

**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**

DEUXIÈME PARTIE

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MOT DU PRÉSIDENT

THE CHAIRMAN :

5 Good evening. I recognize many of the same people who were here about a month ago. Then, Mr. Joncas advised me to use English instead of French, because most people are more comfortable with English. Is that still the case tonight?

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

10 Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

15 Yes? Est-ce qu'il y a des gens qui ne comprennent pas l'anglais ici?

 Good evening. Welcome to this second part of the public hearing on four proposed biodiversity reserves on the Lower North Shore.

20 My name is Pierre Béland as a month ago. I am chairing this Commission. Our team is comprised of two analysts, Sophie Hamel-Dufour, Monsieur David Boudreault. We also have on our team Madame Boutin who is the coordinator of our Commission, and Madame Catherine Roberge, information officer, as well as Louise Marois. They are not with us tonight.

25 Our stenographer is Madame Lise Maisonneuve. And when you will be addressing the Commission, you will have to come and use this microphone. Even though we do not have any loudspeakers, everything has to go through this and to her little machine there. Thank you.

30 So, you are aware of the mandate that was given to us by the Minister to hold this hearing on four biodiversity reserves. We ran the first half of this hearing from October 16th to October 19th. We came to this place. We also went to Saint-Augustin, to Pakua Shipu and Rivière-Saint-Jean.

35 The proponent for these projects is the ministère du Développement Durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs, Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks Department. They have submitted a number of documents describing the reserves, as well as several other pieces that are part of the documentation that is deposited in several places, including one here in Blanc-Sablon.

40 So, the first part was dedicated to raising questions about the projects and, tonight, we want to hear your comments, whether you are in favor or not, and for what reasons.

45 We can also provide additional information if you have additional questions. We have with us tonight representatives from the Ministry of Environment as well as from Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife.

50 We have four briefs that have been submitted to us from this area and we may therefore hear from four different organizations or people tonight. If additional people want to address the Commission, feel free to do so, we would welcome your comments. You simply have to go to the back of the room with Sophie and register. And then I will call your names as they are listed on that register.

55 This Commission, as you know, is to write a report for the Minister. This report simply will provide him with all the information that we have gathered, will provide him with your comments, with your views on the proposed reserves.

60 We are not making recommendations for or against the reserves. This belongs to the Minister. He will use our report, as well as report from his own staff, and any other documents that he wishes to use to himself make a recommendation to the Cabinet, to the Council of Ministers as to whether or not this project will go ahead.

Therefore, nothing has been decided so far. Otherwise, we would not be here.

65 We are interested tonight in hearing your views, but also your reasons why you are for or against. And if you are for, are you for as the projects are submitted or would you suggest changes? And if you are against, are you totally against or you would be for if some things would be modified? In any case, we want to hear from you tonight.

70 We have read all the briefs that have been submitted to us. Last night, we were in Havre-Saint-Pierre and we had, I think, something like ten or twelve briefs. Nine? Nine briefs that were presented to us from people ranging from Magpie all the way to Blanc-Sablon, including a delegation from the Innu community of Ekuanitshit or as you are more familiar with the name Mingan, I think. And tomorrow, we are going to Pakua Shipu.

75 We also heard last night from two people from Saint-Augustin. One was the mayor and the other one was Mr. Shattler who was then in Sept-Îles, but he reached us by phone.

80 After you have presented your brief or your views, I may exchange with you asking questions or clarifications.

And at the end of the night, when everything has been said and done, I will ask if anyone in this room may wish to correct some statements that were made. We call this droit de rectification. That means that suppose someone says that there are five summer cottages up in

85 the Guernesé Hills, but you know as a fact that there are ten and you want this to be corrected in the record, then you go to the back of the room again and you register your name. And I will call you at the end of this program tonight.

90 Now, as before, we want this exercise to be democratic and free. So, let's maintain a calm climate or atmosphere between ourselves. Let's be courteous and polite.

95 Expressing your opinion also means that you are willing to accept that other people may have a different opinion.

And finally, I ask you to please, sometime during this evening, fill one of those little blue forms there which is a way of evaluating our own work. BAPE is an independent body and we want people to tell us are we doing our job right? Are there things that we could change to improve? And it is through your comments that we may be able to do that.

100 So, without any further ado, I would ask our first speaker tonight, Monsieur Armand Joncas, Mayor of the Municipality of Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon. I believe it is the municipality's brief ...

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

105 Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

110 ... rather than your own personal brief? Thank you. Welcome.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

I would just like to make a rectification. It is the Municipality of Blanc-Sablon.

115 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

120 Because the Municipality of Blanc-Sablon regroups three villages : Blanc-Sablon, Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon and Brador.

THE CHAIRMAN :

125 Thank you, sir. I stand corrected.

M. ARMAND JONCAS :

130 Monsieur le commissaire, notre municipalité a déposé un petit mémoire qui est très bref, un mémoire sur le projet de la réserve des Basses collines du lac Guernesé et des Collines de Brador dans la province naturelle du plateau de la Basse-Côte-Nord.

135 Après avoir participé à la réunion du Bureau des audiences publiques de l'environnement qui s'est tenue le 18 octobre 2006, j'ai été très déçu de voir que le ministère a décidé de prendre un si grand territoire sans avoir inventorié les ressources telles minières, forestières ainsi qu'hydroélectriques, et de même sans avoir inventorié la faune et la flore.

140 Comment peut-on déterminer ce territoire sans que les frontières entre le Labrador et le Québec soient bien définies. Nous parlons surtout du territoire des collines du lac Guernesé. Nous préférons et nous demandons que le projet de réserve de biodiversité du lac Guernesé et des Collines de Brador soit remis ou annulé jusqu'à ce qu'il y ait un inventaire complet des ressources qui se trouvent dans ce territoire.

145 D'ici là, nous demandons au ministère de faire construire un sentier officiel pour la circulation des véhicules tout-terrain et de motoneiges afin de protéger la majorité de la surface du territoire. Nous fréquentons ce territoire depuis toujours et nous avons toujours pris soin de le respecter et de le protéger. Nous ne sommes pas à se défaire des seuls endroits où la population peut pratiquer des activités de sports et de loisirs.

150 Nous sommes certains que la réserve de biodiversité des collines du lac Guernesé et celle des Collines de Brador contiennent d'énormes ressources importantes que la région ne peut pas perdre pour son futur développement.

155 Nous pensons et nous demandons au ministère d'aller voir la population en Abitibi qui demande la mise en place d'une réserve de biodiversité et que le ministère tarde toujours à accéder à leur demande.

160 Encore une fois, nous vous demandons donc d'attendre pour la mise en place de la réserve de biodiversité des Basses collines du lac Guernesé et des Collines de Brador avant que tout le potentiel soit inventorié.

165 Espérant que la commission statuera dans le même sens que nous, on vous remercie à l'avance du sérieux que vous mettrez dans ce dossier.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

Merci, monsieur Joncas.

170 **M. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Depuis qu'on a déposé ça, puis dans les derniers jours, on n'a pas eu le temps de revenir, on a appris beaucoup d'affaires en fouillant un petit peu sur l'internet.

175 On a été mal informés par le ministère de l'Environnement. Ils sont venus ici en 2002 quand les lois n'étaient pas mises en place dans le temps, puis tout n'était pas final dans ce temps-là. Puis aujourd'hui, plus qu'on lit des lois qui sont mises en place depuis 2003, plus on n'a pas l'heure juste des restrictions qui vont nous être apportées si ces réserves viennent en place.

180 Il y a beaucoup d'affaires qu'on regardait, les chalets qui ont des baux ici, il y en a qui ont des baux, dans six ans d'ici, le ministère pourra dire: « On annule le bail. Il n'y aura plus de chalet qui aura le droit dans la réserve. » Toute une série d'affaires de même qui sont dans la nouvelle loi sur les réserves de biodiversité, qui n'ont pas été expliquées au public.

185 Donc, on croit que les trois sections du ministère des Ressources Naturelles ont de la grosse ouvrage à faire eux autres mêmes pour connaître le territoire, puis nous faire connaître les lois qui ont été mises en place par le ministre avant qu'on puisse prendre une décision sur ces deux réserves-là.

190 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Merci. Thank you. Do you prefer me to switch to English or ...

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

195

Well, no problem.

THE CHAIRMAN :

200

I will stick to English, because that is what I told people I would do.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

205

Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN :

210

You are asking to delay the approval or the eventual approval of the reserves until resources have been evaluated. How much time do you envision this to be for? Five years? Three years? Ten years?

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

215 Me, I think, I do not know what is the budget of the Natural Resources. Looking at what is happening now and looking what was just happening for la côte de Black Rocks, it is taking the Minister of Environment one year to study five kilometers of road, you know, that we want to redo.

220 Looking at the same base, I say fifteen years before the Minister of Natural Resources could have a good picture of what is in the area.

THE CHAIRMAN :

225 Are you aware of private companies, prospectors or mining companies that would be interested in evaluating this area or are they doing that now?

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

230 Well, there is a junior company from Calgary that has been in the area since the year 2000. They were, as a matter of fact, in St. Augustin again this summer. And when they left St. Augustin, one of the researchers told the mayor that, "In ten years time, you won't recognize St. Augustin area", because they have found a big uranium depot. They have found some nickel same as Voisey's Bay, the nickel and copper and those things.

235 But since 2003, we learned that through the process that Natural Resources is issuing no claims. So, this company can't claim their part of the land, because everything is froze. So, who is interested to come and discover a gisement, what you call it, and you can't put your rights on the gisement?

240 So, what the Natural Resources is doing to us now is stopping our mining development, because by not giving the people the opportunity to put some claim on where is the potential for a mine.

THE CHAIRMAN :

245 Are you aware of where the deposit they claim to have found was located?

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

250 Well ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

I mean in general terms because, of course, they would not tell you exactly where.

255 **Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

But what we know about it, it is from between Coxipi River to Napetipi River, okay?

260 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, it would be within the proposed biodiversity reserve?

