natural provinces in Quebec.

570 And we are here. And the natural province where these two territories or these four territories are located, it's Plateau de la Basse-Côte-Nord. So, that is all this area and it is around Sept-Îles and Blanc-Sablon.

So, that is a closer look of this natural province. So, we are here tonight. That is Brador. That is Guernesé and Magpie and Sauterelles. So, you can see that we try to delineate some natural elements that are inside the whole system.

575 So, the first thing that we are doing is to assess the ecological value of the whole natural province and we use, we try to evaluate which is rare or not, or is more common or representative inside the whole system.

580 For example, in the Brador area, it is the only place in the whole natural province that we find some limestone elements. So, it is a very interesting thing when we talk about ecological value.

585 So, with this analysis, we identify some territories of interest and that is only based on ecological value. But when we do this step, we assess potential economic impacts of these territories of interest. And so you can see that the impacts are evaluated by all different sectors of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife.

590 So, with this information, we decided to choose other sectors or other territories. Some of them are not, the impacts are not very important. So, we can keep it. And the two territories that we discuss tonight are here.

So, just to give you an overview of how these territories have been selected and how we work to identify these territories. Now I am going to explain what is a biodiversity reserve.

595 A proposed biodiversity reserve is a protected area. So, what is a protected area? It is



an area of land or water that is dedicated to the protection of the different elements, natural elements of the diversity, and also to protect associated natural and cultural resources. It is designated by an act and it is an area managed with legal and other effective means.

600 So, the main objective of a biodiversity reserve, it is to maintain the representative biodiversity of the different natural regions in Quebec.

What does a «Proposed» status mean? It is a land put aside to eventually create a permanent biodiversity reserve.

605

In a proposed biodiversity reserve, major industrial activities are prohibited.

Existing recreational activities, leases and rights are maintained.

610

No new activities that may significantly harm the biodiversity.

No new lease.

And permanent status will be adopted following public hearings.

615

So, for Guernesé and Brador, the proposed biodiversity reserve has been applied in June 2003. So, our objective is to have a permanent status before June 2007. And between these four years, inside these four years, we have information sessions and public hearings. So, that is the reason why we are here tonight.

620

So some information about land use, ATVs and snowmobiles, camps or cabins unregistered, berry and plant gathering, wood harvesting for building and heating purposes, fishing, trapping, hunting, outfitting, Native traditional activities. And these activities are practiced on a regular basis. And accessibility is better during winter.

625

So, about conservation issues that we have, we work on it for these two projects. First of all, we have two ecological issues. The first one is to maintain the biodiversity of the protected ecosystems.

630

So, it's to provide an adequate framework for the carrying on of activities to ensure that the capacity of ecosystems is respected and the activities are compatible with the protection objectives.

635

So, it's to implement an evaluation procedure for projects and to ensure protection of sensitive species' habitats like woodland caribou, Atlantic salmon, limestone-specific plant species.

It is also to increase our understanding of the territories and to promote general public

640 awareness. So, it is to encourage the implementation of a knowledge acquisition program and an activities and biodiversity follow-up program. And also it is to focus on educational and awareness raising efforts within and outside the two biodiversity reserves.

645 We have also socioeconomic issues. So, it is to involve local representatives, involve local representatives in management of these two territories, because we know that the key element of the management is the users of the territories. And it is also to take into account the lifestyle and activities of the inhabitants of the Lower North Shore while respecting the conservation objectives of the biodiversity reserves.

650 And the last one is to promote sustainable development. So, it is to encourage the sustainable development of the biodiversity reserves and, at the same time, to take into account the fragility of certain environments or elements.

655 So, concerning management terms and conditions, the Ministry proposes to implement seven principles for the management of these biodiversity reserves.

The first one is the ecosystemic management. So, it is just to take into account the capacity of support of the ecosystem.

660 And the second one is to have a management at the regional level. La Direction of the Ministry, located in Baie Comeau, will be responsible of this part of the management.

665 So, we want also to have the involvement of local users of the territories in the management action. We also want a coherent management, so just to make sure that everybody, everyone is working in the same direction.

Also responsible management. So, it is to make sure that, in the management action or the decision, we are able to have a sustainable development and also to protect the key elements of the biodiversity.

670 It is to have a flexible management and a minimal management. When we talk about a minimal management, it is information and communication, drafting an action plan, a sign posting, monitoring, regulatory application and control, and also monitoring of the natural environment.

675 So just to make a difference between planning and management, our first step is to implement a network of protected areas before 2008. So it is to protect land with proposed status, so where industrial activities will no longer be permitted. Get permanent statutes of protection, so to ensure protection of resources and natural habitats through an appropriate framing of certain activities.

680

And, after that, it is to define specific management rules for each territory. It is a working process. It has been started at the ministerial level. And it is also to involve local representatives if necessary in specific themes.

685

So, in the activity regime, there are three categories of activities. I will refer you to the consultation document, at the end of the document where you can find all the details about activities.

690

But we can identify prohibited activities. And the main activities that are prohibited are forest management, hydraulic resources development and mining development.

695

Some activities will require an authorization. For example, for new constructions like trails. And also there are activities that will be permitted. All rights acquired prior to the implementation of the proposed reserves will be maintained. And some activities like wild berry gathering, hunting, fishing, trapping and native activities will be permitted. You can find more information on page 29 of the consultation document.

700

So, in conclusion, these two projects will allow to preserve the region's natural areas quality; protect its biodiversity and particular species, habitats and ecosystems; will involve local users in the management of these two biodiversity reserves; and try to harmonize protection, development and uses. Thanks.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

705

Thank you, Mr. Bérard.

Mr. Beauchesne, do you have any documents that you would like to submit to us tonight as a result of Monday night's session?

710

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

Yes, Mr. President. There will be one document which is the justification of the delineation for the biodiversity reserve for the Magpie Lake section which you asked us Monday night some specifications. So we will give that document to the secretary in the back.

715

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you. So, we will now have a short break for coffee, some ten minutes, depending on how much time it takes for everyone to get something. There is juice, and water, and coffee.

720

Then, I ask you to write your name down on the register which is from this moment open. And do not hesitate to go and see Catherine and write your name down, because you will not be allowed to speak unless you have your name on that register. Thank you.

725

**SUSPENSION OF THE HEARING**

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**CONTINUATION OF THE HEARING**

730

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Our first speaker tonight will be monsieur Armand Joncas, mayor. So, if you will come to this table there. Good evening, Mr. Joncas.

735

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Good evening. My question is to the Natural Resources. The first time that we heard about a biodiversity place on the Lower North Shore, it was in Harrington in 2001. I see that tonight there are some things that was told to us in Harrington in 2001, are not exactly the things that will happen in a biodiversity area such as mining, hydro development and forestry management.

740

It was told to us in Harrington supposed that Natural Resources puts a restriction on a biodiversity place, Hydro-Quebec had a capacity to reverse that and put a hydro dam in a biodiversity area.

745

The same ministry, the same part of the Natural Resources which is mining, if a mine will be discovered, and an example the Guernesé foothills, the Mining Department of the Natural Resources could give authorization to a mining company to do mining exploration.

750

I want to know, those things that was told to us, is it still standing today or has changed since the new laws that are coming in effect in 2005? I saw the last law that the provincial government put about the biodiversity reserve, what has changed since 2001.

755

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you. So I will ask both the representatives from both departments, Environment and Ressources naturelles et Faune, to clarify the issue of exploitation of the forest, mining rights and exploitation, as well as hydro power resources.

760

Mr. Beauchesne first. And also, I think you might clarify whether or not you consult between yourselves before determining that an area will become a reserve, because at some point Hydro has to agree not to exploit the hydro power resources.

So these are the issues that I want you to explain please.

765

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

Mr. President, first of all, about the Harrington Harbour portion in 2001, for that portion of territory, it is a national park project which is ongoing at the moment.

770

So, information that was given at that time about the possibilities of mining installations or hydro power installations and so on were under the jurisdiction of the Park Act which is clear about the interdiction of industrial exploitation of natural resources in future natural parks that eventually are made or stated on those territories.

775

The actual government position about those industrial activities in proposed protected areas or permanent protected areas is ongoing till the Natural Heritage Conservation Act, which was adopted in December 2002 for the territories which are under discussion tonight, Guernesé and Brador, they were edicted in 2003.

780

So since that time, I think that the government position about industrial utilization of those territories, which are ongoing to be protected areas, is all the same.

For the MNR position, Mr. President, I would prefer that my colleague, Mr. Sébastien Desrochers, could answer about the MNR statement for that.

785

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Before I go to him, when you say «national park», are you referring to a federal national park?

790

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

No. I'm referring to les parcs québécois.

795

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Provincial national park.

Monsieur Desrochers?

800

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Yes. As Patrick said, the National Heritage Conservation Act precise exactly that

805 mining, energetic and forest activities are forbidden in a biodiversity reserve.

So, before the government lays that statute on part of the territory, our ministry examine every potential for all those activities. And in the recommendations that make the Minister of Environment, there are all those informations. So, when the government accorde a statute on this  
810 territory, so at that time, there is no more industrial activity.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

815 So, what you are saying is that before, for example in the case of Guernesé lake proposed biodiversity reserve, as Mr. Bérard explained to us, there is a process whereby eventually that territory was deemed to be a good place to have a reserve.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

820 Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

825 But before giving it the status of proposed reserve, they went to see you...

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Yes.

830 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

... so the people involved in mining activities, hydro power, forest exploitation, and you all agreed that these areas had no known potential.

835 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

But it is always a compromis ...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

840 Give and take?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

845 Give and take and it is between the conservation and the industrial activities for all the projects in Quebec.

850 So, specifically for this one, sometimes it is important for the conservation. So, we just think that, the government thinks that we can just not... it is preferred to protect it.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, what you are saying is sometimes there may be some potential for hydro power...

855 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

860

... development for example, but you may decide that, okay, conservation purposes are more important in this case.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

865

And generally for those examples here, there are no potential for those activities.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

870

For hydro power?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Yes.

875

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

For forestry?

880 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Forestry.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

885

Or mining?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

890 Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

895 As we know.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

As we know.

900 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Mr. Joncas, is the answer clear so far?

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

905 I think, you know, the Natural Resources are really at a primary stage, because I don't think they are talking to Hydro-Quebec or they are talking to the junior mining companies that have been coming here since the last couple of years and putting some claims, specially west of old fort on that territory because, you know, so far Hydro-Quebec, on their back burner, they got the Brador west, they got the Saint-Paul River. They got, you know, the Napetipi River. They got, you know, different rivers that there looking eventually is not going to be in the year 2025. Maybe in the year 2050, they will be looking and putting some hydro dams on those rivers.

915 And those rivers, the head of those rivers go in the Labrador. And the Labrador, you heard Mr. Danny Williams two weeks ago that when we were talking about the Petit-Mécatina, that he was going to claim some rights on this.

920 You know, we have the worse place to do a park to biodiversity. We got a 1927 imaginary line that makes a border which Natural Resources didn't have the guts today to put a real border in order to define where Quebec finishes to and where the Labrador starts to. And we are caught with this.

925 We are going to make a nice park on this side which is in a gray zone that nobody knows who owns it. The Newfies are going to come in and they are going to do mining exploration. They are going to do hydro exploration. They are going to do everything. And what is the use for us to have a nice biodiversity park in the Guernesé area when we don't have no definite line.

The first thing that we are requesting from the Natural Resources, that they put a really define line and they sit down with the Newfoundland government in order to finalize the



930 borderline that never was definite since 1927.

We want this to be done before, because how can we say to a Newfoundlander that he is going to go in a gray zone and some people from the Wildlife can tell us what happened to our... some of our hunters years ago, that had a permit from the Quebec government to go and hunt in  
935 the gray zone, to go and hunt the moose, and they were picked up by RCMP and brought in Goose Bay.

And then the Quebec government, in order to not start a big stir up with the Newfoundland government, paid off those hunters in order to say, «Close the file. We are not going farther with  
940 the file.»

So, before we are going to do anything about doing a reserve somewhere, we are going to have to know where the reserve is going to go to, and what is going to be the limit of the reserve, and who got the jurisdiction on the reserve. Is it the Labrador who is going to have a part  
945 of jurisdiction in the gray zone or is it us who has... that belongs to the Quebec government this zone? This is the first thing that the Natural Resources has to do.

Another thing that the Natural Resources has to do, they don't have a clue about the mining potential that is in that reserve. The only people that I saw in the last ten years doing any survey in that is a junior company from Alberta that had some claim. And I went on Internet tonight  
950 before I came here and their claim was cancelled since 2004, 2005.

And they were here this summer again. They told to the mayor of St. Augustine, «You won't recognize St. Augustine in ten years time, because the uranium and nickel and that will change the face of St. Augustine.» And where they are going to do that exploration to, it is from  
955 Coxipi down. It is not from Coxipi up. And Coxipi down is the Guernesé foothills reserve.

So, has anybody been talking to the Mining Department at your department? Is anybody here tonight from the Mining Section of the Natural Resources?

960

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Mr. Joncas, let me interrupt you a moment. I want to get answers to your worries.

965

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Yes.

970

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

But we will do it one at a time. Yes, there is someone representing the various sectors,

Mr. Desrochers is representing the various sectors of the Ministry. And we have the possibility of getting on the phone any other of his colleagues who would be more specifically with one area or another.

975

So, I am going to try first to get what are the views of Hydro-Quebec on the various rivers that are flowing through the reserve now. The various rivers that he named, does Hydro-Quebec have any projects presently.

980

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

First of all, those rivers may have some potential for hydro...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

985

Power.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

990

Projects for hydro power. But for the next ten years in the energetic strategy that the government adopted recently, the two projects on that strategy were the Petit-Mécatina and La Romaine River. So those projects are for the ten or fifteen next years.

995

And for those rivers here, the government decided to protect the part in green on the map, you can see that. And it means that there are no possibilities to make some energy within the boundaries of the biodiversity reserve.

1000

It does not mean that we can't do anything on the south of that. Maybe some projects can be done on the south of the biodiversity reserve, but the projects cannot have an influence within the boundaries.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1005

So, if I understand you well, presently there are no projects. And if it becomes a biodiversity reserve, it will preclude any future projects within the area, but there could be some south...

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1010

Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

... I guess, could we say, as long as the projects to the south would not affect the

1015 waters...

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Exactly.

1020

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

... to the north of the line.