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

265 It would be in the biodiversity area what they are doing, you know? So, the prospection they have been doing.

THE CHAIRMAN :

270 Are there any other firms who have done work, similar work in the area?

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

275 Not that we know so far, but sometimes there's some firm that could come on float planes in the area and those things and we don't know about it. But when I went on the Natural Resources site, I saw that junior company from Alberta, that their claim was cancelled since 2004. And after questioning with the mayor of St. Augustin, well, they can't renew their claims, because the Minister of Natural Resources has frozen the land.

280 And also hydro potential, there were a study done on the Brador River. There were a study done on the Saint-Paul River. There were a study done on the St. Augustin River. This is all there. You know, there is a potential with the Newfoundland government of future hydro development.

285 And as you know, the Quebec is missing hydroelectricity those days and eventually, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five years down the road, Hydro-Quebec will be interested in developing with a partnership, with Newfoundland those rivers. And we have, from Blanc-Sablon to St. Augustin, about eight rivers, but Hydro-Quebec did not take time yet to evaluate each river. So, they only evaluated so far, what I know, the area of Brador west. They made a preliminary on the
290 Saint-Paul River and they got a preliminary on the Saint-Augustin River.

But the potential is there and as we are going to give out that potential for a biodiversity reserve, it is going to give us what? We lost the sea. Since 1993, we are losing the sea. Every year, you listen at the reports of Fishery and Ocean, we are losing some rights on the sea.

295

Is the Minister of the Environment going to take us our right on our inland, it is going to leave us standing as hydro poles or telephone poles in the wilderness, not allowed to exploit our region.

300

And I think there is a lot more place in the province of Quebec. And we are looking every night at the news, there is people that want biodiversity reserve and because there is some forestry exploitation in that area, the Ministry of Environment don't want to stick their nose there, because they are scare of the companies. And here they are going to come and take a virgin area and take it away from us for the next century.

305

THE CHAIRMAN :

You mentioned the rivers between here and Saint-Augustin. Are any of those rivers salmon rivers?

310

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

All salmon rivers.

315

THE CHAIRMAN :

And would hydro power development not jeopardize the salmon resource?

320

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

No. Most of those rivers with what you call ...

325

THE CHAIRMAN :

Fish runs? No, fish ladders.

330

M. ARMAND JONCAS :

Oui, des choses, les deux pourraient coïncider ensemble.

335

LE PRÉSIDENT :

Oui.

M. ARMAND JONCAS :

Ça se fait à Grand Falls, le même principe que Grand Falls à Terre-Neuve, puis à

d'autres rivières. Port-Cartier est un exemple, puis il y a plusieurs rivières qui sont pareilles.

340 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Saint-Paul River, I think I have seen that there is a pourvoirie there?

345 **Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

350 I do not know the name in English for pourvoirie.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

There is two pourvoires ...

355

THE CHAIRMAN :

Yes.

360 **Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

... on the Saint-Paul River. There is Pierre Meagher and there is James Thom who has a pourvoirie.

365 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

And what are these people's view on hydro power development?

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

370

Well, it all depends, you know. Those things all depend the conversation with Hydro and the agreement you can do with Hydro on those rivers, you know? So, there is a possibility to negotiate something if you do not affect the river too much.

375 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, if I understand well, what you are saying is you would like to see the MRNF and maybe perhaps private firms evaluate the mining potential and the hydroelectric potential of the area before going further with any proposed reserve.

380

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

385 But why we are going to put a reserve in place when the Minister of the Environment can't even preserve what we got now, you know? We had no protection, hardly no protection on the Lower North Shore, preserved by the ... were done by the Minister of the Environment now. They hire on some wildlife officer for three months a year. It is not during the three summer months that you can protect the wildlife.

390 In the wintertime when the snow is down, the road is open everywhere. We have no such wildlife protection on this Lower North Shore in the wintertime. So, how can the Minister of Environment create some parts as some reserve of biodiversity and say that they are going to protect the reserve of biodiversity when they can't even protect today our wildlife, you know?

395 So, none of them, what I have seen at the last meeting, have a clue what kind of animal that we have in the proposed biodiversity reserve, what is the migration of the animals, because since the last ten years, we are perceiving that the moose are migrating in that area, and if we had some wildlife protection, this could be the greatest area in ten years time, better than Newfoundland, in order to develop a tourist industry.

400 So, this is why that I think ... I do not know who has decided, the Minister of Environment that have decide to take 2,000 square meters according to my figure, as the guy would revise it, it's 2,500 square meters, of land without knowing what is on the land, you know? So, it is almost like a no man's land now.

405 And we have got another problem. What happens to the gray zone? That gray zone, if Newfoundland decides to open the mine that is in the gray zone, where are they going to stop to? What is the limit, okay?

410 We had some hunters years ago that went and had a permit from the Ministry of Environment, Parcs et Faune, to go and hunt in the gray zone. And the RCMP in Goose Bay picked up our citizens and charged them, because they claimed that the gray zone belonged to Newfoundland.

415 Until all this is sorted and until somebody at the government has done their homework, we want to know what is our rights on the land and how far our land goes. So far today, we do not even know how far our land goes between the Labrador and Quebec.

THE CHAIRMAN :

420 Assuming that in the future, in a year or two years, I do not want to specify any time period, that this evaluation is done regarding mining potential and hydroelectric potential and we are, you know, say X years down the road and we know that there is potential in some areas

and that there is not in other areas, would you then be more willing to consider a biodiversity reserve in the area that has no potential?

425

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

Well, I can't speak for everybody, because I have not consulted the population on that. If there is some area that there really is no use and we see, in the next 100 years, there's no use and we have to do our share as the citizens of the province of Quebec to give a part of our land, we will consider that at that time and we will look at that time if it is possible to be done, yes.

430

THE CHAIRMAN :

And then you would want to be consulted on ...

435

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

Yes.

440

THE CHAIRMAN :

... you know, the progress of that and establishing the boundaries of the reserve and all that. Because I remember when we were here a month ago, some people mentioned that, "Well, maybe, you know, assuming that it is acceptable that there is no potential, still some of the limits are debatable as they are now."

445

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

It is just what I was telling you. Until the primary line of 1927 becomes an official line where our territory, how far we are going with, we do not want no development on that, because it will be not correct for the Minister of Environment to say that they got some many kilometers of land for a biodiversity reserve without knowing where the boundaries are, you know?

450

It is almost as if I go to your place and you tell me, "My land is within 200 feet from there", you know? So, how can I know the size of your piece of land? So, this is the big problem that we have.

455

And on the Lower North Shore, we are in process now to create an MRC, because the biggest part of the biodiversity reserve is in the MRC of Minganie now.

460

THE CHAIRMAN :

Yes.

465

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

470 Yes. So, we had a meeting last week and we have passed a resolution that we have forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs in order to put the process in place in order to create an MRC.

THE CHAIRMAN :

475 Is this your other hat of Conseil ... you want to hold on ...

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

480 No, but I am just explaining.

THE CHAIRMAN :

Okay, because ...

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

485 I am not reading ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

490 Later on, I want you to comment on this other one.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

495 Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN :

Thank you, Mr. Joncas.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

500 Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN :

505 I am wondering if I have here representatives from the CLD de la Basse-Côte-Nord, le représentant du CLD de la Basse-Côte-Nord, who has sent us a brief which I have here. And we were not sure whether or not this person would come and read it in front of this audience.

Monsieur David Calderisi, he is not here?

510

M. ARMAND JONCAS :

C'est le directeur.

515

THE CHAIRMAN :

Sorry? C'est le directeur général?

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

520

The director of ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

525

And we also have another brief that was submitted to us from this area which you will find under number DM3. This first one is under DM5, DM3. They will both be deposited at the municipal office and you can read this. But this person wanted to read it, present it to us tonight, but he is not here now.

530

And the other one, the other person did not wish to read it publicly, but the document will be made public as of now.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

535

Can we know who is the other person?

THE CHAIRMAN :

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Sure. Is it being made public now? Est-ce qu'il devient public dès maintenant? At the end of tonight. I am sorry, we have those rules that we have to follow. But you can read both of these briefs early next week, I guess, by the time they get to your municipal office, along with the other documents.

545

Are there any other people who wish to address this Commission? Feel free. You may ask questions or clarifications on this issue, for example, of cottages as you mentioned.

550

Maybe I should ask Mr. Desrochers to comment on what Mr. Joncas said, that some people have learned that if you now have a bail, that is only valid for a number of years. And if it is within the proposed reserve, should — and I am saying “should” — the reserve be, you know, accepted and put forward, that this bail, once it is finished, could not be renewed, is that true or not?

555 Mr. Desrochers, would you come to this microphone and comment on that? I think this was an important issue when we were here a month ago and I do not want anybody here to go out of this room tonight and still have a misunderstanding over this issue of cottages.

So, if we need to spend fifteen minutes, we will spend fifteen minutes, but I want this to be very clear in everybody's mind. Mr. Desrochers?

560 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

I am going to answer it in French, if you don't mind.

565 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Then I will translate it maybe.

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

570 Yes. Les droits qui seront octroyés, c'est valide pour un an et c'est renouvelé dans la mesure où les gens respectent les conditions du droit.

THE CHAIRMAN :

575 So, if you get a bail, whatever the English word for "bail" is ...

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

580 A lease.

THE CHAIRMAN :

A lease. If you get a lease, this lease is valid for one year. It is renewed automatically?

585 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

590 Automatically after a year, provided you have ...

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

595 Respected.

THE CHAIRMAN :

600 ... respected or you have met the conditions written on that lease.

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

Yes.

605 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

What types of conditions are there for example? That you do not destroy the forest around it and that you do not ...

610 **Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

You pay for your rights.

THE CHAIRMAN :

615 And that you pay for your rights?

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

620 Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

625 Which is a large sum of money or not?

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

No. It is about \$200, about.

630 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

\$200?

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

635

Yes, a year.

THE CHAIRMAN :

640

Maybe that is a lot of money for some people.

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

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Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

So, it is \$200.

650

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

I do not know exactly the right ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

655

We do not know exactly the figure, but it is a low figure, relatively low figure.

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

660

Donc, il n'y a pas de raison apparente qui amènerait à changer ces règles-là. Donc, la personne pourrait conserver son droit aussi longtemps qu'elle le désire.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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So, since the lease is automatically renewed, there is no reason to cancel it, unless the government passes a new law which would ... you would have to run over the back of thousands of people in Quebec who have ... it is not only in this area that people have leases on public lands, it is all over the province.

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So, there is no reason, Mr. Joncas, for your lease, if you have one, on this Guernesé or wherever to be terminated after six years, there is no reason. It is automatically renewed as long as you pay the required amount and that you abide by other conditions that would be written in the lease which are normal things that you would expect.

675 **M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Le point important pour la commission, et je ne voudrais pas que ça mélange davantage les gens, mais le cadre qui va permettre l'émission des nouveaux droits, c'est déterminé dans un règlement, et ce règlement relève du ministère de l'Environnement, et c'est dans ce règlement-là que les conditions vont être émises.

680 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

Parce que c'est dans une réserve?

685

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

C'est dans une réserve. La Loi sur la conservation du patrimoine naturel permet au ministre de fixer des conditions pour permettre de nouveaux droits. Et ce règlement qui en découle, actuellement, c'est le Plan de conservation. Dans ce Plan de conservation, le ministre peut décider, peut encadrer. Donc, le ministre de l'Environnement, dans sa gestion, a toute la latitude pour ...

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THE CHAIRMAN :

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So, correct me if I say something that is wrong. What has been said so far applies to any public land, but within the biodiversity reserve, there are no biodiversity reserves now, they are all projected, they are all proposed, but should it become a biodiversity reserve, the conditions regarding the leases would be written down not by the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife, but by the Minister of the Environment.

700

And these conditions would be in line with the Conservation Plan for the reserve. And we find in this document that the Conservation Plan has not been determined so far and would be written down in collaboration with people in the region.

705

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

Je ne veux pas répondre à leur place, mais ce que j'ai dit, c'est bon pour l'ensemble des réserves dans la province. Dans ce cas-ci, l'idée, c'est de travailler avec les gens, puis de trouver une solution qui convient avec les besoins de la population.

710

THE CHAIRMAN :

So, the intent of the Ministry of the Environment is to work with the people locally within every region where there is a reserve. The people that are most concerned, that live around the reserve, and more specifically those who already have leases in these areas would be the people who would collaborate in writing down the Conservation Plan and, I guess, participating

715

in determining the conditions that would go with the leases.

720 It is a bit hypothetical, because we are not there yet. And because the intent is to have the local people participate in writing these things down, we can't comment on them because nothing has been written so far. So, once, if ever, there is a biodiversity reserve, then these things would come into being.

725 Does this clarify the issue of leases? And during the first part of this hearing, I think we had Mr. Desrochers say that anyone who presently has a lease that is not registered, that is — quote, unquote — “irregular”, or illegal, or whatever, may apply to have this legalized or formalized. And then it would go on and be renewed automatically year after year.

730 Mr. Joncas, you have ... if I cannot answer, I will ask him.

M. ARMAND JONCAS :

Je suis intrigué un peu ...

735

LE PRÉSIDENT :

Oui ?

740

M. ARMAND JONCAS :

... parce que quand on parle au monde des Ressources naturelles ... parce que c'est compliqué le ministère que ce monsieur-là fait partie.

745

LE PRÉSIDENT :

C'est pas le seul qui est compliqué.

M. ARMAND JONCAS :

750

Celui-là, il est encore plus compliqué, parce que tu as les Ressources naturelles, tu as l'Environnement, puis ...

LE PRÉSIDENT :

755

Non. L'Environnement, ça ne va pas avec les Ressources Naturelles. Il y a le ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune.

M. ARMAND JONCAS :

760

Oui.

THE CHAIRMAN :

765 Natural Resources and Wildlife, that is one department. The other one is Environment
and Parks.

M. ARMAND JONCAS :

770 Bien, ils ne sont plus ensemble.

THE CHAIRMAN :

They are totally separate now.

775 **M. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Oh! Ils sont séparés astheure?

THE CHAIRMAN :

780 Yes.

M. ARMAND JONCAS :

785 Avant ça, il y avait trois parties. Moi, je parlais encore la semaine passée à un monsieur
des Ressources naturelles. Eux autres, ils n'ont pas eu de mandat présentement de légaliser les
baux des personnes comme on parlait à la dernière réunion.

790 Beaucoup de monde dit des affaires puis, moi, ce que je demande à la commission, c'est
de regarder qu'est-ce que le ministère a réellement de défini ...

LE PRÉSIDENT :

795 Oui.

M. ARMAND JONCAS :

800 ... pour les zones de biodiversité. Puis est-ce que ce que Pierre dit, puis Jean dit, c'est ça
qui est dans la loi, tu sais?

THE CHAIRMAN :

Now, I want you to agree with me on one thing.

805 **Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Yes.

810 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

What will be said here tonight ...

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

815 Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

... is what should be. And it is better than what Pierre, Jean, Jacques says, okay?

820

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

Yes.

825 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, from now on, do not listen to Pierre, Jean, Jacques, but remember or go to the Documentation Center and get in writing what was said, because that is the real thing.

830

Mr. Desrochers, where does your department stand in terms of those leases that are now – quote, unquote – “illegal” within the proposed biodiversity reserve? When can people go and start legalizing them?

835

Monsieur Joncas a dit qu'il a rencontré quelqu'un la semaine dernière du ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune qui lui a dit que, non, il n'y avait pas de plan pour légaliser les situations illégales. Alors, quelle est la position officielle de votre ministère dans ce domaine?

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

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La position est très claire pour notre ministère. La position est très claire également pour le ministère du Développement Durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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So, he says his department and the department of the Environment both have a very clear position on this and we are going to hear it.

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

850 Parallèlement à une démarche qui va permettre, dans le règlement du ministère du
Développement durable, l'émission de nouveaux droits, parallèlement à cette démarche
administrative-là, il y a une démarche où on reçoit les demandes des citoyens pour avoir un droit.
Et nous allons faire notre démarche, c'est-à-dire qu'on va regarder si c'est conforme au Plan
régional de développement. On va faire notre consultation autochtone. Et lorsque le cadre légal et
855 réglementaire permettra d'émettre des droits, nous allons émettre les droits.

Actuellement, c'est clair que nous ne pouvons pas le faire, mais nous recevons des
demandes pour que les deux démarches se fassent en même temps dans l'idée d'avoir une
réserve de biodiversité.

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THE CHAIRMAN :

I have to translate this.

865

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

870

So, there are two things going on in parallel right now. The Department of Environment —
I am going to call it Department of the Environment from now on — is moving along with this
process of biodiversity reserve, in the sense that it has not been approved but, you know, it is
sort of moving on. It may stop at one point. If everybody disagrees or for any other reason,
875 maybe there will never be a biodiversity reserve.

But these people are sort of moving along and pushing this process along. Along this
process and along with the people locally, if ever there is a biodiversity reserve, they will come up
with a Conservation Plan and a way of establishing rules for legalized occupations on these public
880 lands.

In parallel, his department, Natural Resources, let's call it "Natural Resources", has this
process for ... Could you repeat your parallel process?

885

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

Nous recevons depuis le mois dernier, lorsque nous sommes venus ici dans la première
partie ...

890 **Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Last month?

THE CHAIRMAN :

895

Last month, they are receiving requests from people. It could be one of you here in this room who are addressing a request to the Ministry for legalizing a situation. They are receiving these, filing them, keeping them and waiting for this other process to go along. And when all this has been solved, they will transfer the requests to the department so that everything is clear and

900

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

Yes, that's right.

905

THE CHAIRMAN :

Does that ... Mr. Joncas says "no".

910

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

No.

THE CHAIRMAN :

915

Mr. Joncas, come to this microphone.

I think, Sébastien, you'd better stay there.

920

M. ARMAND JONCAS :

Monsieur le commissaire, si on regarde ce que le monsieur vient de dire, il reçoit les demandes. Ça ne veut pas dire que la demande va être acquiescée.

925

THE CHAIRMAN :

Yes.

M. ARMAND JONCAS :

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Ça met le monde sur le qui-vive, qui ne sait pas si son chalet va être démoli, qu'est-ce qu'il va arriver ...

LE PRÉSIDENT :

935

Oui.

M. ARMAND JONCAS :

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... parce qu'il y a beaucoup de monde d'impliqué. L'Environnement est impliqué. Les Ressources naturelles sont impliquées. Donc, de dire qu'il n'y a pas d'inquiétude pour la personne qui est dans la zone de biodiversité aujourd'hui, moi, je serais très inquiet si j'avais ...

LE PRÉSIDENT :

945

Ouié

M. ARMAND JONCAS :

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... un chalet dans la zone de biodiversité aujourd'hui.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

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Monsieur Desrochers, est-ce que monsieur Joncas devrait être inquiet pour son ...
assumons qu'il a un chalet dans la zone, should he worry now?

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

960

Je ne dirais pas qu'il faut être inquiet. Je dirais que c'est pas tous les camps qui sont actuellement bâtis qui pourront avoir un droit. La majorité.

THE CHAIRMAN :

965

Not every cottage presently there will automatically have a right to stay there.

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

Donc, chaque demande ...

970

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

Why?

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

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Chaque demande va être étudiée au cas par cas, d'abord doivent respecter la réglementation.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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Every request will be examined on its own merit. First, they have to respect the regulations in place.

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

985

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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Second?

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

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Deuxièmement, les réglementations ... c'est comme si la personne faisait une demande. Donc, c'est ça qu'elle va faire, elle va faire une demande et on va regarder si c'est conforme avec la réglementation. On va regarder si c'est conforme avec le plan régional de développement.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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Second, has to be in line with the Regional Development Plan. Where is that plan now? Does it exist?

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

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Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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Is it in writing?

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

Yes.

1015 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Okay.

1020 **M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :**

Le plan a été signé par le ministre cette semaine.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1025 The plan was signed this week by the Minister.

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

Et l'information complète sera déposée à la Commission.

1030

THE CHAIRMAN :

And full information on that plan will be given to this Commission and a copy of it will be sent to your repository here at the Municipality of Blanc-Sablon.