1025

The second one is claims, mining claims. What is the situation with mining claims within the two proposed reserves?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1030

Those territories, there are no more rights since 2002. And around these territories, we have a map that we sent you and there are actually...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1035

Would that be one of the documents that was given to us?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Yes.

1040

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

What would be the...

1045

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Two weeks ago.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1050

What is the word for «cote»? The reference number for that document?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1055

This one.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1060 There was a map that was given to us by the Ministry outlining all the presently still active mining rights and claims within the area.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1065 It is not a map that indicates the potential. It indicates where the junior companies have interest at this time. So, we can see on this map actually, it's important to indicate that, actual...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1070 This map is under DB2.1 and Catherine has a copy there in the back, a much larger size than this one. DB2.1 in the repository somewhere in this building. So, this map shows what? That there are no active mining rights?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1075 It just shows that... first, it is not showing that there is no potential. It is showing that, around this territory, there are not a lot of activities for exploring, mining exploration. So it is...

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

1080 But, Mr. the President, this thing is just a at a primary stage. As you know on Lower North Shore, not much mining survey was done. They are only starting to do the mining survey.

1085 The Ministry of Natural Resources does not have much knowledge about what capacity is in Guernesé area. We want that the Ministry of Natural Resources, before that he declares this zone a biodiversity, that they look at the potential of mining in that area.

1090 As you know, the fishery has gone rock-bottom in our area. And our next potential... there is two more potential development on Lower North Shore, it is hydro power and mining, and a little bit of forestry, but forestry has gone rock-bottom all over the world here now.

1095 So, we are looking at two things. We are looking at mining and we are looking at hydro power. You know, we did not have the chance to say anything, because when we met in 2001 in Harrington Harbour, there were mentions about the biodiversity of the Collines de Brador and the Guernesé hills.

You know, at that time, we did not object to it, because it was told to us, «Don't worry about it, Hydro-Quebec can get any permit from the Natural Resources to build a dam, hydro dam when they need it. Don't worry about mining because you can get a permit from the Mining Department, all those are parts of the Natural Resources, to develop an hydro dam.»

1100

This is why today we did not come back to Natural Resources and was not in contact with the Natural Resources because it was told to us at that time.

1105

I can understand since that there was some new laws that come, but the new laws, as you know, you almost got to be a top lawyer to understand what they mean, and we did not know that was specific to us that a biodiversity thing, you was not allowed to touch any more mine, you was not allowed to touch no more hydro power.

1110

You know, this land here is a big piece of land that you are talking about, you know? And I can't see how the Natural Resources can put so many square meters to it or so many square kilometers to it when they don't even know where the Newfoundland boundary is to, you know? How can you put so many kilometers to a biodiversity place when you don't even know where your land goes to, eh?

1115

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes. That was the third part of your question this issue.

1120

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Yes.

1125

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Of course, this Commission does not have the power to discuss or eventually draw a line somewhere between Quebec and Newfoundland, but I would like to ask from both representatives what are their views on the artificiality of the northern limit of this reserve here and what would that entail should Newfoundland decide to do something else on the north side of that line?

1130

So, Mr. Beauchesne?

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

1135

Well, Mr. President, I have to answer that the government, wherever the Ministry which is working with official or unofficial lines about the territory of the province of Quebec, that we are working with the current limits that are available.

1140

And with the time frame that we have to attain our objective of 8 % in 2008, since the debate about the limit of Labrador and Quebec frontier is ongoing until 1927, we cannot wait or restart that debate in the perspective of the time frame that we have.

1145 So, in collaboration with the MNR, we have stated that for the delineation of proposed biodiversity reserve that we would have to work with the actual limit. And whenever both governments, Labrador and Newfoundland and Quebec, decide to open that debate, we would have, of course, to adjust our proposal to make sure that the protected area decided under our legislation respects the new frontier that eventually will be decided between the two governments. But I repeat, we are working with the actual limit that we have and which is recognized actually.

1150 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Mr. Desrochers, the waters to the north of that line flow towards Quebec presently?

1155 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Yes, yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1160 So, is it something possible that Newfoundland would decide to do some hydro power development north of the line?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1165 I don't think so. Since the debate for the lines is not finished, the two governments are going to respect that line. And that's why we are working for this moment from this line to the south. So the government of Labrador and Newfoundland cannot authorize a project between those two lines.

1170 **Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Mr. President, can we ask Natural Resource to come back to us with a definite map of the biodiversity area. Because what they are talking now about the borderline, there is a gray zone before the borderline, okay? And that gray zone, who belongs that gray zone today? Nobody knows since 1927 who owns that gray zone.

1175 And that way, when they have done the calculation for the biodiversity park, did they take the part of gray zone? Because for us, you know, it is a thing that we have to worry for our future generation. That gray zone covers, what we know now and what Newfoundland is recognizing, between 10 to 15 kilometers, you know?

1180 And how can somebody draw a map without having consulted the Newfoundland government where our limits go to?

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1185

Okay.

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

1190

I know, Mr. the President, we have just a road work just on the border of Labrador here and Quebec. And it is not an easy task to get a commitment of both governments in order to proceed where is our border. We want to put a sign on the border between L'Anse-au-Clair and Blanc-Sablon and they are having a debate now : where is the border?

1195

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

1200

You know? So, what happens here, where is the border along this area?

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1205

Mr. Joncas, let me tell you what I will do with this concern of yours which is a real concern. And I hope you will express that eventually in the brief that you will submit to us.

1210

But as far as the border is concerned, we are not going to draw a line tonight as to where the border is or should be. But what we have heard from both Departments is that the line there is certainly a line that Newfoundland would respect, because it is not in the gray zone, it is just where it is now and that is how it stands presently.

1215

So you may wish to suggest how the northern border, or western, or eastern, or southern should be changed for that reserve, but I don't think we will go further with that here tonight. But I recognize your concern and...

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

1220

But our concern, the Natural Resources has got a time frame and their time frame, like they are pushed to the wall, what I heard tonight, to have everything done by 2007. 2007 is not that far down the road. It is only a couple of months down the road, you know?

1225

And I think, you know, Natural Resources today knows very little of our lands in order to call that a biodiversity place and doing on a such large scale, which is about 50 % of our inland, what is left to us? You want to put us aboard a boat and send us back where we were too in 1534 when Christophe-Colomb came to see us in the bay of Blanc-Sablon to spend a week

here? Is that what you want to do?

1230 You know, what is the use for us to live on the Lower North Shore if it is going to be parks all around us and we can't ensure no future development on the Lower North Shore?

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1235 I recognize your concerns. And I hope these comments will be in your brief. And I want you to write your name down on the register if you want to come back again, but I would like to have more people to come here and ask their own questions.

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

1240 Well, I have another question. And this is...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1245 Last one.

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

1250 The last one and I give a chance to the rest. When we met in 2001, they told us there was some plus to have biodiversity parks in these land. There will be jobs created, you know. And everywhere where you see a park created... we got the Rosemount Park just next by to us which is a national park and it's creating lots of jobs that compensate for what you have got to give up for a park.

1255 I want to know from the Natural Resources what is the forecast on employment on a scale of 0 to 20 years in order to protect those biodiversity places.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1260 How many people will find work or some economic...

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Spinoff.

1265 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

... the spinoff from a biodiversity reserve.



**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

1270

That's it.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1275

Mr. Beauchesne?

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

1280

At that time, Mr. President, I will have to explain the difference between different status of protection.

In our legislation actually, we have twenty-six different status of protection. All these status, some of them are much severe about conservation, some of them are more loose.

1285

National parks, under the provincial law, is one of the status which one of the main objective is the conservation of nature. And the other one is the mise en valeur. I don't know how...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1290

Mise en valeur. Development or...

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

1295

Development, yes, of ecotourism, tourism in the region, to give the opportunity to the population and tourists to have a natural experience in your part of the country.

1300

Biodiversity reserve is another status. Let me come back. For a national park, you are not allowed to hunt, to do your hunting activities, to cut some woods, to have some rough shelters or the villégiature... I don't know, hunting ...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1305

Cottages...

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

Cottages or stuff like that.

1310

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

... for hunting, fishing, whatever.

1315

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

Yes, thank you. All these activities are permitted in the biodiversity reserve. So, in a large country like Quebec or for the Lower North Shore, we have, for the implementation of a network of protected areas, to have various status of protection.

1320

Our intention is not to make national parks everywhere, because the attraction potential for tourism is not everywhere. So, that is why we have different tools and different status that we want. And we do not want to geler du territoire. We do not want to...

1325

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Freeze.

1330

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

Freeze territories for the human use of that land. We know that Guernesé Lake and Guernesé area is used for the hunting, fishing and activities that we are doing. So, that is why we have different status. I can't say any more than that, Mr. President.

1335

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, basically you are not in a position to say the creation of this reserve will eventually create jobs or economic spinoff for the people who already live here. Is that...

1340

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

Actually, you are right. I just can't say tonight that biodiversity reserves will create 50 jobs or more or less, I don't know. The objectives are different.

1345

In our biodiversity reserve, the main objective is the conservation and the maintaining of human activities, for those activities which don't have impacts on natural potential or biodiversity. A park is also a prime object of conservation, but in development of tourism potential and creating jobs. So it is two different tools of land management, if you want.

1350

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

So in a nutshell, a biodiversity reserve, the objective is not to create jobs, to enhance tourism. It is to preserve an area for its natural value while not preventing activities that already

exist.

1355 But there is a drawback. It is that, from then on, you are not able to have any mines, hydro power development, or should there be enough forest there and a market for the trees, as you said...

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

1360

Eventually...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1365

So there is a kind of payoff there.

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

1370 Yes. And I should mention, Mr. President, that since some activities are compatible with the biodiversity status, outfitters for fishing activities or hunting activities are maintained in those territories.

Parks don't permit that. So, in a sense, biodiversity reserves not necessarily create new jobs but, at least, they maintain the jobs which are associated with the actual use of the land.

1375

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

1380 Mr. the President, since a few years, we see there is a move of moose to the Lower North Shore. What we want to know... and this is where the moose is going to, we want to know if we are going to be restricted to go and kill a moose in that area.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1385 This will be your very last question.

Mr. Beauchesne, will hunting of moose still be permitted? Well, there isn't now, but should there be moose eventually...

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

1390

But there is moose killed there now.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1395

So, what ...

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

1400 But because we do not have no wildlife protection during the winter and we do not have no evaluation of the moose as killed during winter.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1405 How about moose hunting in the reserve in the future. Is it something that you or Mr. Desrochers can answer?

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

1410 I can just add, Mr. President, that it will be permitted.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

1415 **Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Okay.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1420 So, let's hope the moose come this way.

Monsieur Desrochers or monsieur Joncas?

1425 **Mr. CHAD JONCAS :**

1430 Well, we are just seasonal here and the Minister of Environment is going to have to come up with more money if he wants to put people in place, because now presently it is the bureau from Havre-Saint-Pierre that does this area.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Mr. Flowers, we saw him.

1435 **Mr. CHAD JONCAS :**

Yes. Mr. Flowers, exactly. So, we are just seasonal. And if they want protection, they are going to have to come up with more money too.

1440

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

I am now calling monsieur Gino Beaudoin.

1445

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

Good night, Mr. President.

1450

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Good evening.

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

1455

It's concerning when we met last in 2005, last fall - okay? - they were concerning saying that...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1460

You met with?

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

With the group that was there on the biodiversity.

1465

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay, good.

1470

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

They were telling us that, right now, they do not see a problem we going over the land, travelling over the land. But it might come in three years, four years, they might stop it altogether, they don't know.

1475

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

That would be if the land gets degraded somehow or...

1480

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

Maybe, yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1485           Okay.

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

1490           But that's two groups we have met here now and every time we meet someone, it is a different story. Tonight, you're saying, «As long as there's family activities going, we can go there.»

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1495           Yes.

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

1500           But last year, they have told us there is no more cabins, or cottages, or shelters being now built on the biodiversity...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1505           Let's get the real story for tonight. What would be the status of activities that are happening now in those areas after the reserve is declared to be existing?

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

1510           I will be able to answer part of the question. For us, rough shelters or shelter cottages that are there, which are allowed under the Loi sur le territoire public, will be maintained. That is my answer.

1515           For the rest, since the jurisdiction of the management of those leases is under the MNR responsibility, I would ask to Sébastien Desrochers to answer.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1520           And how about the trails? Existing trails will still be in use or not? I understand there are trails at least through the Brador hills area. I guess the other one is so far up north that very few people get all the way there on their skidoo.

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

          No, people go there also.

1525

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, how about trails?

1530

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

Trails will be maintained in the biodiversity reserve.

1535

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

How about new trails?

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

1540

They will have to be authorized under the Heritage Conservation Act.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1545

Let me get the issue of cottages clear now, existing and new ones. And what is the position of your Department on cottages, or shacks, or whatever they are on public land?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1550

On public land, yes, for sure. Everyone who wants to build a camp on public land should have a land right. Everywhere in Quebec province, everywhere including on north, in 2005, we were informed that there are some non-registered occupations between the boundaries of the natural reserve. So we waited...

1555

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Which one? Both of them or just one of them?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1560

One of them.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1565

The large one, Guernesé?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Yes, the Guernesé.

1570 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

1575 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

So, we made an overview in March 2006 by helicopter and we saw about thirty non-registered occupations. And from now...

1580 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

This means that people went there, they build a shack or a...

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1585 Without a right.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

... also a cottage without asking for permission ...

1590 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

A land right.

1595 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

... or getting a lease and paying the rights.

1600 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1605 Is that it?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

That's right.



1610 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes.

1615 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

So, for this moment, it is possible for them to ask for a land right and we are going to analyze the demand with the planification of the territories and with the condition that the Ministry of Environment can prescribe. And if all those things are... if the demand corresponds, is okay, we are going to check if it is okay with the Native community or Native persons if it is not...

1620 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

The Innus, you mean?

1625 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Innus, yes.

1630 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1635 And if it is okay with them, we are going to lease the land right.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Is there a time limit for that or...

1640 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

In the next month, they can demand it and...

1645 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

The next month or next months?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1650 Months.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1655           Between now and, say, June for example or...

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

1660           Where?

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Where?

1665           **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Oh! In the local office of the Ministry at St. Augustine.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1670           Mr. Joncas, I'm sitting in your chair tonight, but...

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

1675           No, no, I wanted to clarify.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

1680           **Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

It is important, yes.

1685           **THE CHAIRMAN :**

The office in St. Augustine?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1690           St. Augustine, yes. It is Mr. Lionel Beaudoin.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1695           Okay.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Everyone knows him?