1035

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

Et, troisièmement, il y a une consultation des communautés autochtones pour s'assurer que le droit, qui sera octroyé, ne vienne pas en contradiction avec leurs activités traditionnelles.

1040

THE CHAIRMAN :

1045 So, thirdly, they have ... and please remain calm, because I know this raises — how should I say? — tempers go up when I say this, they have to consult with the Innu, the Aboriginal people.

1050 Now, this consultation does not mean as I understand it, and correct me if I am wrong, that the Innu can say, “No, no, no” automatically. It is simply a way of looking at whether or not this given cottage, because it's on a case by case basis, does this cottage prevent the Innu from exercising their traditional rights as the Supreme Court of Canada has established in 1900 something in British Columbia, I think.

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

1055 That's right.

THE CHAIRMAN :

That's all?

1060

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

Et dans l'éventualité où la personne ferait une demande et qu'elle ne serait pas conforme à ça, on va pouvoir regarder une alternative. Est-ce qu'il n'y a pas d'autres secteurs ou une façon de régulariser, qui permettrait à la personne d'avoir un chalet.

1065

THE CHAIRMAN :

As a result of these three points examination it is found that this cottage does not fit within the law, they will look at an alternative, alternative site for the cottage.

1070

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

Ou des mesures qui permettraient de ...

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THE CHAIRMAN :

Or modifications to the way of exploiting the site or whatever that would make it fit within the legalized process.

1080

Am I explaining it clearly? Is it fine?

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

More that this guy is speaking, more that I am getting frustrated, because how the Minister can decide of a development plan for this biodiversity reserve.

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THE CHAIRMAN :

No, hold on. I think it is important not to mix up everything here. It is not a development plan for the biodiversity reserve. It is a Regional Development Plan, so the whole region ...

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Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

Yes.

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THE CHAIRMAN :

... by the Ministry of Natural Resources. It has nothing to do with the biodiversity reserve.

1100 Even if there were no biodiversity reserves, there would still be a Regional Development Plan.

Now, your next question is, how could they develop such a plan without consultant us?

Mr. Desrochers, how was this plan developed?

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Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

Yes.

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THE CHAIRMAN :

Was that your next question?

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

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That was my question.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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Yes, I'm getting used to Blanc-Sablon, you see.

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

1125

Le plan régional permet une planification du développement de la villégiature pour l'ensemble de la Côte-Nord.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1130

The Regional Plan is a way of planning the whole aspect of villégiature, cottages, cottaging, for the whole of the North Shore.

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

1135

C'est un plan qui couvre plus large que la villégiature. C'est un plan régional sur le développement des terres publiques.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1140

It's a plan that covers more than simply cottaging. It covers the whole of the public lands.

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

Et dans ce plan ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

1145

How public lands will be managed from now on? Is that ...

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

1150

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1155

... what the plan says?

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

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THE CHAIRMAN :

There's a section on cottaging.

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

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... et qui vient zoner le territoire pour dire de quelle façon vont se donner les nouveaux droits.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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So, this section has zoned the whole territory and saying in each zone how will rights for cottaging be given, be attributed.

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

1175

Par exemple, dans une très, très grande zone, le plan pourrait indiquer que les nouveaux droits seront donnés aux premiers demandeurs.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1180

For example, it could say that in this zone, new rights will be on a first request, first ... I'm having problems with English now. First served? If you tend your request first, you will be looked at first.

1185 **Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

If you know that you should put your requesting.

1190 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

We will finish this, okay?

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

1195 Donc, c'est ce que concerne ce plan-là.

L'autre réglementation s'applique pour l'ensemble du Québec.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

1200

Yes.

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

1205

C'est des normes d'implantation d'abris sommaires ou ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

1210

And there are standards that will apply for the whole province.

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

Donc, ce n'est pas spécifique à la Côte-Nord. C'est les mêmes normes ...

1215 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, the standards are the same for the whole province. They are not specific to here.

1220

Now, this plan was done through consulting with local authorities, local people or how did it come to be, Monsieur Desrochers?

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

1225

Je ne peux pas répondre précisément pour la consultation avec la communauté de Blanc-Sablon. Je sais que ce plan-là est en élaboration depuis plusieurs années. Depuis, je crois, 2001, le processus a été amorcé. Et l'étape finale était la signature par le ministre. Je n'ai pas eu la version finale signée, mais à ce qu'on m'a dit, elle a été signée la semaine

dernière.

1230 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, this plan has been in the making since 2001. It's a province-wide effort. It's completed and, he is quite certain, has been signed by the Minister as of this week or last week.

1235 Monsieur Joncas, please use the ...

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

I assisted to the consultation that those people did in 2001.

1240 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes.

1245 **Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

If this would be the same thing today, I would have no problem for a biodiversity reserve. In 2001 before the law came in force, you were allowed to do mining development ...

1250 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

No, this is not the same thing.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

1255 No.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1260 We are simply talking about the cottaging aspect of it. We are not talking about mining development in the biodiversity reserves. I just do not want us to be mix up in different things. We are discussing now just the cottaging issue. The mining development in the biodiversity reserves is another thing.

1265 **Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

But everyday somebody at those minister's office is putting some new laws in place and putting some new development plan in place without consulting the population.

1270 The last consultation that we had in 2001, we did not have too much trouble at that time

to live with the condition that was forwarded to us about cottage, about mining, about hydro, about different developments. We could live together. We could take a little sector and make some development, leave the biodiversity or the park on the side of that.

1275 But since more this guy is talking, more that since 2001, the restrictions are being put in place. And those restrictions, we want somebody ... and we are going to ask both ministers to come down with these new laws and to explain to us from A to Z what all those things mean ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

1280

Okay.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

1285 ... because it is not clear for us. And I can't see how the Commission can tell us on something that is so flou on both level of governments, the Environment and Natural Resources.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1290

Yes, I understand you.

Monsieur Desrochers?

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

1295

Simplement pour dire que la différence entre les consultations de 2001 et aujourd'hui, c'est la création de la réserve de biodiversité qui, avec le cadre légal qui l'encadre, amène des restrictions supplémentaires.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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Yes. So, of course, today is strictly limited to the biodiversity reserve and all that it entails. The Regional Development Plan of MRNF has nothing to do with the object of this Commission.

M. ARMAND JONCAS :

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Monsieur le commissaire, il existe des Innus en Basse-Côte-Nord. Il existe des Métis en Basse-Côte-Nord aussi. Et selon l'article 35, paragraphe 2 de la Constitution canadienne, ces deux groupes de personnes ont les mêmes droits.

1310

I can't see how the Natural Resources and the Minister of Environment are going to

consult only the Innus in order to get their opinion on their style of life without consulting us, that we are Métis people. 85 % of us are Métis people on the Lower North Shore, either Métis Innuit or Métis Indian and we are not going to be consulted.

1315

We already notified the Secrétariat des Affaires autochtones that when they will be coming along with the land claims of the Indians, we will be there to defend our rights on our land claims on the Lower North Shore. So, this biodiversity place, it is our land just as well as the Innu land.

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THE CHAIRMAN :

Well, Mr. Joncas, we are consulting you on this issue right now.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

1325

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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And we are consulting the Innus as well. So, we are consulting everyone.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

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Yes, but the way that I understood the law is made, the law is made to give some rights to the Innus, but we as Metis, our rights are going to be jeopardized compared to the Innus.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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This is another issue. I understand your point. As it is now, as Mr. Desrochers said, because of the Supreme Court judgment, before giving you or anybody else a right to a cottage on public land, they have to go and check with the Innus whether or not it prevents them from exercising their aboriginal rights.

1345

What you are telling me is that the Métis should have the same rights. Maybe so, maybe not, but you are right, there is no Supreme Court who has determined that the Métis have to be consulted in the same way as the Innus are consulted.

1350

But you will understand that I can record what you said. It is being recorded, it will be transcribed, but I do not have the authority to tell the Supreme Court of Canada that the Métis should be on the same level as the Innus.

I mean I know this fact. Actually, we heard that last night in Havre-Saint-Pierre from Mr. Shattler who lives in Saint-Augustin, who is a Métis himself.

1355 **Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Yes.

1360 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

And he said that they were in front of the courts presently on that issue.

1365 **Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

Yes.

1370 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, I am aware of it, but I do not think we can go any further along that line tonight.

1375 I would like to ask the Ministry of the Environment to comment on this issue of cottages within the reserve, specifically on ... because Mr. Desrochers said that there are two parallel processes, that his department is receiving requests. They will treat them on, you know, first come, first served basis and they will keep this going until you, on your side, have finished with your process of establishing perhaps a biodiversity reserve, a Conservation Plan, and rules that will regulate the operation of cottages on this, which is still public land, but now also a biodiversity reserve.

1380 Is this a true picture of what is happening? Can you comment on that?

M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

Oui. Est-ce que je peux répondre en français pour que ça soit plus clair?

1385 **LE PRÉSIDENT :**

En français, of course. That will just give me another opportunity at translating.

1390 **M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

Quand le statut projeté de réserve de biodiversité a été attribué en 2003 à ces territoires-là, l'information qu'on avait à l'époque était qu'il n'y avait pas d'occupation de droit sur le territoire.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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So, maybe that is an interesting point that may confirm some of the things that you have been saying, that people are not too aware of what is happening here. What he said is that when they selected this area and gave it a proposed biodiversity reserve status, they were not aware that there were — quote, unquote — “illegal” occupations on that territory.

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M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

Donc, pour cette raison-là, le Plan de conservation de la réserve de biodiversité projetée ne prévoyait pas l'attribution de nouveaux droits de villégiature.

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THE CHAIRMAN :

That explains why the Conservation Plan that they drafted or the ... I should not say the Conservation Plan, but the first go at a conservation plan that they wrote down and which you can find in here did not include anything regarding cottaging, because they were not aware that they were there.

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M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

Mais suite à la rédaction de ce document-là, puis au fait qu'en acquérant de la connaissance supplémentaire, puis que, là, on a appris qu'il y avait des occupations ...

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THE CHAIRMAN :

Now that they are aware of that fact ...

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M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

... il y a une réflexion qui a été entamée avec le ministère des Ressources Naturelles afin de voir ...

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THE CHAIRMAN :

... they have had discussions with the MRNF ...

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M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

... afin de voir quel serait le processus le plus adapté pour justement favoriser la régularisation de ces occupations.

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THE CHAIRMAN :

... in order to develop the most sensible plan of, you know, dealing with the issue.

1440 **M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

Donc, ce qui avait été discuté, c'est que, pour le Plan de conservation final, pour le statut permanent, le ministère de l'Environnement est prêt à prévoir une disposition dans le règlement pour le statut permanent pour permettre la régularisation ...

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

Yes.

1450 **M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

... bien, l'émission de nouveaux droits suite à une régularisation.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1455

So that their intent is to make sure that the final conservation plan will include everything that needs to be there in order to recognize the fact that there are cottages and regulations for the use and for the renewal of the leases and all that.

1460

Let him finish and then ...

M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

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Donc, à partir de là, je dirais la réglementation, qui concerne la Loi sur la conservation du patrimoine naturel qui régit le statut de réserve de biodiversité sous la juridiction du ministère de l'Environnement, s'arrête là en tant que telle pour les occupations.

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Puis, après, les dispositions qui s'appliquent pour l'émission des droits, la régularisation, les critères d'analyse, puis tout ça, c'est le ministère des Ressources naturelles qui fait cette analyse-là.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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So, he is simply confirming that MRNF is the authority that is responsible for the leases, and the renewal, and all that.

Mr. Joncas?

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

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Monsieur le commissaire, I do not know where the Environment starts ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

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Excuse me, I did not hear.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

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I would like to know where the Minister of the Environment is taking his information. I do not know of Parcs et Faune, what part it is. Is it in the Ministry of the Environment or in the Ministry of Natural Resources? But there is a pourvoyeur on the Rivière Saint-Paul. What I know about it, I went there in 1970. He had a permit to operate une pourvoirie sur la rivière Saint-Paul.

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He still has a permit today to operate a pourvoirie sur la rivière Saint-Paul. And if you look at the plan of the biodiversity reserve, this pourvoirie goes in the biodiversity space.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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According to the document and to what we have heard during the first part of the hearing, there is no problem with a pourvoirie in the biodiversity reserve.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

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No, no, no, but he was just saying a few minutes ago when they check the land that he was supposed to take, there were no such occupation.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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No, no. What they were not aware of is illegal occupations. They were aware of those occupations that were legalized and that had a lease, but they were not familiar or not ... you know, who, in an office of the government, would have a document on something that is not registered? It is understandable.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

1515

And my next thing, there is still some people that have trapping ground, okay, you know? And trapping ground still is part of Parcs et Faune. How can the Minister of Environment say there were no occupation on those lands, that they were aware about it, but Parcs et Faune know it was issuing some permits?

1520

THE CHAIRMAN :

1525 No, no, no. We were talking strictly about illegal cottages. Trapping lines are known and they can still operate within the biodiversity reserve. There is no problem with that as it is stated in this document.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

1530 No, but Mr. Béland, since 2001, there is so many stories that was told to us. There is so many things and laws that come out, everybody is lost, completely lost on what the government is intending to do.

1535 I was surprised to hear tonight that the Ministry has made the original plan, that they adopted the original plan last week when Jean Charest is preconizing that we should pass over the regional development to the region, but somebody is deciding for us on our behalf without consulting us. This does not make no sense to me, you know?

THE CHAIRMAN :

1540 I suppose that some people from the region were involved in developing the regional plan. I am not aware of who they are and maybe Mr. Desrochers could find out who is involved from this region in developing the regional plan.

1545 Is this something, Mr. Desrochers, you could do?

So, Mr. Desrochers will provide the Commission and we will send a copy to your depository here, who from this region was involved in developing the regional plan for MRNF. Not the biodiversity reserve, but MRNF. You will have that.

1550 Next week, Mr. Desrochers?

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

1555 In two weeks.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1560 In two weeks time, it will be here in Blanc-Sablon, names of the people from this region, if there are any. If the list is empty, it will be empty, but if not, you will have the names, okay?
Thank you.

Merci, monsieur. You know, you can come back later on by registering. Actually, we will see you later on, because you have another brief to read.

1565 But I have here Mr. Lionel Roberts, Mayor of Rivière-Saint-Paul. Good evening, sir.

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

Good evening.

1570

THE CHAIRMAN :

I was in Rivière-Saint-Paul in 1999, seven years ago.

1575

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

Seven years ago.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1580

Welcome.

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

1585

We invite you back again though.

THE CHAIRMAN :

Anytime.

1590

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

Because I look at this map and I am just starting to get into this looking at this map. Saint-Paul-River has the largest territory that is going to be involved in this sector, the largest river. Talking about cottages, the most cottages.

1595

It seems that Bonne-Espérance will be affected the most in this here and, yet, the population of Bonne-Espérance has never been consulted. Nobody has been there to have a meeting like this. And basically, I don't want to come in Blanc-Sablon another municipality and give all ... what I have to give a brief here, because I think it should be done in my municipality along with the people there, because this is going to affect them. If this goes through, it is going to affect them more than any other group, I think.

1600

THE CHAIRMAN :

1605

Yes. Thank you, sir, for bringing that issue up. Actually, when we planned these

1610 hearings, the mandate we were given covered such a large territory. As you know, we have two reserves in the area of Rivière-au-Tonnerre, Rivière-Saint-Jean, Magpie and two reserves up here. And so we went to Rivière-Saint-Jean, we went to Havre-Saint-Pierre ... first part, Rivière-Saint-Jean, second part, Havre-Saint-Pierre.

1615 In this area, we chose to go to Saint-Augustin which has no road link and to Blanc-Sablon, because we believe that the other communities could come to Blanc-Sablon by road, which was not the case for Saint-Augustin.

1620 It is a choice we had to make on the basis of logistics of budgetary issues. Nothing would have pleased me more than to go to all these communities and meet with all the people. But we advertised in the newspapers. We sent posters and we sent mailings. And we have someone who contacted every mayor of every municipality.

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

Yes.

1625 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

And, yes, it would have been better for us to go to all these places, I agree with you, but we are not able to do it within the limitations that we have.

1630 **Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :**

So, you will not be in Bonne-Espérance at all?

THE CHAIRMAN :

1635 In Rivière-Saint-Paul, you mean?

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

1640 In Rivière-Saint-Paul or Vieux-Fort, it doesn't make any difference.

THE CHAIRMAN :

No, we will not be going there.

1645 **Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :**

Okay.

1650

THE CHAIRMAN :

Tomorrow, we are in Pakuashipi and this is the end of our hearing. But you can send ...

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Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

A brief.

1660

THE CHAIRMAN :

Anyone can send any information, any request to us by mail, e-mail, phone, the numbers that you will find by asking Madame Hamel-Dufour at the back of the room. She is now up here.

1665

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

Yes.

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THE CHAIRMAN :

It is our mandate ...

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Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

Yes.

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THE CHAIRMAN :

... to consult people. Of course, we cannot go and see everyone, but we are always open and always receptive to any comment.

1685

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

So, I can send a brief on behalf of my municipality of course to you?

1690

THE CHAIRMAN :

Yes, sir.

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

Certainly I endorse the one that is given by the Council of Mayors, certainly, and support of Mr. Joncas's also.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1695

Yes.

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

1700

At what stage is this? At the very preliminary stage? Are you in ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

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I hope I will not make any errors. Mr. Olivier Bérard, please correct me. Maybe you could come up here and correct me.

A law was passed called *Loi sur la conservation du patrimoine naturel*, Natural Heritage Conservation Act.

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Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1715

In 2002, that law said many things, among those was the fact that the government has decided to set up a network of protected areas, several categories of protected areas, one of them being biodiversity reserves.

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Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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Each category has its own descriptions and its own — how should I say? — characteristics. And actually within the law, it named a number of proposed biodiversity reserves. I think there were eleven. Ten? There were ten — I am not bad. Two of them were the ones we are discussing now. Among the ten that were named in the law in 2002 were the Guernesé Lake and Brador Hills reserves.

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The law also said that we are not going to set up, and this is my own wording, we are going to set up these reserves right away. We are going to give these areas a projected reserve status. I am using the word “projected” ...

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Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

Yes.

1740 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

... because the law says “projeté”. That means proposed biodiversity reserve. This status is valid for four years.

1745 Within those four years, there has to be a public hearing on whether or not the people locally agree with the concept, agree with the delimitations, agree with what is proposed. People can discuss anything. You can bring anything to the table. So, we are in the process of this hearing now.

1750 **Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :**

Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1755

The government has four years, after 2003, to determine whether or not it will go along with these two biodiversity reserves. That means 2007.

1760 If it has not made up its mind ... and between you and me, the government so far has not made up its mind on any of them. So, the chances are that even if everybody agreed on the principle, everybody said, “It is a great idea, go ahead”, I am not sure it will go ahead in 2007.

1765 If it does not go ahead after four years, there can be an extension for the proposed status for twice one year, in other words two years, one year, then another year which brings us to 2009. After that, the government has to set it up permanently or forget about it.

So, does that summarize the process of how this came about?

Mr. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

1770

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1775

It is recent. The law was passed in 2002. And these were given the proposed status in 2003. Should the government have come earlier to the public? Yes.

Public hearings are extremely important, not only on this issue, but on many issues.

And, yes, the people should have been consulted earlier.

1780

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

Because my population don't know about this. I do not know a lot of it myself, my population and it is going to affect our way of life, their lifestyle, because on the Saint-Paul River, there is quite a few winter cottages. What is going to happen? That is my concern. And that is what the population of Saint-Paul River in particular is basically most concerned with.

1785

And besides, like Mr. Joncas said a while ago and rightly anyway, there is potential of minerals and everything else into this area. At this point in time, it has to be a moratorium on ... I do not think we should go a hell of a lot farther than we are right now, because we have to make more, lots of studies. And if this is going to be successful, the people in this area on the Lower North Shore have to buy into it. If we don't buy into this, then forget about it, it is not going to work anyway.

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1795

THE CHAIRMAN :

You are absolutely right.