1700

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

How about those who do not ask to be sort of... their situation to be legalized?

1705

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Yes. We are going to ask them to legalize their situation. And if they are not doing this, we are going to proceed to...

1710

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Destroy?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1715

... destroy the ...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1720

Remove?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Remove or ...

1725

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Some other technical term.

1730

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1735

What happens with people who have an unauthorized shack or cottage outside of the proposed biodiversity reserve?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1740

At this moment...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1745

I am just thinking here that maybe someone who is on the other line and he got his thing legalized easily because he happens to be on the reserve, but the poor guy who is south of the reserve cannot do it, what do you say to that?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1750

As you can see, it is a very large territory. So, we focus on this one for this moment. We don't know, on the other side, if there is one, but we know there is somewhere, but we don't know exactly where it is.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1755

Okay.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1760

So if we know that, we are going to apply the same...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1765

The same rule.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1770

The same rule.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

To everyone.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1775

It is not different in the boundaries, in the reserve and outside. So, within the boundaries, it is important to say that people can...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1780

Legalize their situation.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1785           Legalize their situation.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1790           Mr. Beaudoin, does that answer your concern?

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

No, because...

1795           **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Let's get to the bottom of this.

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

1800           In the future, can it be possible...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1805           Okay.

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

... that they will restrict us completely?

1810

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Now, I think we have a commitment here that if your situation is legal now, you have no problem. If it is not, you can ask for it to be legalized.

1815

And after that, in ten years time, will you change your mind about those occupations or not?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1820

For us, they are not making a difference. You know, for the Ministry of Environment, they are going to decide if there are going to be new constructions or not.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1825

Okay.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1830

So, they are the managers for this territory, so...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1835

I am not sure I understood.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

In the National Heritage Conservation Act, they have indicated that there are no new...

1840

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1845

... no more new constructions if it is not prescribed in the règlement.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1850

So, those who are there now, legal or not, can be legalized then they are okay. Those who are not there now...

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1855

Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1860

... you will not be able to add and have a new house or shack anywhere else within the reserve?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1865

Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

What if there is a rush for gold, if everybody says, «Oh! I've got only a few more months and I'm going to build a shack»? Have you taken a list of those already existing so that you will...

1870

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

I mean we have information on those maps.

1875

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

1880

It is the purple spots.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1885

Okay.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

So, we know those ones are non-registered.

1890

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, Mr. Beaudoin, it is clear, once the reserve is...

1895

Well, I think it applies to the present status, proposed reserve, from now on, you are not able to add a new shack to that area?

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

1900

Exactly. We asked the MNR not to emit new leases on the territory which is...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1905

So, now new leases, but those existing now, legal or not, can be legalized between now and, say, X months. Nothing specific has been said tonight, but a few months at least. But from then on, no new houses, or cottages, or...

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

1910            So otherwise, if we all get legalized, which is not, in ten years down the road they cannot refuse from going there. No matter what happens in this biodiversity, they cannot say, «No, you're not allowed there anymore.» Will we have access to that territory for the future of our kids or...

1915            **THE CHAIRMAN :**

                 As things stand now, Mr. Beaudoin, in ten years time, nobody can tell you to get that shack out of there. But you know how things change.

1920            **Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

                 I don't mean a shack, Mr. President.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1925

                 You and I, we all know that maybe in fifteen years time, everybody will agree that we don't want any more of those and...

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

1930

                 But I mean, say, to have access to the territory, that's my...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1935

                 I think access to the territory is never blocked whether you a shack there or not.

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

1940            Because in the reunion we had in 2005, they said it can come that they will. That's why I say that's twice we've met them and twice they have a different story.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1945            Well, if you read this document here, Mr. Beauchesne, he will confirm, it is clear that these biodiversity reserves are accessible to the public. They are not meant to prevent anyone from going there. There is a kind of reserve like that which is called an ecological reserve.

                 Maybe you should clarify this, Mr. Beauchesne.



1950 **Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

Yes. I think we can refer to a plan, a conservation plan that will be ongoing and that will be elaborated in a couple of months from here. It is possible that in that large territory, that we propose some zoning. Maybe some zones will be under a more severe regime, because we want to protect more severely some of the parts, some species, some special habitats, some rare ecosystems that we want. But for the major part, the territory will be accessible for the activities that are ongoing right now and future activities also.

1960 Like you said previously about new trails, we don't close the door to new trails. We just want to see where they will be, how they will be made, and to make sure that if we have some precaution to take not to impact the ecosystem, that we'll be able to allow that new trail to be made.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1965 Mr. Beaudoin, if you allow me, I will ask one more question to clarify.

When you say, «We will not prevent any new trails», who is «we»? Is it just the Department or who is going to manage this bioserve?

1970 **Mr. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

The operation of management will be under the responsibility of the Regional Department of our ministry in Baie Comeau. But as we said in the presentation or in the document, for this kind of action or decision, we want to involve people, local users to discuss with us, you know, when...

1980 For example, if we take the example someone wants to create a new trail and this action needs an authorization under the current règlementation, but we don't want to not permitting new trails, but we want to discuss with the proposals to make sure that if the trail, for example, crosses a very rare or sensitive area, is it possible, you know, just to modify the trail or, you know, just go to another way just to make sure that we can protect and also to make sure that we can allow the uses of the trails.

1985 But we want to discuss with local users just to make sure that we can both respect our conservation issues and also that local users can have access to the territory.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

1990 That may be a bit fastidious, you said «regional management» and then «the office in Baie Comeau». Before coming here, I checked the Quebec map. Baie Comeau is halfway between, say, Maniwaki or the western limit of Quebec and Blanc-Sablon. So, I think you want

to involve people from this area also to be able to manage the reserve.

1995 **Mr. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

That is our view of the management of the territories. And just to make a precision, the regional office of the Ministry is not in Baie Comeau, is in Sept-Îles.

2000 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Sept-Îles, that's closer.

2005 **Mr. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

It will not make a big difference, but...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2010 Yes. Mr. Beaudoin, another question?

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

2015 Why is it so important for them to protect the limestone and the black spruce and the rare flowers? What do they plan to do in the future? Bring tourists here to go in and visit that or...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2020 So what is the idea behind protecting a very specific area like the Brador hills for their plants? But what is the value of those plants?

**Mr. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

I am going to show you the map.

2025

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes.

2030 **Mr. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

2035 So, as I said during the presentation, the tool that we are using to assess the rare... the value of these natural elements, it is the whole aspect of the natural environment. And as I said, the area of Brador Hills is very specific, because we also find some kinds of species in this area what we cannot find in the whole natural province. So that is...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2040 So, what you are saying is if you were to walk through this whole land, those plants would be found only...

**Mr. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

2045 Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

... on that spot?

2050 **Mr. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

2055 Yes, because that's the only place where we can find some limestone, this kind of soil, and there are specific plant species that are only related to this soil. And we can only find this kind of soil around the area. So, that is the reason.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

But why preserve rare plants?

2060 **Mr. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

2065 Because rare plants, it's part of the biodiversity. It's not rare plants, it's old plants that need to be protected. And, of course, when these kinds of plants are rare, we have to make sure that we preserve these species, because there are other regulations, for example rare species and endangered. And we have also the other regulations that permitted us to protect these species. But if it is rare, we need to protect more than common species.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2070 So, what you say is you want to preserve the diversity of species that are on the North Shore?

**Mr. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

2075 Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

And if you want to protect those plants which are part of the whole thing...

2080

**Mr. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

Yes.

2085

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

... it is the only place where you can do it.

**Mr. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

2090

Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2095

Is that...

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

2100

But protect for what reason? You might leave there tomorrow but never come back no more and see that plant. So, what is the meaning of it?

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2105

Well, I guess that is a question for... I mean anywhere in the world you could say that, why protect this given species.

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

2110

Excuse me, Mr. President, but we've been living here for years and years and I don't see any damage done to the plants, or to the limestone, or the hills, or the black spruce. So, I don't know why they are trying to do it now.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2115

So, you are confident that, in a hundred years time...

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

As a resident of the Lower North Shore, yes, it will be still there.

2120

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes? Unless thousands of people come down here at some point and then you need to... you just say, «We need a park here because we're destroying everything.» But it's too late then.

2125

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

I don't think so.

2130

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

No? So, you are not hoping for thousands of people to come this way?

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

2135

No, we're well as we is.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2140

Okay.

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

And I have another question, just my last one.

2145

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Monsieur Beauchesne wants to say a word.

2150

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

If we look at your question with a local perspective, I think you are right. But the different levels of government have engaged themselves in a much greater objective. Biodiversity is, of course, a local, regional issue, but it is a earth issue. We are not just talking about Blanc-Sablon here.

2155

Since 1992 at the Rio de Janeiro Summit, 155 countries signed a convention where they recognize the necessity of put aside some parts of the earth and take the tools which will be efficaces to protect those lands.

2160

Of course, I think somewhere it is more than an ethical decision. We cannot just take

some economic considerations when we think about protecting some life form.

2165 I think if, in Blanc-Sablon here, in limestone there is some plants where they are present in the whole world just here, that we have a responsibility to make sure that this living form still exists. Even though you use or not use the land, we... because if we look at that in a time frame of fifteen years, twenty years from then, maybe we can think that those ecosystems are naturally protected because there is not much population that is living here.

2170 Fifty years from now, we thought that the boreal forest was inépuisable, unlimited ecosystem for wood. The observation that we have now is that the boreal forest is an endangered ecosystem.

2175 So, things are changing and I think that we can be more visionary about those issues of conservation, but it is more... first thing, there is some government engagement to make moves and to protect that biodiversity.

2180 And one of my teachers then one day said to me, «You can't compare biodiversity to each and every bullet in an airplane.» Which bullet is more important than another? You can take out one bullet from here, one bullet from there, but one day...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2185 One bolt maybe or...

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

Okay, bolt. Okay, un rivet, un rivet.

2190 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Rivet.

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

2195 C'est bon. Sorry for the vocabulary. So, which rivet or bolt do you want to take out of your plane? Maybe after one, two or three, or 100 rivets, the plane will still be flying, but one day it will be crashed.

2200 So, I think we can take that image that biodiversity is one... each plant is one of that rivet. We can decide to make it disappear from the planet, I don't think that's a responsibility I want to take. I prefer to protect it than to remove it from the earth.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2205

Thank you, Mr. Beauchesne.

Mr. Beaudoin, have I allowed you two questions already or...

2210

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

Yes, you allowed me two questions.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2215

Yes.

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

2220

But his rivets from his plane, he always could replace it. Just like a tree, eh? you can plant it. So, thank you.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2225

Mr. Philippe Labadie.

**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

2230

Good evening. I want to come back on an history of the trails. Like we have trails in there that I'm sure Energy Resource don't even know that there is.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2235

«In there», your mean which one of two reserves?

**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

In the biggest zone there.

2240

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

The Guernesé Lake.

**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

2245

Yes. Does Energy Resource know all the trails that we have in there?

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2250           Okay, first question and a half or first half-question: do you know of all the trails in there?  
I guess you will probably say «no». I hope you will say «no». I don't see how...

**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

2255           Because if we have to get a permit to build a new trail, there is going to be a lot of permits.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Sorry?

2260

**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

There is going to be lot of permits that we have to ask for to get some new trails, which  
trails... there is lots of trails in there that we use.

2265

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes.

2270

**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

And if they don't know that trails are there and we start to use new trails and we need a  
permit to build those trails, it is a big problem.

2275

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

First you answer and then I will go to Mr. Beauchesne to see how this is going to be  
managed. Will it be manageable or not?

2280

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Maybe if Olivier can show the map. I don't know if you have that, it is the one on the  
document.

2285

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Mr. Labadie, while you do this, are these snowmobile trails?



**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

2290

Snowmobile trails, yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2295

Okay.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

2300

Just to show the Brador...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2305

These are visible only during winter, I guess. In the summertime... it is like, you know, crossing the lake on snowshoes. In the spring, you can't see it anymore.

**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

2310

Well, this part is cut through the woods.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

2315

You can see them also in the summertime.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2320

Oh! So, you can sort of have an idea in the summer that, «Oh! This must be a skidoo trail»?

**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

2325

Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2330

Okay, okay. I live in Montreal, so I wouldn't have a clue, you know.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

I am going to answer it.

2335 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

2340

For example in Brador biodiversity reserve, there are two rights, land rights for snowmobile and the other one is just multipurpose and VTT. And this is important to preserve your right to use this trail. So, for us, you don't have to pay for that, you don't have to ask it every year. You just have to ask it one time.

2345

The municipality asks for one in the Brador and they have the right to use it. So, in the Guernesé, it's the same thing. If you want to be sure you can use it all the time, and it is on the map, and it is important for us.

2350

So, the other part of your question is if you can make more than that. And the Ministry of Environment say that they have to check if it's... and they produce the authorization.

**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

2355

Okay. Those trails are already on the map? Those bike trails and all that, they are already predetermined?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

2360

Okay.

**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

Are they already done?

2365

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

In the Guernesé Lake?

2370

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

We don't have it.

**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

2375

You don't have it.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

2380

We don't have it.

**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

2385

So, you don't know what trails are there?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

2390

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, there is no map showing all the trails.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

2395

Yes. And they have no right for those trails. Maybe it's a little bit confusion here because there are two rights, okay? They have a right in the Public Land Act and they... you are talking about the authorization in the National Heritage Conservation Act. So, it's different authorizations.

2400

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

I'm confused.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

2405

Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2410

Presently, there are trails. Like people who have cottages now there, they have to go there, so there must be a trail.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

2415

Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

If the cottage is legalized, is the trail going to that place also legal?

2420

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

We can legalize easily, you know?

2425

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

But presently none of the trails in Guernesé is...

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

2430

No rights are...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2435

... is a legal trail.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Yes.

2440

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

So there are two kinds of trails, legal ones and illegal ones or ...

2445

**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

Legalized and not legalized.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

2450

Yes, that's the right way to say that.

**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

2455

So, it's not very good.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Would people need now to go and have their trails legalized or formalized some way?

2460 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

It is not as important as the camps, because it is just for them to be sure... that is the general rule for all the Quebec, but here it is less important because there are no different... there are no multiple use of the land. You are not in a context that you can have some forest  
2465 intervention that makes some... you have to move your trail. So there is no big deal for you, but that is for our part of authorization.

But if you want to be sure that, in the future, you can use it and you don't have to move it, you can ask for a right; but if you don't want to, it is no big deal.

2470

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

I will ask Mr. Beauchesne to give the view of his Department on this and on the future as well. Trails.