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

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It won't work. And this is why it is going to take me some time. It is going to take me up to maybe a year, two years to explain to the people exactly what this is all about. And I am going to even request someone come in from the Department to explain to the population what is coming down the tubes for you.

1805

THE CHAIRMAN :

I think you should ask them to come down, because one of the reasons why I said the government should have consulted earlier ... reason for me to say that is that when you consult people, you bring information to the people and people know what the project is all about.

1810

If you read into this document and you are concerned about cottages ...

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

1815

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

... you are concerned about fishing and hunting, you are concerned about cutting wood when you go to your cottage and it is cold like today and you need some wood, you are

1820

concerned about you own a pourvoirie, a fish ...

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

1825

Fish camp, fishing club, fish camp.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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Fishing club?

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

We have two ...

1835

THE CHAIRMAN :

Fish and game club, all these things will be allowed within a biodiversity reserve. It will not change anything to those activities.

1840

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

But there's changes ...

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THE CHAIRMAN :

And if people knew that, they would be more willing to sit down and look at what it is that is going to be changed with the status. Some things will not be changed. Some things will be, but some things will not. And because people do not know the exact plan that the government has, people are against it.

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Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

That's right.

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THE CHAIRMAN :

And it is unfortunate.

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Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

Yes, because it is a lack of material before them.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1865

Excuse me for interrupting you, but when we set up a hearing like this one, we always determine that every document that is presented to the Commission or even things that the Commission itself discovers, because we are not only a hearing commission, but also an inquiry, commission of inquiry. So, we go and ask. We send questions to Hydro-Quebec. We send questions left and right.

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And when we send both the questions and the answers that we get to a number of places, we always determine where we are going to send a copy of all those documents.

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In the case of this hearing, we have a depository for all those documents in Montreal, in Quebec City, but we have one in Ekuanitchit which is Mingan. We have one in Pakuashipi. We have one in Rivière-au-Tonnerre municipal office. We have one in the municipal office of St. Augustin. We have one in Havre-Saint-Pierre and we have one here in Blanc-Sablon.

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As I said earlier, yes, we could have elected to also have one in Rivière-Saint-Paul so that you could have all the documents.

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

1885

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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Maybe it is a mistake we made, but we thought that, because there was a road link, that you people came regularly to Blanc-Sablon and that you could come and get the documents.

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But if there are any documents that you want relating to this Commission, please ask Madame Hamel and we can send you all the information as soon as we are back in Quebec City on Thursday night.

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

It will be in English?

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THE CHAIRMAN :

Most of the documents are in French, because ... well, the document describing the reserves, there is an English copy. Do you have an English version there?

1905

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

No, this one here is French. I just got it from a friend back there.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1910 Is it in English?

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

1915 Non.

THE CHAIRMAN :

There is one in English.

1920 **Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :**

Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1925 This gentleman has it there. We can have an English copy sent to you.

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

1930 Yes, that's fine. I am not going to take it, you just send ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

1935 No, you can have one yourself for your own. You can have another one for your municipal office and you can have as many as you want.

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

1940 Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1945 But most of the other documents are in French, because the government works in French ...

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

Of course.

1950

THE CHAIRMAN :

... and most people we meet with send documents in French. But the transcripts of everything that was said during the first part of the hearing here in Blanc-Sablon, in St. Augustin, everything was held in English as tonight. And all these transcripts are available and they are in English. The ones in Rivière-Saint-Jean and Havre-Saint-Pierre were in French, except last night, we had two speakers in English. So, it's bilingual, if you want.

1955

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

1960

Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN :

And you can get copy of all those things. Actually, you don't even need paper copies, because everything is on the Internet. We have a website and you can log in and get to read all the documents there, download them and print them, if you want. But if you want paper copies, we will have them sent to you.

1965

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

1970

Okay. Well, when I go back, I will certainly make a brief, send it to you and my opposition to this certainly. And all the way from ... right across the municipality all the way up to Napetipi.

1975

THE CHAIRMAN :

Yes.

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

1980

And certainly to me, it is a major thing. Right now, we do not have any information of what's ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

1985

Of course, you have to read to it, and think about it, and then comment on it. And we are to submit our report to the Minister by February 14. So, if you have any briefs, or comments, or questions, the sooner you send them, the better for us, because we will be able to consider them as we write our report to the Minister.

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Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

Okay, thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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Thank you, sir.

How about a coffee break? Then after coffee break, we will have Mr. Gino Beaudoin and Mr. Joncas again on behalf of the Council of Mayors.

2000

SUSPENSION OF THE HEARING

2005

CONTINUATION OF THE HEARING

THE CHAIRMAN :

2010

Before I call Mr. Beaudoin, during the break, I requested that the Department of the Environment give us an idea of the consultation with the public that they made regarding this. And I will ask that this list be deposited with the Commission, but I have here a list saying that in 2005 last year, on August 1, they met with the Municipal Council of Blanc-Sablon regarding the biodiversity reserve project.

2015

You were not mayor then, Mr. Joncas, I see.

Mr. LIONEL ROBERTS :

2020

But I was there.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2025

Mr. Dumas, Councillor Osborne was there, et cetera.

On the same day, they met with the Municipal Council of Bonne-Espérance, Mr. Buckle, Mrs. Fequet-Griffin, Mrs. Griffin and Mr. Pearl Roberts were there. There were two public information meetings, one on August 2 at night in Blanc-Sablon, there were fourteen people, one on August 3rd in Middlebay, there were seven people.

2030

So, there were some information given to the people and some consultation. And this document will be deposited with the Commission.

Mr. Gino Beaudoin.

2035 **Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

Good night, Mr. President.

2040 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Good evening. How are you?

2045 **Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

Not too bad.

THE CHAIRMAN :

I remember you were with us a month ago.

2050

Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :

2055 Yes. I just have a few little comments there to say that the ministries, when we want something from the ministry, no matter the Ministry of Fishery, or Environment, or whatever, we do not get satisfaction.

2060 The only time we see them is when they want something from us. Like now they want to make a reserve. So, I am not in favor for that. I think my best idea for them, the ministry ... whoever they call themselves, BAPE ... not the BAPE, but the biodiversity, I think the best thing they can do, until they can come up with a plan for the population of the Lower North Shore, for the future of we people and the children, in favor for us, they should pack their bags, get on the plane and go west, and don't come back till they have a solution that will favor we people. That is my opinion.

2065 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

What are your major economic concerns? For development ...

2070 **Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :**

Not only economic.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2075 ... of the community or ...

Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :

2080 I am talking about in general, the future of our children. Like you told Mr. Roberts just now that, "There's nothing changed. You can hunt, you can fish, you can do what you want on that land." But at the last hearing we had, our children cannot go in there and build a camp. What is there had to stay there now.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2085 So, I am trying to be specific. Your question is, will your children be allowed to get a permit to build a camp or a cottage in the biodiversity reserve?

Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :

2090 And enjoy the land that we are enjoying now.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2095 Can I have an answer on that, Mr. Bérard or Mr. Desrochers?

M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

2100 Ça va faire le lien avec tantôt. La position du gouvernement, c'est de régulariser les occupations existantes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2105 So, their policy as of now is to regularize existing occupations in them.

M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

2110 Donc, ça, c'est une disposition qui peut être prévue au Plan de conservation pour le statut permanent.

THE CHAIRMAN :

Point number one that is that could be included in the Conservation Plan.

2115 **M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

La position du gouvernement également n'est pas d'émettre de nouveaux baux. Dans le cas particulier de Guernesé avec cette problématique-là, il y aurait cette disposition-là qui sera prévue pour justement régulariser les occupations.

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Pour ce qui est des autres occupations dans le futur, il n'y a pas de décision prise pour l'instant en tant que telle, ça serait à analyser avant de ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

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No decision has been made as to whether or not new occupations will be allowed. In other words, when and if the Conservation Plan for the biodiversity reserve is written down in collaboration with the people here, if there is an agreement that new occupations could be allowed, then there would be. If it is the consensus that no new occupations should be given, that will be in the Conservation Plan.

2130

And in this context, I wish to ... was it when you were there a month ago, Mr. Beaudoin, that someone mentioned that why not ... because most of those camps are within a given limited area and there was a suggestion that this area could be removed from the proposed biodiversity reserve. Do you remember that?

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Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :

Yes.

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THE CHAIRMAN :

Would that be another possible ... because we are only examining alternatives here. There is no reserve as of today. So, we are trying to ...

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Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :

But what I am getting at — okay? — this has been the third meeting I have been to, okay? Twice with you guys and once with the other ones. And the last two times I have come, they said there were no more cottages allowed to be there. And tonight it is different again.

2150

So, to the last meeting, I precise, that why to every meeting, there is something that is changing? One day they tell us we are allowed, the next day we are not.

2155

THE CHAIRMAN :

Yes.

Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :

2160

Now, today they do not know now. There might be a chance.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2165 Yes.

Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :

2170 So, what is the point? If they can't give us the facts on paper now, what is what, well, I think they should go and, when they get straightened up, come back.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2175 I do not think there has been a change. My recollection of ... I do not know about what was said outside of this meeting, meaning this hearing, first part and second part, I do not know what was said during those meetings, but I am confident that what is being said within this hearing is the truth, is as much as we know about the issue.

2180 And the position of the Department is that they want to regularize existing occupations. As for new occupations, it will be a matter that will be decided in the Conservation Plan as it is being drawn in collaboration with the people locally.

Mr. Bérard?

2185 **M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

Oui. Cette disposition-là est prévue dans la *Loi sur la conservation du patrimoine naturel* qui a été établie en 2002.

2190 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

It is in the law. That is how it is written in the law.

M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

2195 Et très clairement, c'est que sous condition des dispositions qui sont prévues au Plan de conservation, l'attribution de tout nouveau droit est interdite. Donc, si le Plan de conservation ne prévoit pas de disposition, il n'y aura pas d'attribution de droit, mais s'il y a une disposition qui prévoit l'attribution de nouveaux droits dans le cadre de la régularisation ou dans le cadre de
2200 l'émission d'un nouveau bail en fonction, ça sera des analyses cas par cas, c'est possible.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2205 It is written in the Act that was voted in 2002 that unless the Conservation Plan allows it, there will be no new occupations. But if the Conservation Plan, that is being drawn in

collaboration with the Department and the people, allows new occupations, they will be allowed.

Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :

2210 In that case, why don't they tell us that to the previous meetings we had? Because at the last meeting, I asked and I could not get no answer on it.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2215 As soon as I am back in the office, I will check the transcripts of the first part of the hearing and I will make sure that it is similar to what we have said tonight. If not, what we have said tonight is the reality.

Mr. GINO BEAUDOIN :

2220 Very good. And for the final, I am totally against it and tell they cannot benefit for the people around here and on the Lower North Shore. I do not want to see it.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2225 Thank you for your testimony, Mr. Beaudoin.

If you do not mind, Mr. Joncas, I have two more people who want to speak.

2230 Monsieur Marius Lavallée, another familiar face. Good evening.

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

2235 Hello! What Mr. Beaudoin was just saying in there is true. I was at the meeting and he said what cabins or chalets were there, that's it. No one else is allowed to build there. So, now he comes back on his word.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2240 It is all written down in the transcripts.

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

Okay.

2245

THE CHAIRMAN :

We can both check that. But no matter what was in the transcript of the first part, what is

being said tonight clarifies it and corrects it, if it needs to be corrected.

2250

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

And what about when they asked to boycott that piece of land he was asking for?

2255

THE CHAIRMAN :

Yes.

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

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Well, Mr. Jones said it.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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Yes, to change the limits.

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

Yes.

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THE CHAIRMAN :

Was it you who suggested ...

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Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

No, Mr. Jones, Mr. Jones.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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Mr. Jones, okay. Yes, do you want to comment on that?

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

2285

Who?

THE CHAIRMAN :

Yourself.

2290

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

Oh! Me? I thought you were going to answer. You said he is going to ...

2295 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

No, I mean it is on the table. It is one of the proposals that we heard and that we will consider in our report to the Minister.

2300 When we submit our report to the Minister, we always report to him what the people have said. So, this will be there as one of the things that people have said.

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

2305 Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2310 And we will also comment on it. We will reflect on it and we will make ... I shouldn't use the word judgment, but use it in a general sense. We will make an assessment on all these things and finally come up with a proposal.

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

2315 I don't know his name there, he came up, he said they are going to check all the chalets in there or cabins and ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

2320 Mr. Desrochers.

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

2325 Desrochers. And they are going to see, some are not going to be allowed there, most ... no one is allowed there. They are all too close. And if you do allow, we are going to pay \$200 a year for a chalet. Then we get the municipality tax and everything. We are going to pay about \$300 a year. We go there four times by year.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2330 Yes.

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

2335 We are going to pay for that.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2340 So, what you are saying, that explains why people are not legalizing the occupations,
because it is not really worth it or ...

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

2345 It is not worth it to pay that, we go there three times by year, four.

THE CHAIRMAN :

Yes.

2350 **Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

So, we are going to ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

2355 So ...

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

2360 Okay, sorry.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2365 I mean, and ...?

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

And? Because ...

2370 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

I am just trying to understand where you are driving at.

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

2375

Because on the map you have there, you took just the part that we have, the little bit of luxury we have around here. We have got nothing and now you are taking everything from us. We know we are not going to be allowed there. He said they are going to see ... you have got three pieces, you are not allowed to be there. First, you have to check the Indians, how far from the pond. You are going to do this. So, nobody is going to accept it.

2380

THE CHAIRMAN :

I did not hear anything that specific. Mr. Desrochers said that they will look at a number of things, whether these occupations meet certain criteria in terms of where they are, including checking with the Innu whether or not this cottage prevents them from going by in a canoe for example or fishing in the river, you know?

2385

I mean it sounds very restrictive but, in the end, it may not be at all. But I did not hear him say, "If it is five feet from the shore, it has to go out. If it is six ..." nothing like that.

2390

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

It has got to be 100 feet, 100 feet from the pond.

2395

THE CHAIRMAN :

I have no idea ...

2400

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

I know.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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... how many feet it has to be.

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

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I know this.

THE CHAIRMAN :

Where do you get that from?

2415

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

Because I told you last time, I have five chalets in the country.

2420 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes.

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

2425

And I know.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2430 So, are they legal or illegal?

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

I have got them all in my friends' name.

2435

THE CHAIRMAN :

Yes.

2440 **Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

And they are all Indians.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2445

So, yes, I remember you mentioned that.

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

2450 Yes, yes. But me there, I do not agree with none of that either.

THE CHAIRMAN :

So, that is your position on ...

2455

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

This.

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THE CHAIRMAN :

... on the project.

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Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

Yes.

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THE CHAIRMAN :

You do not agree with a biodiversity reserve?

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Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

No.

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THE CHAIRMAN :

And your reasons are ...?

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

Because we there, we should be like we are. We do not even exist on a map till this come out.

2485

THE CHAIRMAN :

Okay.

2490

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

You ask, go in town, no one knows where we are at. And as soon as that comes out here, they are driving us back in town.

2495

THE CHAIRMAN :

So, how would it affect you? Assuming there is a biodiversity reserve as of tomorrow, how would that change your life?

2500

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

Change, first thing, if you put it there, we are not allowed to go there no more, use it and

go any kind of way.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2505

Yes, you can.

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

2510

No. You don't know which way that is going to be done yet. We might not be allowed to go there. Maybe we will not be allowed to cut no black spruce is all dead what is in there.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2515

To cut black spruce for what purpose?

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

2520

Yes, firewood.

THE CHAIRMAN :

Firewood? But that will be allowed.

2525

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

Yes?

THE CHAIRMAN :

2530

From what I can read in this document, cutting wood for your personal use is allowed.

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

2535

Yes, but every time he comes, it could change. Anything could change.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2540

I mean ...

Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :

You do not understand.

2545 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

We have to base our judgment on something, you know? If the document says that cutting wood is allowed, you cannot be against it because you think it will not be allowed.

2550 **Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

Yes, but they change rules. Everyday rules are changed. You don't understand what I am saying.

2555 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Yes.

2560 **Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

I give it up, you don't understand. The government makes the rules. The government changes the rules. Same for mining, the government said, "There is no one who is going to build there." If someone comes, "You want there?", the government could change it again, right?

2565 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

It is your opinion, sir.

2570 **Mr. MARIUS LAVALLÉE :**

Yes. My opinion there, should give it all up and leave us alone.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2575 Thank you.

Monsieur Jerry Landry.

2580 **M. JERRY LANDRY :**

Bonjour, monsieur le président.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

2585 Bonsoir, monsieur Landry.

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

I would like to make a proposal.

2590

THE CHAIRMAN :

Yes.

2595

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

Since the big issue here is about cottages and all that, I would like the ministère of Ressources naturelles et ...

2600

THE CHAIRMAN :

Environnement.

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

2605

... Environnement. I would like them to deposit with the project what is all the rules and regulations about having a cottage in a biodiversity reserve, because we are all talking ... they want us to go one by one to make an application and they are going to study all our cases one by one, see if we are going to be accepted.

2610

I would like them to at least put all the rules and regulations dans le documentaire ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

2615

Yes.

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

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... so we could at least know what we were are going to apply on because presently what everybody is expecting, instead of going one by one, well, at least if we got the rules and the regulations, we could all look at it as a collectivity, tout le monde ensemble, puis qu'on puisse regarder ça, puis peut-être avoir un aperçu.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2625

Yes.

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

2630 Now, do application, Natural Resources is going to look at our file and then the Environment can look at our file and then, one by one, they are going to say, "Okay, you have got to move 100 meters, you are not allowed", and so on and so forth.

So, if they could have at least a bit of documentation ...

2635

THE CHAIRMAN :

Yes.

2640

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

... so we could at least look at it.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2645

So, your message is clear. You want both departments to have a clear statement as to what those rules are or will be ...

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

2650

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2655

... as far as they know, because some of it will be determined in the Conservation Plan that presumably some of you would be involved in drafting.

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

2660

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

So, there are things that are not known at this time, but the things that are ...

2665

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

We don't know nothing until we apply.

2670 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

We have your request.

2675 **Mr. JERRY LANDRY :**

Because I know for a fact that most of us are not going to apply. We all are going to wait to see what is going to come out of this. I mean some people already tried to get a piece of land and ... comment je peux dire ça?

2680 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

We have ...

2685 **Mr. JERRY LANDRY :**

We would like, as a collectivity, to look at the rules and regulations. Probably we could make our own committee and say, "Well, okay, this is all our cottages and we would like to have this and that instead of going of one by one."

2690 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Among the various documents that were deposited with the Commission papers in your repository here and in the other ones, there is a question that the Commission has addressed to the Department which relates to that.

2695 **Mr. JERRY LANDRY :**

2700 Okay, because Mr. Ressources naturelles who came here just now said, well, they are in the process of making new rules, and this and that. So, that don't give us nothing. So, if we could have it in the final documentation, well, we would greatly appreciate it.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2705 Yes. I think next week we will have the regional plan of development, as well as the analysis — I am translating — for each of the territories concerned as they looked at the potential economic impacts of the proposed biodiversity reserves.

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

2710 Okay, thank you. I have a question now. Since monsieur le maire said that we are probably 85 % Métis, I would like to know when an Innu, or Indian, or Autochtone goes and builds a cabin on a Crown's territory, do they have to ask for a permit too?

THE CHAIRMAN :

2715

I can ask this question to Mr. Desrochers right away.

Could you come up here to answer the question, Mr. Desrochers? Quand un Autochtone veut construire un ... un chalet?

2720

M. JERRY LANDRY :

Oui ou une cabane.

2725

LE PRÉSIDENT :

Ou un camp sur les terres de la Couronne, est-ce qu'il doit demander un permis?

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

2730

La réponse, c'est « non ».

THE CHAIRMAN :

2735

The answer is "no".

M. JERRY LANDRY :

Comme vous l'avez dit tout à l'heure, le statut de Métis, il n'est pas officiel encore.

2740

LE PRÉSIDENT :

Monsieur Desrochers, est-ce qu'un Métis fait partie de la catégorie Autochtone qui n'a pas besoin de permis?