2475

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

For the actual trails, they are there, they are used.

2480 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

The present trails.

2485 **Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

The present trails, yes. They are included in the biodiversity reserves as they are. The authorizations under the National Heritage Conservation Act are for the new trails. We don't...

2490 **Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

Well, you don't even know where the old trails are.

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

2495 Yes, but...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

I think, I mean we are in a kind of learning process here regarding this biodiversity reserve.  
2500 As with many other reserves, it is relatively new that the area is being delimited with a line on the map.

2505 Everything is not known about what is in those biodiversity reserves. How many caribou are there for example? Nobody knows. How many trails are there? Maybe some of you know. Those who go more regularly to a given part of this Guernesé Lake reserve would know roughly how many trails there are, say, on the eastern side, but you may not know how many there are on the western side.

2510 If the people in general get to agree that it is a good idea - I am not saying that you agree on that, but say you agree that it is a good idea to have this biodiversity reserve - what I understand from what I have heard not only Monday but tonight from Mr. Beauchesne is that the management of this thing will not be done in Montreal or elsewhere. It will be done to involve local people, so that it will be, in a way, your biodiversity reserve, so that you will know, you know, whether you are just playing a game building a new trail and saying, «No, no, it was there.» You know, I know we can play these games, but this is not the idea here.

We are sort of trying to understand whether it is a good idea to have a reserve and then what to do with it.

2520 **Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

Well, personally I don't think it is a good idea because, as I can see, we are going to manage our trails. We are going to manage what's in there. So, why do we need a park? We are doing it right now, we are managing our own thing right now. So, I don't see why we need a park.

2525 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

It is not a park, it is...

2530 **Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

A biodiversity reserve, anyways.

2535 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

2540 It is an area that would represent part of what Quebec is in terms of vegetation, nature, lakes or whatever. I think this is the idea of biodiversity reserves. It's not only here. There are some in the south, there are some in the west. And I think what these people are trying to do is to make sure that in a thousand years, if we may think that long, there will still be part of what Quebec was naturally that are still in existence and that people can refer to and go to, to fish and hunt as before and enjoy.

2545 It's not a park, it's different. A park is a place where ideally those who manage the park would like to have a big fence to control everything that's happening within it. But this is not the same thing.

**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

2550 Basically it's going to be like it is presently.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes, I think so, especially...

2555 **Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

So, as a comment, I would say...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2560 Mr. Beauchesne.

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

2565 At the difference that that territory will be protected from industrial use. That is the main issue of those biodiversity reserves.

2570 And about authorizations for trails, new trails and stuff like that, Olivier said earlier that we want to be associated with the local population to aim through a best management of that territory. We said that we are not against the new trails, but since it's a protected area, I think that we have the responsibility to go a little bit further in the planning of our occupation of the land.

2575 But it is still the status which is flexible enough to allow and permit some activities that are undergoing right now, but the objective is to protect the biodiversity. So, the only thing that we want to make sure with you is that work of the land that would be done to build those trails is done in the sense of the objective that we pursue through the Conservation Plan. That's all.

**Mr. PHILIPPE LABADIE :**

2580 Well, I think if we could find a mine in there and have some roads going there, it would be a benefit to us instead of having a park. You know, that's my comment. Thank you.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2585           So, this is a comment similar to what we heard from Mr. Joncas, that maybe you don't want to give up the mining rights, the possibility of eventually exploiting a mine. That would be in contradiction with the biodiversity reserve. Thank you, Mr. Labadie.

          Mr. René Letto. Am I pronouncing it right?

2590

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

          Yes.

2595

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

          Letto?

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

2600

          Yes, sir, Letto. Originally my family came from Labrador, Newfoundland, but I live in Quebec now.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2605

          Okay, good.

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

2610

          And I have a nice cottage inside, what I call my home when I am away from home, you know?

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2615

          Okay.

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

          And that's only in the wintertime.

2620

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

          Where is it?



2625 **Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

Well, I call it Tounapi. Inside of Tounapi, they call it...

2630 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

2635 Where we see all the cottages now?

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

What part is that?

2640

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Within the reserve.

2645 **Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

Yes, sir.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2650

Okay.

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

2655 Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Has it been legalized? You don't have to answer this question.

2660

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

Well, that's why I'm here. I will try to get it legalized.

2665 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

2670

Okay? But he's saying that even if I get it legalized, industrial - okay? - you're talking about the forestry, I suppose that area there, you're going to try to protect the black spruce.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2675

Yes.

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

2680

Where I'm at, I'm in the black spruce. I'm right into it, you know? But I'm going to tell you, did those guys even look at the black spruce, this black spruce that's there is dying. Every year I go back, the spruce is falling on the ground, on the snow. It's got a sickness, you know?

2685

So, they're trying to protect... someone is going to have to go in and protect the woods first.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2690

Yes.

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

2695

The only thing I cut, I mean I cut wood once, when I go inside in the winter, the first trip, I cut that burnt wood they call it, it's already dead. The wood is white. It's nice for firewood. But the black spruce, I don't touch that, because they won't burn anyway, unless it's dead. Once it dies, I can burn it, because it's over the winter, all the summer, it's on the ground, so I just go there and cut it, because it's already dead.

2700

So, I'm wondering, like I said, I get a permit for my cabin, am I allowed to fish there? Am I allowed to cut wood there to burn, like to keep my family warm, you know? It's nice to get a permit. What we're doing there now, I'm not hurting the land, I mean I'm protecting. I go fishing, if I could get one. Sometimes it takes a week to get a fish.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2705

Let me get those two answers.

Mr. Beauchesne, will this man still be allowed to go to his cottage, fish and cut wood to heat his cottage, or shack, or house? I did not see it, but...

2710

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

Well, I enjoy it.

2715

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

The answer is «yes».

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2720

Yes, you will be able to fish as you are doing now, I guess, cut wood to keep you warm.

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

2725

So, that's all I'm going to have to do, just get registered and ...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes, sir.

2730

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

It's very nice, thank you very much.

2735

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

One more question? You don't have to if...

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

2740

Well, I mean I've been hearing all kinds of stories, right? In the village. I mean they're going to burn down the cottages and, I mean, they're going to have to move it, take it out, maybe outside of Tounapi where there is no tree. It's just rock, right? So, I said, «Well, if I've got to move it, I guess I'm going to have to burn it myself, because now it's been there for ten years, you know?» I keep it up, you know, and paints it every year and looks after it. Now, the black bear might be into it this year, because we have black bears, lots of black bears in there.

2745

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2750

Good.

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

2755 And we're not allowed to kill them. No, I'm just saying like we're not allowed to go outside anymore. The islands are protected. We can't fish no more. And my wife told me tonight, she said, «You go to that meeting», because she said, «To find what's going on», because she loves it inside. It's only in the winter, you know, and in the spring. Month of March, spring break for the kids out of school, you know? And they love it.

2760 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

You go by skidoo?

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

2765

Yes, sir.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

2770

How much time does it take you from here to there?

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

2775

About an hour.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Oh! It's not bad.

2780

**Mr. RENÉ LETTO :**

No. Well, that's why I'm going myself. Now, if it's a big cold, it could take five hours. So, anyway, I appreciate what he just told me there. Once I get a permit, I'm allowed to fish, I'm allowed to cut a bit of wood and it's very nice. Thank you very much.

2785

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you, sir.

2790

Madame Judith Roger.

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

Est-ce que je peux m'adresser en français?

2795

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

I think French is still in use in this province, yes. No problem. Pas de problème, madame Roger.

2800

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

Moi, je voudrais savoir, nous autres, on coupe du bois pour chauffer notre cabane, je voulais savoir si on peut utiliser du bois mort.

2805

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Vous êtes à l'intérieur des limites de la réserve proposée?

2810

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

Oui, oui, oui. On est dans la grosse partie verte, là.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

2815

Un des points rouges?

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

2820

Vous avez quasiment tout pris, tu sais. En tout cas. Ça fait que, là, est-ce qu'on a le droit de sortir du bois pour chauffer ici?

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

2825

Ah! Monsieur Beauchesne, est-ce qu'on peut aller là, couper du bois, le rapporter ici?

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

Parce qu'on chauffe au bois. Du bois sec, mort.

2830

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

On va commencer par du bois en général.

2835

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

Non, non, du bois sec.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

2840

Ah! Seulement du bois sec?

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

2845

Oui, oui, oui. On ne veut pas tuer rien, nous autres, déjà mort.

**M. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

2850

Oui. En fait, je peux répondre en français aussi?

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

2855

Oui, oui, oui. On traduira après s'il y a... if some of you don't understand the answer to the question, just ask me, I will translate afterwards.

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

Tout le monde comprend le français ici.

2860

**M. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

Donc, si tout le monde comprend le français, je vais répondre en français. Effectivement, quand on réfléchit au niveau de la coupe de bois, on parle surtout pour l'usage à l'intérieur de la réserve de biodiversité.

2865

Maintenant, quand il s'agit d'aller couper du bois puis de le ramener, par exemple, ici pour votre maison que vous avez ici...

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

2870

C'est ça qu'on fait maintenant.

**M. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

2875

Vous me dites que vous récoltez du bois mort. Donc, théoriquement, c'est du bois qui est là. Mais de façon stricte, là, puis on va peut-être être un petit peu embêtants avec ça, pour ce qui est de ramener à l'extérieur du territoire ou... de toute façon, c'est le même règlement partout, puis mon collègue, Sébastien Desrochers, pourra compléter sur les éléments de réponse en ce qui a trait au bois de chauffage sur les terres publiques.

2880

En fait, il faut obtenir aussi un permis pour aller chercher du bois de chauffage. Je pense que c'est en vertu de la Loi sur les forêts, Sébastien? Oui, c'est bien ça.

2885

Donc, théoriquement, oui, vous avez le droit mais, encore une fois, ça prend une autorisation pour aller chercher du bois sur une terre publique pour le ramener. Puis en vertu de ce permis-là, il y a un volume. Donc, il y a une quantité de bois que vous pouvez sortir là, que je ne connais pas.

2890

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

On peut demander un permis pour une réserve, dans cette réserve-là?

2895

**M. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

En fait, ça serait le même effectivement.

2900

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

Oui?

2905

**M. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

En fait, vous savez, il y a plusieurs lois qui peuvent se superposer. Nous, on s'arrange pour qu'il y ait une seule autorisation à faire en vertu de l'une ou l'autre des lois. On ne vous demandera pas demander quatre permis pour la même affaire. Ça fait que, ça, il va y avoir une coordination par rapport à ça.

2910

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

Non, non, non.

2915

**M. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

C'est pour votre usage personnel. Oui, c'est ça, il y a une autorisation à demander, mais elle relève du MRNF. Ça fait que pour le reste, je demanderais à Sébastien de répondre.

2920

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Donc, c'est la même autorisation que ce soit ou non à l'intérieur d'une réserve.

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

2925

Puis je voudrais savoir aussi, il faut légaliser les cabanes, il faut un permis pour ci et pour ça. Qui va surveiller tout ça?

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

2930

Pour les permis? Bien, ce n'est pas monsieur Desrochers, mais le ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune.

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

2935

Ils vont être présents ici sur place ou?

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

2940

Ils ont dit tout à l'heure que c'était au bureau de St. Augustine.

C'est ça? Oui? Non, monsieur Desrochers?

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

2945

Il n'y aura pas de gardien de ce parc-là? Je dis «parc», mais...

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

2950

Alors, qui va gérer les demandes de permis? Où est-ce qu'on adresse ça?

**M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

2955

Bien, les demandes de permis, on l'a mentionné tout à l'heure.

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

Mais je ne parle pas des demandes de permis.

2960

**M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

2965

Mais pour le contrôle, c'est le contrôle qui se fait actuellement qui va continuer à se faire et qui va se faire ponctuellement. Il n'y a pas de surveillance, puis là-dessus c'est peut-être une différence aussi avec les parcs nationaux, il n'y a pas une surveillance constante du territoire avec des gens comme les parcs nationaux. C'est une surveillance qui est un peu semblable à



ce qu'on vit actuellement...

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

2970 O.K.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

... selon l'état des connaissances, selon ce qu'on sait de l'utilisation du territoire.

2975

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

Puis je vois qu'il y a beaucoup de monde qui travaille là-dessus. Est-ce qu'il y a d'autres personnes qui travaillent aussi sur... on a entendu dire qu'il était pour peut-être avoir un dépotoir nucléaire en Basse-Côte-Nord. Est-ce qu'il y en a qui protègent ce terrain-là aussi ou...? Tu sais, c'est inquiétant, ça. On a entendu parler de ça.

2980

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

La question concerne un dépotoir nucléaire pour la Basse-Côte-Nord.

2985

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

Je sais que ça n'a pas rapport à ça, mais...

2990

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Oui, ça n'a absolument aucun rapport, sauf si le dépotoir était prévu dans la zone proposée.

2995

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

Oui, mais c'est la Basse-Côte-Nord quand même, là.

3000

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Oui, oui, je sais. Je vais permettre une réponse hyper courte là-dessus.

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

3005

Oui.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

3010 Mais je ne sais pas à qui je vais l'adresser. Je vais demander à monsieur Beauchesne, parce que si tu fais un dépotoir, il faut que tu aies un permis du ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs.

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

3015 O.K.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

3020 Mais je ne voudrais pas qu'on s'étende là-dessus ce soir, pas parce que la question n'est pas intéressante, mais c'est parce que ce n'est vraiment pas dans notre mandat.

Monsieur Beauchesne?

3025 **M. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

Oui, monsieur le président. Il y a deux éléments qui sont importants par rapport à l'implantation d'un site de cette nature-là.

3030 Évidemment, c'est assujéti à la Loi sur la qualité de l'environnement qui la loi majeure au niveau de ça. Fort probablement ça serait assujéti, monsieur le président, à un processus d'évaluation des impacts environnementaux. Donc, ça, c'est un large processus de consultation et, donc, qu'il devrait y avoir toutes les autorisations nécessaires en vertu de cette loi avant qu'un tel site ne soit implanté.

3035 Mais à notre connaissance et à l'heure actuelle de l'ensemble des informations qu'on a, on n'a pas d'informations qui nous permettent de préciser si une telle demande a été faite. À ma connaissance, c'est tout à fait nouveau.

3040 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Voilà.

**Mme JUDITH ROGER :**

3045 C'est tout.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

3050 Merci, Madame.

J'appelle maintenant monsieur Marius Lavallée. Il est parti? Je vais prendre un autre Lavallée, Perry Lavallée. Good evening.

3055 **Mr. PERRY LAVALLÉE :**

Good evening. I'm sure you know what Lower North Shore is like, there is not much work here and you are going to put a park to...

3060 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

It's not a park.

3065 **Mr. PERRY LAVALLÉE :**

Well, a biodiversity...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3070 Because the status is very different. It determines what you can and cannot do within it. So, biodiversity reserve.

**Mr. PERRY LAVALLÉE :**

3075 What I am saying is if somebody started mining, and it was feasible here, you would close it down because of that biodiversity park.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3080 I think, as we know stand tonight, it would be impossible to open a mine there. So, it will have to be closed because now, legally, you could not open a mine within that area, because once an area is proposed to become a biodiversity reserve, there is a ban, an immediate ban pending a final decision.

3085 If eventually the government determines that it will not become a biodiversity reserve, then someone could, if there is a potential, open a mine. But as of today, nobody can. So, you could not close it because it could not be started.

**Mr. PERRY LAVALLÉE :**

3090

But there may be a potential. Nobody says there's not, right?

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3095 We looked at that a bit tonight and we know that, based on the map, there is some potential, as Mr. Desrochers said.

**Mr. PERRY LAVALLÉE :**

3100 And I don't think...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3105 Monsieur Desrochers?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

3110 I said the map shows that there are not a lot of activities for exploration, for mining exploration around the biodiversity reserve.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

3115 **Mr. PERRY LAVALLÉE :**

What I was saying, from, say, from Old Fort to Blanc-Sablon, there is no work here. And if there is a possibility, I do not think we should have that park. That is a no-no.

3120 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

**Mr. PERRY LAVALLÉE :**

3125 We are not destroying the flowers, whatever. We have been over this for... we have been in trails for years and they are still there, nothing hurt.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3130 So, we register your comment and your view. Another point or a question?

**Mr. PERRY LAVALLÉE :**

3135 No, that's it.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

3140

**Mr. PERRY LAVALLÉE :**

Very strong against it.

3145

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you.

Est-ce que monsieur Marius Lavallée est revenu? Il est parti.

3150

Monsieur Jerry Landry?

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

3155

Bonsoir, monsieur le président.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

3160

Bonsoir, monsieur Landry. Est-ce que vous allez nous parler français? On vient d'apprendre que tout le monde ici parle français mais ils nous ont fait parler anglais toute la soirée.

Non?

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

3165

Je vais parler en anglais, puis ce que je ne suis pas capable de dire en anglais, je vais le dire en français.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

3170

Parfait, ça me va.

**Mr. JERRY LANDRY :**

3175

I want to come back on unregistered cabins in Guernesé. You said that we could phone tomorrow morning and register. Parce que j'ai essayé dans le passé pour enregistrer ma cabane, puis je n'étais pas capable à cause du plan de la réserve de biodiversité. Puis là, vous dites que demain matin si j'appelle Lionel Beaudoin, Terre et Forêt, je suis capable. Monsieur Lionel Beaudoin, c'est ça?

3180 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Monsieur Landry, un instant.

3185 **M. JERRY LANDRY :**

Oui.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

3190 Monsieur Desrochers?

**M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Je peux répondre en français?

3195

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

Je parle pour la majorité du monde ici, là.

3200 **M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Mais je vais le faire en français, puis je peux le faire en anglais pour être sûr que ça soit bien compris, parce que c'est un point important, mon français étant plus compréhensible.

3205

Ce que j'ai dit, c'est que, à partir du moment où on a connaissance qu'il y a des abris sommaires ou des constructions sur le territoire qui sont non enregistrés, on va demander à ces gens-là de s'enregistrer. Et là, on a connaissance, par rapport aux inventaires qui ont été faits en 2006, on a connaissance d'une trentaine.

3210

Ce qui est important de comprendre, puis peut-être pour vous autres, ça ne fera pas une grande différence, c'est que dans le temps où les demandes vont être analysées, parce que vos demandes vont pouvoir être faites, pendant ce temps-là il va avoir des actes administratifs qui vont être faits pour pouvoir permettre de nouvelles constructions, mais je ne veux pas rentrer trop dans le détail pour ça.

3215

Ce qui est important pour vous, c'est que, pendant les quelques mois où l'analyse doit se faire, parce que la consultation autochtone, l'analyse avec les outils de planification dont nous avons actuellement, donc ce n'est pas demain matin que l'autorisation va pouvoir être donnée, mais dès demain vous allez pouvoir faire une demande, formuler une demande pour avoir le droit sur votre territoire.

3220

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

Est-ce qu'il y a des formulaires pour ça?

3225

**M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Oui. Ça, en contactant monsieur Beaudoin, ils vont pouvoir... si vous voulez le numéro, j'ai même le numéro.

3230

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

Ah! J'ai le numéro. C'est parce que j'ai été refusé dans le passé, puis...

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**M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

C'est que, dans le passé, c'était effectivement pas permis d'avoir...

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

3240

C'est ça.

**M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

3245

... de droits dans ce territoire-là. Mais la décision qui a été prise, c'est de permettre l'émission de droits pour ceux qui sont actuellement construits.

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

3250

O.K.

**M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Donc, de donner des droits pour ces personnes-là.

3255

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

Une autre question là-dessus.

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**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Monsieur Landry, vous adressez la question à moi.

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

3265

Oui, oui, pardon.

**M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

3270

Mais je n'avais peut-être pas terminé, monsieur le président.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

3275

Oui, monsieur Desrochers, allez-y.

**M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

3280

Il faut comprendre aussi, puis c'est la raison pour laquelle j'ai voulu faire mon intervention en français, c'est pour être sûr que les gens comprennent que ce n'est pas parce qu'il y a actuellement des bâtiments à l'intérieur de ces limites-là qui ont été identifiés comme étant des occupants sans droit, qu'ils vont pouvoir être régularisés.

3285

Il va falloir que ça respecte la réglementation comme s'il n'avait pas été construit et il faisait une demande. Donc, nous, on va dire, le ministère va l'analyser, il va dire: «Bon, bien, compte tenu des critères que nous avons pour spécifiquement ce territoire-là, est-ce qu'il aurait pu être construit à cet endroit-là.»

3290

Donc, sur la trentaine de territoires, la majorité respecte, selon les analyses que nous avons faites actuellement, respecte les critères.

3295

L'autre chose, c'est la consultation avec les Autochtones. Ça, c'est l'autre élément qu'il faut prendre en compte. Donc, à terme, la majorité va pouvoir être régularisée mais...

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

3300

Donc, présentement, vous avez déjà un aperçu où est-ce que tous les chalets ou les cabanes sont présentement. Donc, ça sera plus facile de pouvoir appeler Lionel Beaudoin, puis dire: «O.K., moi, c'est Jerry Landry. Ma cabane, c'est telle, à telle place.» Donc, eux autres, ils ont les photos, ils ont tout ce qu'il faut pour pouvoir procéder puis légaliser ça le plus vite possible aussi là.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

3305

Disons que...



**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

Bien, ça doit, ils sont tous là-dessus, sur le plan.

3310 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Analyser le plus vite possible...

3315 **M. JERRY LANDRY :**

Oui.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

3320 ... parce qu'il a quand même dit que ce n'est pas automatique qu'elle sera légalisée.

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

Ah oui! Je le sais, ça.

3325

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

D'accord.

3330 **M. JERRY LANDRY :**

Ça, il n'y a pas de problème, parce que je le sais par rapport dans le passé, il fallait fournir des petits plans, la région, tel degré sud, tel degré nord. Là, présentement, on peut seulement dire notre nom, puis la région, puis...

3335

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Bien, peut-être que ça ne sera pas aussi simple, là, monsieur Landry. Peut-être qu'il va falloir donner un peu plus d'information.

3340

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

Oui, seulement localiser ça par GPS sûrement.

3345

Puis mon autre question, c'est si jamais ça venait à être légalisé notre cabane, est-ce que vous allez procéder comme ça se fait maintenant? Est-ce qu'on peut acheter le terrain ou bien ça va être loué?

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

3350

Monsieur Desrochers, est-ce que les gens peuvent acheter ce terrain ou ils ne peuvent que le louer?

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

3355

Ou ça va être un droit acquis, là.

**M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

3360

Ce qui est regardé pour l'instant, c'est de la location de terrains. Il n'y a pas d'orientation pour l'instant, là, à court terme d'avoir de ventes de terrains dans ces secteurs-là. C'est de la location qui va être faite avec un bail annuel renouvelable automatiquement si les conditions sont respectées.

3365

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

Parce que, présentement, la méthode de location du ministère, c'est: «O.K., on vous loue le terrain.» Bien, dans cinq ans d'ici: «Bien, monsieur, vous avez un an pour déménager.» C'est ça la politique présentement s'ils veulent nous faire déménager, là.

3370

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Monsieur Desrochers?

3375

**M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Dans une situation où on offre aux gens de faire une demande de droit, évidemment, ce n'est pas pour demander qu'ils se déplacent dans quelques années.

3380

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

Non, mais ça a déjà été dit parce que j'ai déjà fait une demande. C'est qu'on a un permis, mais le ministère se réserve le droit, s'il y a de futurs développements ou si on décide de faire d'autre chose: «On vous donne un an, puis soit vous déménagez ou bien on brûle la cabane.»

3385

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Bien, monsieur Landry, je pense que la loi doit être la même un petit peu partout au Québec.

3390

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

Mais vu que c'est une biodiversité puis il y a des règlements qui s'appliquent là.

3395 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Bien, c'est parce que voyez-vous, ça me semble, moi, que ça serait un peu contradictoire que, sur une réserve de biodiversité, on puisse obtenir des droits à perpétuité alors que, quand ce n'est pas une réserve, on ne peut pas. Ça serait un petit peu étrange.

3400

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

Je ne sais pas, mais il me semble que...

3405 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Je pense que c'est la même loi qui doit s'appliquer un peu partout au Québec, monsieur Desrochers?

3410 **M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Oui.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

3415

Et qu'il y a toujours une possibilité un jour qu'un gouvernement change d'idée. On a déjà vu ça dans le passé.

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

3420

On exproprie dans ce temps-là.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

3425

Monsieur Desrochers?

**M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

3430

Bien, vous avez bien résumé la situation, c'est-à-dire qu'à partir du moment que c'est des terres publiques qui sont louées, l'État évidemment se réserve toujours le droit pour un autre usage, puis avec les justifications nécessaires là.

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

3435 Okay.

**M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

3440 Mais dans le cas d'une réserve de biodiversité, les autres usages sont très limités. On a indiqué tout à l'heure qu'il n'y aurait pas de projets hydroélectriques, il n'y aurait pas de mines. Ça vient aussi dans ce contexte-là, c'est-à-dire que les autres usages étant très limités, les raisons de demander de révoquer votre bail sont aussi limitées là.

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

3445 Puis une dernière question. Advenant que nos cabanes soient enregistrées, est-ce qu'on a le droit de faire une pourvoirie avec ou un chalet pour des touristes, des affaires de même?

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

3450 Alors, il y a déjà des pourvoiries ou il y en a au moins une, je pense, à rivière Saint-Paul une pourvoirie. Est-ce que, monsieur Beauchesne, quelqu'un peut décider d'ouvrir une nouvelle pourvoirie à l'intérieur d'une réserve de biodiversité?

3455 Is it okay in French so far? Not really? The question is : can someone decide to set up a new pourvoirie, fishing club, commercial operation to fish and hunt.

**Mr. JERRY LANDRY :**

3460 It's good for the tourists.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3465 Okay.

**Mr. JERRY LANDRY :**

If I get a shack there or a cabin, can I use it for tourists.

3470 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Monsieur Beauchesne?

**Mr. JERRY LANDRY :**

3475

Commercial use.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3480

Monsieur Beauchesne?

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

3485

Est-ce que je suis capable d'amener cinq ou six touristes en skidoo, puis dire... c'est commercial un peu dans le fond.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

3490

Oui.

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

3495

Since you will be in the biodiversity reserve, the conservation plan prévoit the possibility to do some...

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

«Prévoit», vous dites?

3500

**M. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

Oui, prévoit. Donc ...

**M. JERRY LANDRY :**

3505

Pas «prevent», prévoit.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

3510

Prévoit.

**M. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

3515

Non, pas «interdit», c'est prévoit.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Not forecast, but it theoretically at least allows for.

3520 **Mr. JERRY LANDRY :**

Yes, allows for, okay.

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

3525

Okay, let's take that word, that some commercial activities can be allowed.

**Mr. JERRY LANDRY :**

3530

Okay.

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

3535 They have to be included in the conservation plan. So, for our parts that those kinds of commercial activities are in a sense or they go in the same way than the objective of protection of biodiversity, there is no problem. That is the first part of the answer.

3540 About the outfitting service that you want to give, if that outfitting includes some fishing or hunting, that should be, I guess, under the responsibility of the MNRF. So, in our parts, we can give a permit or we can allow you to instaure some commercial activities, but since it's the wildlife hunting and ces choses-là, you have to refer to the...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3545 Monsieur Landry, I have a feeling that the permit you will be given for your shack may not be the kind of permit you need for hunting and fishing commercial operation.

Monsieur Desrochers?

3550 **Mr. JERRY LANDRY :**

Yes, there is hunting and fishing and there is also like tourism, bring tourists for skidoo riding and just sleep overnight and go back.

3555 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Mr. Desrochers, do these things require permits or not?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

3560

There are different permits for that. The land right for your cabin, it is for personal use.

**Mr. JERRY LANDRY :**

3565

Personal use to start with, yes.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

3570

If you want to make commercial activity for just show the animals and everything, but if you want to make some activities of fishing and hunting, the outfitting activities, it is a very different permit. And we are going to see if that situation is possible to have another outfitter in that country.

**Mr. JERRY LANDRY :**

3575

So, okay, thank you very much. Merci, monsieur le président.

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

3580

Merci, monsieur Landry.

Monsieur Marius Lavallée.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

3585

Hello!

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3590

Good evening. Bonsoir.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

3595

I will say in English.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

No problem.

3600 **Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

I have a question to ask. He said there just now that you can register your chalet. And I've got a cabin, I've got a chalet.

3605 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

And I guess it's not registered, otherwise you...

3610 **Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

No.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3615 You wouldn't worry about it.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

3620 No. And he said you have to register. I tried to register two years ago and everything was froze.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes.

3625

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

Since when did it start to open up that we can register our chalets?

3630 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Mr. Desrochers has answered this a couple of times.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

3635

But he said it in French, I didn't...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3640 So, in English please, Mr. Desrochers, about registering those chalets up there that are all pink. Is this the only color of paint allowed in a biodiversity reserve?



**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

3645 Like I said before, from now, it is going to be possible for all the people who have a cabin  
right now to have a land right. So, you can ask at the local office of St. Augustine to have a land  
right. And as I said before, when you are going to ask it, we are going to analyze it and be sure  
before we grant you the lease, two points, be sure that it is conform to the orientation of the large  
planification and we are going to ask the Natives if it is correct with them to...

3650

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

Who do you mean Natives? Like the Indians or Inuits?

3655

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Innus.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

3660

Innus. So, I don't have to register my cabin, my chalet. I'm Inuit.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3665

You're Inuit or Innu?

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

Both, everything.

3670

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

And you have a French name and you speak English.

3675

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3680

You're a perfect Canadian then.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

3685

Yes. That's why I'm on the border. But what is the...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, if you're a Native, you're going to be...

3690

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

You're going to agree with that. And what is the restriction for the cabin, the chalet from the pond? How far are you supposed to be?

3695

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

From the pond? From a lake, or a pond, or a...

3700

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

My chalet is twenty feet from the pond. I can't go no higher. I am up the hill twenty feet.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3705

Okay.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

3710

Everybody built beside the lake. Some are only five feet from it. The restriction from them is a hundred feet, I think.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3715

Monsieur Desrochers, are there...

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

3720

We are all going to have to move on the other side of the Capannan. That is the only place that's got a flat land, but we are not allowed to build no more.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3725

Okay.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

But we are allowed to transport it.

3730 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Mr. Desrochers?

3735 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

I don't have tonight all the specification to build a camp, but I am sure Mr. Beaudoin will give you all the information.

3740 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Mr. Desrochers, is this something that you could put in writing, these elements of regulations and submit it to this Commission as one of the documents that would be part of the list of documents that will be sent to this repository as well as all the others?

3745 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Yes.

3750 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

So we will have a copy of things like where you can build and where you cannot, and what is in existence now. It will be in writing and it will be available here as well as in the other places I have named earlier tonight.

3755 **Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

Because all the pink cabins, as you say, in there, they're all maximum twenty, thirty feet from the pond.

3760 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes.

3765 **Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

So that means we're all going to have to move.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3770 Maybe not. If there is no rule against that, it will be okay, I don't know.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

You've got to be a hundred feet from the pond.

3775

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes.

3780

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

Because I've got a chalet, I've got five of them, and I'm there all winter. And I've got to be a hundred feet from the pond. So, that means we're all going to have to move in there.

3785

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

But Mr. Desrochers will submit a list of restrictions like that, and rules, and what you can, and what you cannot do as of today.

3790

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

You showed a picture in the book there. There's one white cabin on the point there.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3795

That's one of yours?

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

3800

That's mine.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

One of the five?

3805

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

Yes, that's one.

3810

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

3815

So, I've got to move it. So, what's the point to register? Why I'm going to register it? I've got to go look for another piece of land.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3820

Mr. Desrochers, you will submit to this Commission a list of the rules as they apply today and it will be available here.

3825

You can read it, consult it and determine whether or not you think that, on the basis of those rules, your shack or your five shacks are or not acceptable to the Ministry. And eventually when you apply for legalization, there will be an exchange between the Department and yourself on the basis on those.

3830

Mr. Desrochers?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

3835

Yes. I just want to be clear that we are not going to produce a document that people can know right now if they are going to be accepted or not.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3840

Yes.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

We are going to produce some simple rules, general rules.

3845

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

3850

And then it is important to say that all the demands are going to... it is cas par cas.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3855

On a case by case basis. Everyone will be examine on its own merit.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

Okay. I've got one more question.

3860 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes, sure.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

3865

When you said just now, he said that you're going to have to ask the Natives that it's okay for us to be there or whatever, okay? So, me, they solve my problem very fast, because I go see my friend and I put the cabin in his name. I can do that.

3870 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

3875

So, the Indians are allowed to be there.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3880 But I thought you said you were Innu yourself.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

Yes.

3885

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Not anymore?

3890 **Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

Not anymore.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3895

Okay.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

3900 But when you talk on the phone, you can say anything.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3905 Yes.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

You don't see the fellow.

3910 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Well...

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

3915 What I'm saying, so if I put my cabin to an Indian there and they're going to say, «That's his», what are you going to do?

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3920 Okay.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

3925 So, I'm okay where I'm at.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3930 Mr. Lavallée, I am not going to enter into this playing games.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

Okay. No problem, just asking.

3935 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you.

Monsieur Dawson Osbourne.

3940

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

Good evening.

3945 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Good evening, Mr. Osbourne.

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

3950

The first question I am going to start with is that it was specifically told to the previous Municipal Council that regardless of what Natural Resources had to say, that mining resources could and would overrule them such thing anything was found inside of here.

3955 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

I was not there at that...

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

3960

I realize you were not there.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3965 So, I cannot say I agree or I don't agree.

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

Is that still the standing case?

3970

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

3975 What I know, on the basis of what we have read in these documents and on the basis of what was said both Monday and tonight, is that once an area is set aside as a proposed biodiversity reserve, there are no possibility of mining.

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

I understand that, but the people that came to present this project in the first place...

3980

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

In 2000 and ...?



3985 **Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

2001, possibly.

3990 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Mr. Beauchesne, is it true that it was only in 2002 that mining rights were forbidden in such an area? Mr. Beauchesne?

3995 **Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

I am surprised that it is in 2001, because those projects were not on the table at that time. In 2001, it was the Harrington Harbour Park. The Heritage Conservation Act was adopted in 2002, December 2002.

4000 **Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

4005 It was being discussed at the same time as the Harrington project. And it was specifically told by the people that presented the project to us, as Municipal Councillor, at that time that regardless of what natural environment... Natural Resources had to say about the protection, that they could cut out... the Natural Resources could pick out any area at all and mining resources can come in and disregard, no matter what it says, and take that land over for mining purposes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4010 Mr. Osbourne...

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

Yes, sir.

4015

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

... you are addressing your comments to me. And as I said, I don't know what was said at that time. Maybe you could provide something in writing as the minutes of that meeting maybe?

4020

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

Yes.

4025 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

But I don't think it would change what is...

4030 **Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

No, but I am wondering if that is a standing issue.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4035 No, it's...

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

The law has been changed since.

4040

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

I don't know when it was changed.

4045

Mr. Beauchesne, when was it agreed by the government or your Department that a proposed biodiversity reserve, that within this area, there would be no mining, no industrial forestry and no hydro power development?

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

4050

It was agreed when the law was adopted in December 2002.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4055

So, since December 2002, it is no longer possible to mine within biodiversity reserves or within proposed biodiversity reserves.

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

4060

I understand, but it is not quite what I was saying. What I was saying is that they specifically said that, at that time, it would not be allowed, but regardless of whether it would be allowed or not, that Mines and Resources would disregard any word of Natural Resources.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4065

Mr. Desrochers, will your Department disregard this restriction or not?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

4070 Yes. By the time the law is adopted, the government is... that is what they provide.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4075 So, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Faune...

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

Wildlife, wildlife.

4080 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

... Wildlife has to abide by this restriction as well. They could not on their own say, «We don't agree with this and we are going to mine anyway.» That is an impossibility.

4085 **Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

So, in regards to trails, another question, you are saying that specific trails have to be registered and what not. What about people passing outside of those trails?

4090 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

4095 There won't be any problem passing anywhere at all? How about...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4100 Movement of people, or skidoos, or VTTs within a biodiversity reserve, does it have to be restricted to accepted trails or how does it work on a day-to-day basis?

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

4105 It doesn't have to be marked?

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4110 Yes.

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

I can only go straight this way?

4115 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes. Mr. Beauchesne is going to consult with his colleagues and then we will come up with an answer. That is what is good about BAPE hearings, is that you do get answers and it is part of the record, and you can refer back to it.

4120

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

As long as they're straight records, it's wonderful.

4125 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

As long as...?

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

4130

As long as they are understanding, meaningful answers, it is wonderful.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4135

We sure hope they are. Otherwise, we wouldn't be here.

The issue of trails, Mr. Beauchesne, of people within a biodiversity reserve.

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

4140

What we want to have a look at is major trails which there was... I will take a citizen term, where there is some traffic on it. And those trails may be those who would have some potential impacts on ecosystem with erosion process, with for instance repeated passage of ATVs and stuff like that.

4145

For punctual circulation to go to point A to B, or B to C, or whatever, we won't have and we couldn't manage that with a close eye. So, we want to have a look to trails with... sort of will be permanent in the territory, main access and stuff like that. But we won't interdire...

4150 **Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

You won't have a satellite up there watching everybody.

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

4155

Yes, to watching every skidoos and which would be circulating on the land. But for skidoos, there is no problem, you circulate in the snow. And in the summertime or printemps, there was no trace. Trails or major... summer trails where there is circulation on the land.

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

4160

I have one final question. Who will be observing the protection of this area that is being designated?

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4165

So, that is part of management of the conservation plan and all that.

I think, Mr. Beauchesne, that should be clear in the minds of those present here what is the conservation plan? Who decides on it? Who manages the reserve? Who says this can be done, this cannot be done? How will it all come about?

4170

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

4175

Because we are talking about, what is it? 2, 000 square kilometers? Exactly. You need more than one forest ranger for that area.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4180

Job creation.

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

4185

Job creation, yes, but it has already been said...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes, yes.

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

4190

... zero!

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4195

Mr. Beauchesne?

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

4200           There is two steps for that answer. The first one is the conservation plan. The conservation plan talks about the major orientation that we want to implement in that territory. And for more precise theme or activities, we talk about an action plan.

4205           And for the management overlook and surveillance for the territory, you are right, at that time, if you ask the Commission which will be the means and the budget to assure that the territory is surveillé in a proper way, we just have to answer that we will put the same effort now that is done actually. Maybe you can say that is not enough, maybe it's too much, I don't know.

4210           In the action plan, we will have to identify the tools, the means and the budget that will be allotted to increment those parts of la gestion du territoire. And we want to associate the local partners and people that use that territory. You will be probably the best partners that we have, because you are in the territory much more than us which are working in Quebec or elsewhere in the province.

4215           So, it is important to us to associate local partners in that project, that you will be our eyes on the territory to say there is maybe some problems there and stuff like that. So, action plan. And there is some time in front of us to develop those kinds of tools that will be able to help us to manage the territory probably within the objective that we want to attain.

4220           **THE CHAIRMAN :**

          Mr. Osbourne, okay?

**Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

4225           Yes. Well, I think it would have been much simpler to place the biodiversity into an area which isn't being used by anybody, which means that there is lots of area in northern part of Quebec.

4230           And that the flowers, in regards to rare flowers, we have rare flowers just growing on Mont Parent hill just locally here. And it's partly because of the traffic that's been passing over that area that they has been able to grow more than ever.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4235           Let me just comment on this, that there are areas that have been set aside in the north to be biodiversity reserves as well. I think the idea is to have every part of the province being represented in this network of biodiversity reserves.

4240 **Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

But it doesn't need to take all of our area.

4245 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

The other thing I was going to comment on is there are not anymore that many places where nobody goes these days. It is very difficult. Wherever we go, we find that there are trails, that there are people using this territory and that one in different ways, either going with airplanes, or trails, or...

4250 **Mr. DAWSON OSBOURNE :**

Yes. Well, somebody was disturbing the wildlife in there when they went in with the helicopter to check out all the cabins that was in there.

4255 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you, Mr. Osbourne.

4260 We will have a short five to ten minute-break and then we will come back with two more people who have written their names down on the register.

**SUSPENSION OF THE HEARING**

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4265 **CONTINUATION OF THE HEARING**

**LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Alors, je vais maintenant appeler monsieur Jules Willcott.

4270 **Mr. JULES WILLCOTT :**

Good evening.

4275 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Good evening, sir.

4280 **Mr. JULES WILLCOTT :**

I do not agree with what you have proposed.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4285 Can you get closer to the microphone please?

**Mr. JULES WILLCOTT :**

4290 I do not agree with what you propose because of the mining restrictions, okay? But I do suggest to you that if you would like an area that has... maybe where you can do something like this, is in zone 19 north, if you know what I mean.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4295 The zone 19 north?

**Mr. JULES WILLCOTT :**

4300 Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

You will have to explain that one to me.

4305 **Mr. JULES WILLCOTT :**

Maybe you can ask one of the wildlife officers.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4310 One of the wildlife officers knows? Mr. Joncas, do you know what zone 19 north is?

**Mr. CHAD JONCAS :**

4315 Well, the zone that Quebec and Labrador is supposedly fighting over and, on our side, there's no hunting. It is a zone that you are not allowed to do anything in.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4320 So, that's the gray zone...

**Mr. CHAD JONCAS :**

4325 The gray zone, exactly.



**THE CHAIRMAN :**

... in other words that Mr. Joncas was referring to earlier.

4330 **Mr. CHAD JONCAS :**

Exactly.

**Mr. JULES WILLCOTT :**

4335

I suggest that you use that area, because it doesn't seem like anybody can come to a compromise on the territory. So, I would suggest that that would be a good ideal place for a park.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4340

So, get together with the Newfoundland government and...

**Mr. JULES WILLCOTT :**

4345

And do something, yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4350

... determine that it will be a biodiversity reserve.

**Mr. JULES WILLCOTT :**

4355

I really do think that would be an ideal place. And you can use both sides as a border, if you want to do it that way.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

4360

**Mr. JULES WILLCOTT :**

Okay?

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4365

Yes. Thank you, sir.

**Mr. JULES WILLCOTT :**

4370 And also...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4375 Another question or comment?

**Mr. JULES WILLCOTT :**

4380 Yes, I do. If you do go ahead with the proposal that is on the table, I would like to see more wildlife officers or somebody controlling the area, because if you come up with all the rules and regulations that looks like is going to come with this, we need somebody to protect the area and to give us access to the area, if possible.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4385 You mean...

**Mr. JULES WILLCOTT :**

4390 More access.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

More access like a road or something?

4395 **Mr. JULES WILLCOTT :**

Even if it means you have to build a road that can be used by trail bike or whatever, at least to give us an access that is worthwhile.

4400 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Mr. Beauchesne, policing the biodiversity reserves, is there an intent to hire wildlife officers or any other type of patrol.

4405 **Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

4410 Mr. President, about the surveillance managing of those territories, I can say at the moment that there is a working committee which is producing some directing guidelines about managing. In those guidelines, there are some proposals for budget disponibilities to increase and for the implementation of a good management of that territory.

4415 We hope that it will be possible to establish some local partnership to make sure that those surveillance of the territory is possible. I think that we will have to be imaginative about the means that we will increment to assure a good surveillance. A wildlife officer is one of those means. We can also, I think, imagine other formulas for those things.

4420 On our side, for the ministère de Développement, Environnement et Parcs, we already have some officers attached to what we call the Centre de contrôle en environnement du Québec. Those are officials that can apply the réglementation. So, it will be a multiple... Je vais le dire en français, je m'excuse, je n'ai pas les mots là.

**M. JULES WILLCOTT :**

4425 Oui, oui, pas de problème.

**M. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

4430 Donc, il va falloir être imaginatifs sur les moyens qu'on veut mettre en place. Mais, effectivement, l'issue majeure, c'est l'issue budgétaire.

**M. JULES WILLCOTT :**

Okay.

4435 **M. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

4440 Ce que je peux vous dire aujourd'hui, c'est que, effectivement, il y a des propositions qui sont montées au gouvernement pour avoir des décisions qui vont nous aider justement à mettre en place ces modes de gestion-là.

4445 Je vous dirais que le premier issue, là, de la stratégie, c'est de créer les aires protégées mais, parallèlement à ça, on est en train de montrer le code de gestion puis les disponibilités financières. Ça, heureusement ou malheureusement, c'est des décisions qu'on doit proposer à nos autorités politiques pour voir qu'est-ce qu'il va être décidé de ce côté-là.

4450 C'est pour ça qu'il faut imaginer des façons qu'on va être capables de gérer le territoire avec les moyens qu'on a, d'associer les gens sur place, de penser à des façons plus flexibles, plus souples sans nécessairement aller... mais je comprends que l'application réglementaire, ça relève du gouvernement et on prendra les responsabilités qui reviennent par rapport à ça.

Mais je suis très sensible, parce que c'est une recommandation qu'on se fait noter à chaque fois qu'on rencontre des gens. C'est beau de protéger du territoire, mais c'est comme les limites de vitesse sur la route, on a une limite, mais s'il n'y a pas personne pour la faire

respecter, on comprend bien le principe.

4455

**Mr. JULES WILLCOTT :**

Mr. President, maybe if they cannot handle the way of managing the area on the coast, because it's so remote, maybe they can take some information from Labrador and Newfoundland in that place, because they do a hell of a good management of their own territory. And I think it would be a good example for them to take a look at it.

4460

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you.

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**Mr. JULES WILLCOTT :**

Okay.

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**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you, sir.

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I have four more persons who want to ask questions or make a comment. Monsieur Armand Joncas. Rebonsoir, monsieur Joncas.

**M. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Bonsoir. Now as the president of the Métis Nation of Blanc-Sablon, we have a corporation, you know, in Blanc-Sablon that have 300 members or more now and we are all métis. And what we know now, about 75 % or 80 % of the population in our area and all along the Lower North Shore are either métis Inuit or métis Indians.

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So, I know that you are considering the Innus as autochtones, but according to Article 35, Section 2 of the federal law, we have the same rights of those Métis. So, we are occupying that land just as long as them, okay?

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So, if the Natural Resources is going to give them some particular rights, we would like that they think to give us the same rights in those biodiversity places. Because, you know, we have the same rights.

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We met Mr. Kelly when he was here with Jean Charest in the month of July and we told him that we weren't going to give up on our rights, because we are fighting for our territory too, you know? And just that we want that the BAPE takes that into consideration that there is more than the Innus on Lower North Shore, there is the Métis Nation that is coming and fighting their

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rights too for those areas.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4500

It has all been recorded and it will be in the transcriptions.

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

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Yes. And we are planning to deposit a brief at your next presence on Lower North Shore.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you.

4510

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

4515 Another thing, you know, in the area that we are talking about, you know, that purple area or pink, whatever you call it, I don't know how they are going to sort that out. There going to have to be somebody from the Natural Resources to go in there. Because you are on the border of that gray zone too, you know, you are on the border of Quebec and Labrador, in order to determine who is really in Quebec with his cottage and who is really in Newfoundland.

4520 So, this is a really occupied area, but let's hope that the Natural Resources, before they move on something, they make sure they are doing something to the right place. And as Mr. Willcott said, this is another place where the gray zone law is going to apply.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4525

Okay.

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Okay?

4530

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you, sir.

4535

Monsieur Michel Beaudoin.

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

Good day.

4540

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Good evening, Mr. Beaudoin.

4545

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

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Good evening. Me, I'm going to talk about the trail. I have a snow machine since three years and I have 15,000 kilometers. So, I know the trail a little bit. And the trail we have is... talking about trail, I went last week right to the border and it took me two days. So, if somebody goes that way and it is not very good after ten or twenty people passed there, he's going to go ten feet that way. The next one after twenty-five, thirty times passing there, he's going to go there, and the same thing on the other side.

4555

In the winter, there's no problem to go in a skidoo on the snow, but when comes the spring, we go geese hunting which is not allowed, but still. We go geese hunting. So, when we come in the spring, oh! there's a little river there. Some people go right across, like I do. I don't mind, I go straight. But not more people go on the barrens, you know? So, pass on the barrens there, another pass there and another one pass there.

4560

So, if the little flowers are so important, you know, you've got to protect the flowers. And the government needs that land for the 8 % like you were saying, right? The 8% of the territory. So, if ever that thing goes ahead, I hope you have in mind to make some trail, like 2007 trail. You know what I mean?

4565

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

You mean a permanent trail that...

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**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

A trail at least from... goes right across the border...

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**THE CHAIRMAN :**

From here to the border?

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**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

Yes. If you want to protect the little flower there, you have to make some place that we can pass there. Otherwise, we're going to pass there, and next fellow is going to pass there, and all around the mountain.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4585           What is the purpose of going to the border?

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

4590           Well, I mean...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

              Why do you go to the border?

4595           **Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

              Because it's farther away. It's farther away. I'm not going to go to the airport for a ride, you know.

4600           **THE CHAIRMAN :**

              But why not across the border and keep going?

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

4605           I'm not going to go on there, because I'm going to get you lost. I can't tell you where I go, you will be lost completely.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4610           Okay.

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

4615           So, if it is so important to the government to get that land and it is so important to preserve those little flowers, so there shouldn't be no problem, if that project goes ahead, to have a beautiful trail.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4620           Let me get a comment from the...

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

4625           I mean a real trail. I'm not talking about a piece of wood.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

I understand.

4630

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

I'm talking about a trail.

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**THE CHAIRMAN :**

I understand.

Mr. Beauchesne, is there something that would be done, could be done or...

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**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

Got to be done. Got to be done or otherwise forget the flowers.

4645

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

I am happy to see that you like flowers as much as me.

4650

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

I like flowers, all kind of flowers.

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

4655

Thanks. I think that what you talk about is what is the main objective of the...

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

Yes.

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**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

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... of what we pursue. When we said that we want to authorize some trails, the kind of trail you talk about is exactly what we mean, not the, I would say, third or fourth range trails, but those are main trails which are used by most of people.

It is one of our preoccupations. That is why we want to establish those trails network with people of the place, you actually who use those kinds of... And you make trails for snowmobiles



or...?

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**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

Snowmobile is no problem in the winter, but when come the spring, a lot of people go in the spring. So, that's where the flowers come involved, right?

4675

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

Yes.

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**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

That's where the flowers. So, the trails have got to be made...

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

4685

And I guess here is from the 1st of June till the 24th of June?

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

4690

No, no, before June. Mother's Day. Everybody comes here in the country for Mother's Day.

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

4695

You were talking about water courses crossing.

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

Yes, little ones, but...

4700

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

Well, little ones are as important as larger ones, I guess.

4705

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

There's no large one there.

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

4710

No?

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

4715 Not really.

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

4720 So, you're right, if we can establish some permanent trails which minimize impacts on soil or water quality, water habitat or ecosystem, stuff like that, these are the kinds of things that we want to include in the action plan.

4725 How many kilometers of trail we will be able to establish in a time frame of one, two, three years, it will depend on the budget. It will depend on how many efforts we will be able to establish that kind of thing. But we pursue the same objective about the conservation of the ecosystem.

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

4730 No problem. So, you're going to have money for that, right?

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Mr. Beaudoin, we have a complement from Mr. Desrochers.

4735 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

You know, I just want to ask something. Is it possible for you to just identify on the map if there is a spot you are going most often than other?

4740 **Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

Well, there's not too many spots. There's two spots.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

4745 Where is it?

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

4750 Where...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Could you hold on a second? Monsieur Beaudoin, show us.

4755 **Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

The trails? I'm using the trail. The trail leaves there and it goes there.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

4760

Yes, but you mean you're going...

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

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Some goes there, some goes there, some goes there.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

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But you mean you're going almost in the pink spot.

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

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The main spot, yes. This is the main trail. Before, there was no ATV. Now, it's getting more, and more, and more ATV. If you'd go with a plane and look down, you're not going to see one track. You're going to see like twenty-five tracks, because there's no trail.

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

4780

And may I ask another one?

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Mr. Desrochers, yes, you can ask your question.

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**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Is it the same situation on the rest of the territory?

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

4790

No, no, no, no, no. They got no trails to go in the river or...

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

4795

Okay.

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

So, that's it. Thank you.

4800

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you, Mr. Beaudoin.

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Monsieur Beauchesne?

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

Mr. President, I would like to know if it's possible to have an estimation of those hot spots of problems, erosion problems or transgression of... is it a major problem for the precedent intervenant or is it some local preoccupation? Just to have an idea of the kind of investment that we would have to do.

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**THE CHAIRMAN :**

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So, you want to know a bit more about where the trails are or these trails end up being twenty or twenty-five?

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

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The problem now is the...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

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Mr. Joncas?

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

The problem is the VTTs here...

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**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes.

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**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

... where they're going all over the land. And due that there's not a permanent trail, when the land is no good at one place, they move over. And when the land is no good, nobody wants to get stuck there.

4840

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes.

4845

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

So he makes his own trail.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

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We understood that. Now, Mr. Beauchesne wants to know within what portion of the proposed reserve is this happening. Is it just in that eastern point of it, eastern part of the proposed reserve or is it elsewhere as well? That is the question.

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**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Well, where the land is suitable for VTT to go to.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

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Yes, that makes sense.

Mr. Beaudoin?

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**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

The yellow spot you've got there with the round around there...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

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Mr. Beaudoin, would you come to the microphone? Because that it is the only way we can record what you are saying.

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

4875

Oh! Okay. I will start over. The little important place down there with the yellow spot surrounded with red, the reserve, the Collines de Brador, the trails pass all there, okay? And then...

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**THE CHAIRMAN :**

In the main spot, yes.

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

4885

And then he keeps up to those cabins up there, you know.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

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On the map there, we see an number of pink triangles. So, that's where the trails go?

**Mr. MICHEL BEAUDOIN :**

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Roger, he's the map man.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Sir, what is your name please?

4900

**Mr. ROGER JONES :**

I'm coming up next for a question. So...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

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Why don't you start right now. Who are you? Roger Jones?

**Mr. ROGER JONES :**

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I'll just probably elaborate on the map, but I think some parts...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

4915

Can you hold on a second? We need you to use the microphone. Mr. Jones, Mr. Jones, just wait a few minutes. We are going to get you online. And as you point to things on the map, mention them or describe them a bit because when we are back reading the documents and we say, «Here», «That», «There», it doesn't tell us anything. But if you say «east», «west» or near a given recognizable place.

4920

So, we are talking about the trails.

**Mr. ROGER JONES :**

4925

That's right. I want to identify the trails. A few things that wasn't covered well at the table here tonight is probably where we use the land a lot right now, where we pass to get to the

destinations.

So, from the Blanc-Sablon area, we all pass through... we pass across this lake in particular.

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**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

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**Mr. ROGER JONES :**

To access the main destination is probably Tounapi and Capannan. Obviously, this is the main destination.

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**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Where there are those...

**Mr. ROGER JONES :**

4945

Where you get all those pink pins. That's every destinations. So, we're talking about probably trails and destinations here tonight. Destinations, just being probably one of the main destinations, you don't show many camps outside of the proposed reserve. There are a number of camps outside of that as well.

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**THE CHAIRMAN :**

I will interrupt you, Mr. Jones. Those who prepared this map specifically included only the camps that are within the reserve. So, they know that there are others outside, but they did not show them because it was not relevant to their purpose, okay?

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**Mr. ROGER JONES :**

And at the same time, there's not much concentration of camps outside of that. The main concentration outside that would probably be in Big Pond, I guess.

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Personally, I don't know why they included this part. I mean, being from an area like here, the biggest place that we've got is spring travel and using the land and obviously that being a big destination. Personally, I don't know why you even want to touch that. Personally, I think that this part should even be eliminated from your plans.

4965

Now, that's probably debatable, but for future considerations and everything else,

4970 obviously you can see that there is not a concentration there. There is not much concentration of camps west of there. So, personally and listening to all the conversations here tonight and looking at it, I think that could be something to look at.

4975 As well, you're talking about 8 % needs in the province. I know no one seems to want to touch what's north of the 52nd parallel. What I mean is a large portion of the 8 % can be picked up there and you won't even have to affect our playground.

All we have here, we don't have no roads. We can't go on the water. Like people said here tonight, we can't go on the water anymore. We're not allowed to go on the water. And you're trying to restrict, somewhat restrict slowly our access to the land.

4980 Today, the ones that's built there, the fortunate ones now they become important here tonight, because they're allowed to go on that land and use their cabin. My kids can't build there anymore. If I don't have a camp there any more, don't have a camp there right now, I'm not allowed to go there.

4985 So, you are restricting use of land in a way. I agree that the people is there without permits today, but listen, that's a way of life, that's all we got here. Let us live a bit. So, that's our only playground.

4990 So, that's some comments that I've got to give with... Well, with the concentration, there that's... where there's our concentration of the usage, I guess.

4995 Other things. I am President of the local Development Corporation of the Board of Trade of Lower North Shore. Economically right now, I don't see anything you're doing for us. I guess this whole process is costing a lot of money and I agree with it, I agree with preserving certain things. Is there any exchange?

5000 I believe when you came here earlier last year, I was to the last meeting, you did mention maybe some negotiations that... If you don't want us to use this, I agree not to pass here in snowmobile anymore, give us a road to access our area. We will concentrate the traffic at the same time. We will avoid crossing, you know... well, not only Three-Mountain pond, we would probably avoid using lot of territory. Everybody will use the same road if we've got one road to access, say, Tounapi in the negotiation process, we will all use the same road and we'll leave from there on four-wheelers, snowmobiles to access our camps.

5005 And still I don't agree with you taking the main area that we're using. The main concentration of area that we're using...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5010 Yes.



**Mr. ROGER JONES :**

5015 ... being probably everything east of... I think this is Bujault. Everything east of Bujault is the main area that we're using. I don't agree that you take that at all.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5020 Okay, that's...

**Mr. ROGER JONES :**

5025 But I think after there is a negotiation process to be done there and if you want us to concentrate our travel on that land... and I agree with that, you know, because personally I think a lot of our people go in and disregard the nature of it. They might throw a beer bottle here, and a bag of chips there, and that's everywhere, all over the land.

5030 So, if you want us to clean up land a bit, in this negotiation process, probably make some recommendation so there would be a trail, a decent trail that we can all use. And probably you'll have more appropriate use of the land and have a little more respect for the land all of us together.

That's one thing. So, I don't know if anyone can give me an answer on that here tonight, if that's possible, if there's any consideration in the access of the land in the reserve process.

5035 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Monsieur Beauchesne, what are your reactions to his suggestion?

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

5040 Mr. President, I think that Mr. Jones is using exactly what is the purpose of those public hearings. It's to get information from people who use the land, some of their preoccupations. We take notes. Of course, we can take into consideration... we cannot answer tonight that we are going to do this or take that piece out of the reserve of biodiversity, of course.

5045 But we take into consideration what you said and all those suggestions that we receive tonight, we're going to get back home and see what are the possibilities to respond in one way or another to the preoccupations that we have heard tonight.

5050 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you. Mr. Jones, you had another comment, you said? Another point?

**Mr. ROGER JONES :**

5055

One more thing. As I mentioned, economically I don't see a great impact of this project to the area and...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5060

Do you mind coming to the table? It will be easier for me.

**Mr. ROGER JONES :**

5065

Economically, I don't agree with this particular area being used at the same time, because if there should be any mine potential in this area...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5070

You mean the whole reserve or...

**Mr. ROGER JONES :**

5075

Well, that area, the whole reserve, in particular the eastern part. If there should be mining development, we've got a good access right now with Newfoundland Island for exporting product.

5080

Eventually, when the Quebec government should decide to invest in road development on Lower North Shore, we might have access to the rest of the province for exporting product. Meanwhile, if there should be any development of mines in this area, even any potential, even any potential, personally I would rather see a mine develop in that area for the local economy than a reserve. When there is other possibilities a little bit further west, and especially when you're affecting the area.

5085

We don't realize all the impact yet today of putting this reserve in an area that's heavily used. One lady mentioned here tonight, «It's going to cost me maybe \$200 a year to keep a permit.» Today, it don't cost nothing. So, for the next ten years, it's going to cost \$3,000 or \$4,000 for me to have that cabin there. Along with the people not being able to build the cabin there, and my kids not being able to go there and build a cabin, and maybe my cabin will fall down and they can't go to use that area no more because there's no cabin no more used in there.

5090

This is our way of life. We've been building cabins and using that land for thirty years. So, there's a lot more impact than we can understand and discuss here tonight. We'll only live that over time.

5095

So, personally I want the reserve on the eastern site. And if there is any possibility of mines and they won't be studied in this process, 2008, your job is done. You got your reserve, there's a mining potential somewhere in there, it won't be developed.

5100

But for me, I see a mining potential, a mine potential in that area doing a lot for the economy here, creating jobs that's needed. From Blanc-Sablon and the Old Fort, there's only 2,000 people living there. Probably 30 %, 40 % of our active workforce got to leave for three and four months right now and leave the area completely to make a living.

5105

You don't live that in Montreal or elsewhere. You probably live in Montreal, but you don't see that in a larger community. But we're living in small communities. When you say that 20 % of your population has got to leave to go and work, I'd rather see a mine there than a reserve.

5110

So, I guess that's my main concerns and I hope they're addressed.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you, Mr. Jones.

5115

I will ask from Mr. Beauchesne about this south-east part of the proposed biodiversity reserve where all those shacks are, what is the particular significance of that part of the project in terms of its biology, or plants, or ecosystems?

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

5120

I would prefer, Mr. President, that Oliver could respond to your question, but I would say that even though if there is no so rare ecosystem, or rare types of rocks, or rare types of stuff, one of the objectives is the representativity of this territory.

5125

And if a type of land is common and if we want 8 % of that type of land, of course, we have to take a much greater portion of the land to attain our quantitative objective.

5130

If I can, Mr. President, just to tell you that if a cabin falls or if a cabin has to be reconstructed, it is possible under the Heritage Conservation Act. The law is not written in a way that there is an extinguishing of the right if the shelter falls apart.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5135

So, if a shelter is no longer habitable, you can rebuild it?

**Mr. PATRICK BEAUCHESNE :**

Yes.

5140 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

And also I understand your point about maybe you need a total area of 2,000 kilometers, say, square kilometers, but what about adding a little piece on the north end of it rather than on the south-east?

5145

**Mr. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

About the contribution of the south-east part of the whole territory, we can identify two distinct or different kinds of habitats in this territory. On the west, it is more black spruce forest. And on the east, it is more dry heaths. So, it is two different kinds of habitats.

5150

So, for us, it is important to protect these two elements that are representative of the physical environment of the Lower North Shore. But, you know, with this information or the proposal, we should advise or, you know, analyze this information just to have an idea if there is a significant loss of contribution to protecting the biodiversity of the natural province.

5155

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, it is something you can examine, go back to your office and your planning room and look at this south-eastern part and see if it is really essential?

5160

**Mr. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

Yes.

5165

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you, Mr. Jones.

5170 **Mr. ROGER JONES :**

Probably just to comment, before we get to that land, right now there's very little wooded area as well. So, between here, probably the next 40... 40 miles west of here, and right down to the border, and right back to that particular green zone, there are very, very little trees, very little wooded area. So, that area is very meaningful for the area. That's why there is such a concentration of camps there.

5175

And I'm sure in the process, we're willing to give out some land maybe west of that to

maintain that particular area. So, that's the end of it.

5180

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you, sir.

5185

Our last citizen tonight will be Mr. Gino Beaudoin. Rebonsoir, monsieur Beaudoin.

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

5190

Good night, Mr. President. I'm going to give a comment after, but the registrations of camps, isn't that right, we've been thinking about it and we don't mind paying registration of the camps, but if you look at what we have here for freedom, if you apply the law in Havre-Saint-Pierre or Sept-Îles, they have access to the road to town. They can go when they want, they're free to go. Here, we do not have that. We're really limited in that area, you know?

5195

The only thing we have, it's like Mr. Jones said - he took most of what I was going to say - but we're limited in that. So, I think they should have a little look at that. We have no access. We can't go west, there's no road. We can't go south, we can't go fishing. We can't go east, it's the border. So, at least give us the north. That's my opinion.

5200

Now, I have a comment to say, that Mr. Jones also... I will follow him. I'm totally against the biodiversity on the behalf, because I mean the future ...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5205

Against the reserve. You're not against biodiversity per se.

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

5210

The reserve biodiversity.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

5215

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

5220

On the account of the future of the young ones growing up around here. Like he said, if the kids can't go in and build a camp where they were going while they were young, well, to us it don't mean no mean to build on a rock where you can have no shelter with trees. And we don't have that 138, yes. So, according to me, I'm against it.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Because it falls within an area where you traditionally...

5225

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

That's it.

5230

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

... built camps.

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

5235

Yes.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5240

What about if that south-east part would be removed from the reserve?

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

5245

Well, then if it do not affect this area where we use, where our children are growing up, in the future the people there, well, fine. But if it affects...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5250

Then you would be supportive?

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

5255

Yes, but as long as this... but it have to bring something in for us. What happens if the caribou moves out and eats all the flowers? What do we do? What's to protect, the flowers or the moose? So, you know, it's...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5260

That would be an act of God, I guess.

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

But this has to be looked at that.

5265

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you. Any more comments? No?

5270

**Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

No.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5275

Questions? Anyone else who would like to ask questions or make a comment?

Come up here, Mr. Lavallée, Marius Lavallée.

5280

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

When you're saying, «Register your cabin» you called them «shacks».

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5285

Well, I'm sorry. It's just lost in the translation.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

5290

Yes. The pink cabins there...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes, cabins, okay, I've got it.

5295

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

... on the chart he showed, there's one cabin in there. You say, «You've got to register it.»

That cabin, I built it and there's 125 people in that cabin. There's 125 people in that cabin. That cabin is 12 by 12... no, 10 by 12.

5300

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes.

5305

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

It's a survival cabin in storms.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5310

Okay.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

5315

I stayed there and a few more people stayed there. There's nothing there. We bring little wood there for survival. I'm going to register that cabin. They're going to have to send a bill to 125 people?

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5320

So...

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

5325

That's going to the green zone there.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5330

So, presently it's not registered. It's not under anybody's name, but a lot of people are using it?

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

5335

It's the town.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5340

Mr. Desrochers, would there be a way of legalizing such a situation in some way that would be beneficial to all?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

If a shack...

5345

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

Cabin, cabin.



**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

5350

I know, I'm just joking. If a cabin is used by a lot of people, there is a specific lease we can use as a communautaire...

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

5355

Communal? Communal lease?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

5360

Communal. And that's another kind of lease we can use for that kind of...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5365

How much would it cost? I mean do you know?

**Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

5370

I don't know, I'm sorry. I just know the price for personal, but I don't know for...

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

But is this something like many people could get together and chip in and end up with the needed amount of money? Or you can charge them for staying in your cabin.

5375

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

Yes, but the cabin is there beside an old cabin that my father used when he used to go caribou hunt. The cabin there beside it is about 50 years, 60 years old. That's where he used to go caribou hunt back in the old days.

5380

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes.

5385

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

And we can't stay no more, it's finished. It's still there. So, we all chipped in, people from Blanc-Sablon, Brador, Longue-Pointe, they all give money. I can't go every spring ask for \$10 on everybody in. That took me three months to get the money from everybody.

5390

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

5395 **Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

We're on Unemployment.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5400

I understand the situation. I don't think we will solve that tonight, but I mean on the part of the Ministry there, they understand this situation and there's a special case for it. And I think that it's not a problem that cannot be solved at some point.

5405 **Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

But as he said, «If you don't register your cabin» and whatever, they're going to burn it. That's why what are we going to do to register it.

5410 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

I'm confident that you will find a way to register this important cabin for the survival of the local community. I cannot imagine that you wouldn't find a solution for that. If the Ministry is willing to hear you and that they have a special case for such cabins...

5415

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

In the wintertime here, like you say, there's no shelter. We've got rocks. We get storms and that's where we stay at. And we all go the same place. We all go the same place, that's why we are there for.

5420

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

It's in the record.

5425

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

It's in the record?

5430 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes.

**Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

5435

Okay. It's in mine too.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5440

Thank you, sir.

So, I think this ends this session which is actually the second one in this first part of the hearing on the four proposed biodiversity reserves in the natural province of the Lower North Shore.

5445

I wish to thank all who have participated in this first part. I said that there was a session in Rivière-Saint-Jean on Monday, there will be one tomorrow in Pakuashipi and one tomorrow night in St. Augustine. And the transcriptions from there will be available here eventually in about a week.

5450

So, I invite you to come or you can go on the Internet and click the BAPE website, go to this Commission's website and all the transcriptions will be there. And you won't have to come to this room and consult them.

5455

So, thank you again. As I also said earlier tonight, the second part of this hearing will start in the week of November 21 if that is a Monday, otherwise the Monday of that week. And how this part will be structured, we don't know yet. It will depend on how many of you tell Madame Boutin of your intention to submit a brief and what is in those briefs. Are there things that are irreconcilable or not and how much discussion does there have to be between you and the Commission on those issues. And we will let you know how this second part will be structured.

5460

And that's about all I have to say for tonight. Thank you very much.

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

5465

I think it's really important that some questions tonight weren't answered by the Natural Resources.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5470

What is the question that was not answered?

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

5475

Tonight, there were some suggestions like the south-east part of the land, this can be

removed. There's many questions I had that Natural Resources couldn't really answer tonight.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5480           What are the other questions that they could not answer? Because it's very important that every question gets an answer.

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

5485           We will state it in our report, you know?

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5490           Okay.

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

5495           To the BAPE that we would like to have a more clear answer on suggestion that was given around the table tonight and question that the Natural Resources couldn't answer tonight.

**THE CHAIRMAN :**

5500           Mr. Joncas, there's a difference between a question that can be answered like where is this? Where is that? How many of this? How many of that? And an answer to a suggestion that is made to modify the project, that is a different thing.

5505           And these, I'm sure, will be answered in time, but not necessarily tomorrow or the day after, but it will come as a result of this hearing, of this inquiry, as a result of this first part and as well as a result of the second part. And these issues will end up in our report.

5510           And we are to make recommendations to the Minister on every aspect that is pertinent to the two reserves. So, eventually these things will be - quote, unquote - «answered», okay?

**Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

5515           So, I would like to thank all the group that come here, the BAPE, and Natural Resources, and all the resource persons as well. And we hope to see you back in November in order to get our final things on the biodiversity area.

5515           **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

5520 We are completing this first part tomorrow night in St. Augustine. In a month's time, we will have the second part which is more getting all the opinions together. You will submit briefs, I suppose. Some of you will, some from Rivière-Saint-Jean and some from St. Augustine, et caetera.

5525 Then we will get all this together. Our report will contain a summary of what we have heard, because the purpose is to report to the Minister what people think in every area.

It will contain recommendations from this Commission to the Minister as to what should be done, how it should be done, whether or not there should be a reserve and, if so, under what conditions. And then this will go to the Minister.

5530 After the November 21, we have six months to submit our report, but we intend to have our report to the Minister by February 15, 2007. After that, it is up to the Minister to look at what the Commission has said, what his own experts, his own civil servants are saying. He puts it all together and then he makes a recommendation to the Council of Ministers and they make the final decision.

5535 -----

5540 Je, soussignée, **LISE MAISONNEUVE**, sténographe judiciaire, certifie sous mon serment d'office que les pages ci-dessus sont et contiennent la transcription exacte et fidèle des notes sténographiques prises par moi au moyen du sténomasque, le tout conformément à la Loi.

5545 ET J'AI SIGNÉ:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**LISE MAISONNEUVE, s.o.**