2745

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

Actuellement, non.

2750

LE PRÉSIDENT :

Non. Puis c'est une question qu'on ne peut pas ...

M. JERRY LANDRY :

2755

Non, c'est ça, parce que là pourquoi on est dans ...

LE PRÉSIDENT :

2760

Mais je pense qu'on n'est pas l'organisme qui peut répondre à votre question.

M. JERRY LANDRY :

2765

Non, non, je sais. Mais est-ce qu'on peut recommander qu'ils nous répondent? Non?

LE PRÉSIDENT :

On pourrait ...

2770

M. JERRY LANDRY :

Pour ce cas-là.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

2775

Votre commentaire est là. Il y a eu plusieurs commentaires à propos des Métis, ça va être dans les transcriptions. Et il est possible que la Commission émette un commentaire à ce sujet, mais je ne peux pas vous le dire en ce moment.

2780

M. JERRY LANDRY :

Une autre question. Concernant le statut aussi des Autochtones ... okay, the Indians do not have to ask for a permit, but do they have to go by the rules? Do they have to put their cabin 100 meters from the lake like everybody else or they could put on top of the lake?

2785

LE PRÉSIDENT :

Monsieur Desrochers? Alors, la question, c'est: un Autochtone n'a pas besoin de demander de permis, mais est-ce qu'il peut construire son camp n'importe où, n'importe comment? Monsieur Desrochers, vous avez un fantôme dans la salle.

2790

M. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

2795

Oui, j'ai un double. Les Autochtones occupent le territoire et, pour réaliser leurs activités traditionnelles, ils implantent des camps permanents ou des camps temporaires depuis des millénaires et ça se poursuit encore aujourd'hui.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2800 Alors, the answer is the Aboriginal people use the territory as they have been doing for thousands of years. And they build temporary or permanent camps as they wish.

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

2805 Okay, but permanent camp, do they have to abide by the rules? Dans les cas des camps pas temporaires, pas des camps ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

2810 I think the answer that Mr. Desrochers gave was to the effect that they can do as they have been doing for thousands of years, that is before there were any rules. That implies that they do not have to follow specific rules.

 Mr. Desrochers, is that interpretation correct?

2815

Mr. SÉBASTIEN DESROCHERS :

 Yes.

2820

M. JERRY LANDRY :

 Donc, autrement dit, il y a de la discrimination envers les Blancs, les Métis?

THE CHAIRMAN :

2825

 This is in the record.

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

2830

 Okay, thank you.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

2835 Excusez-moi. Excuse me, if anyone wants to make a comment, this is an open hearing, there is no antagonism here, whatever you want to say, you are allowed to say, but please say it up here through this microphone so we can hear you. And only one person is speaking at a time, but first — first — you have to register with Madame Hamel-Dufour. Otherwise, she would be out of a job.

2840 I have Mr. Joncas who will present a brief on behalf of the Conseil des maires de la Basse-Côte-Nord, Lower North Shore Mayors Council.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

2845 Mr. the President, the Council of Mayors is representing five municipalities from Kegaska to Blanc-Sablon. The Council met on November 20th, 2006 to discuss the above-mentioned subject matter which is Projet de réserves de biodiversité dans la province naturelle du Plateau de la Basse-Côte-Nord.

2850 At that meeting, the decision was taken to request to the Conseil des ministres du Québec to suspend all discussions and hearings on the proposed Guernesé Lake Foothills biodiversity reserve which covers 2,000 square kilometers and the Brador Hills biodiversity reserve which covers 32 square kilometers.

2855 This for the following reasons:

Considering that two of the five municipalities concerned, Bonne-Espérance and Gros-Mécatina, have not been consulted or invited to attend this process;

2860 Considering that we are in the process of preparing a diversification plan for the Lower North Shore and we must look at the mining, forestry, tourism and hydroelectric potential;

Considering that the full potential of this region has not been explored;

2865 Considering that the proposed reserves from Natashquan to Blanc-Sablon represent more than 8 % of the territory;

Considering that we are in the process of forming an MRC;

2870 Considering that we are also requesting to the Minister of Natural Resources to lift all restrictions which were put in place on our region since 2003;

Considering that if we are to prosper and grow as a region, we must have all the necessary tools to help us to achieve our goals.

2875 With this in mind, we are requesting that these hearings be suspended until such a time that an in-depth exploration of the territory can be obtained to fully understand the potential of our region.

2880 And the letter is signed by Mr. Randy Jones, the President of the Council of Mayors, with a copy to all the mayors of the Lower North Shore.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2885 Thank you, sir. Can I ask you to tell me more about the process of forming an MRC?
Where is it at now?

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

2890 Well, at this meeting that we had on the 20th of November, we passed a resolution that we send to the Minister of Municipal Affairs in order to get the process on the go.

2895 What we know for the personal at Baie-Comeau, Mrs. Louis Bélanger and Madame Marcella Beaudoin, they were just waiting to get a resolution from our Council of Mayors in order to put the process on the go, because there is only two places in the province of Quebec that does not have an MRC and we are one of them. And we are losing big time not having an MRC, you know?

THE CHAIRMAN :

2900 What is that status presently? Is it called "territoire municipal"?

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

2905 What we have, the Council of Mayors and which regroups five municipalities. Our limit of territory is six kilometers inland, okay? Beyond that, it belongs to an MRC of the Minganie.

THE CHAIRMAN :

2910 Minganie.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

2915 But with all the development that is coming on the Lower North Shore, we want to recuperate everything.

2920 Just an example, le Petit-Mécatina, the first dam, no problem, it is in the Municipality of Côte-Nord-du-Golfe. But when you go into the second dam, third dam and fourth dam, you are in the MRC of the Minganie. But the MRC of Minganie could say, "This is not your territory no more."
So, we will have no spinoff of those dams.

And this is the same thing of the reserve of biodiversity that the Ministry is planning to do. They come and see us, but they do not really have to come and see us today. They could deal only with the MRC of Minganie. In order to avoid that, we want to have the MRC, that we could

2925 go right to the limits of Labrador.

THE CHAIRMAN :

And what is the difference between the status you have now and the MRC status?

2930

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

Because now when you go at different levels of government, they do not really understand what is the Council of Mayors. It is a legal body, but the only thing, it does not have the power of an MRC. So ...

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THE CHAIRMAN :

And do you have a plan d'urbanisme?

2940

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

Well, every municipality now is in the process to ... we, in the Municipality of Blanc-Sablon, we have one started that should be finalized by next year. And every other municipality, they are preparing to do their plan d'urbanisme.

2945

We have got a plan d'urbanisme which is old, since 1983, that needs to be completely revised. So, we are in the process of revising. And most municipalities get the same one.

2950

THE CHAIRMAN :

Are there any documents relating to that that you could submit to this Commission regarding the plan d'urbanisme and regarding the process of becoming an MRC?

2955

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

Yes. Well, I guess so. We will get in contact with Mr. Louis Bélanger and Madame Marcella Beaudoin in Baie-Comeau and we could submit you what we are doing.

2960

THE CHAIRMAN :

Thank you, sir.

Monsieur Therry Beaudoin.

2965

M. TERRY BEAUDOIN :

Bonsoir.

2970 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Good evening. Bonsoir, monsieur Beaudoin.

M. TERRY BEAUDOIN :

2975

Moi, j'ai une question.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

2980

Oui.

Mr. TERRY BEAUDOIN :

2985 A question, where we see that 99 % of the cabins is located in one area — I know the question was asked before — can we have one of those guys answer if we can exclude this zone?

THE CHAIRMAN :

2990 I think this question was asked and there was an answer given during the first part. But I will ask Mr. Bérard to answer again.

Did you understand the question, Mr. Bérard?

M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

2995

Bien, comme il a été dit en première partie des audiences, le ministère a bien pris note de la suggestion de modifier les limites, puis d'exclure éventuellement le secteur sud-est.

3000 C'est certain que je ne peux pas donner de réponse sur cette proposition-là qui a été faite, sachant qu'il faut analyser ça, puis on va attendre le rapport du BAPE aussi par rapport à ça pour se positionner. Puis nous autres, par rapport à ça aussi, on va faire une analyse écologique de l'exclusion de cette zone-là, si on décide de donner suite ou non.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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So, the answer given is essentially the same as during the first part, is that the

Department is open to considering a change to the limits of the proposed biodiversity reserve in order to exclude this area that contains a large number of ... maybe most if not all of the cottages, that they are willing to consider it.

3010

They are, of course, waiting our own report. We may, as a commission, decide to make a recommendation on this issue. We may or we may not. And they will also make an analysis as to what would that have as consequences regarding the ecological integrity of the reserve and maybe economic impact, positive or negative. But it is something that can be suggested.

3015

Mr. THERY BEAUDOIN :

It would solve a lot of problems to most of the people in the area, right?

3020

THE CHAIRMAN :

Yes.

Mr. THERY BEAUDOIN :

3025

You can't give an opinion ... without giving a firm answer, does anybody have an opinion on it? Is it a good idea to exclude it or ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

3030

Well, from what I heard during the first part, some people thought it was a good idea and you seem to think it is also a good idea.

Mr. THERY BEAUDOIN :

3035

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

3040

I am not going to state on it right now, of course, but it will certainly be in our report, because you have mentioned it, and we may comment on it.

Mr. THERY BEAUDOIN :

3045

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

3050

And we may — what is the word? — pass a judgment as to whether it is or not a good idea.

Monsieur Bérard?

M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

3055

Juste peut-être pour une précision que même si la décision était de retirer ce secteur sud-est, les gens devraient tout de même être régularisés, les occupations.

THE CHAIRMAN :

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But if it is out of the biodiversity reserve, it does not concern you very much, but what he says is that it does not preclude the Ministry of Natural Resources from requiring that these occupations be regularized.

Mr. TERRY BEAUDOIN :

3065

The regulations that we do not know yet what are the regulations.

THE CHAIRMAN :

3070

Yes, yes.

Mr. TERRY BEAUDOIN :

3075

We don't know.

THE CHAIRMAN :

3080

No, but I mean, you know, those occupations are illegal. So, even if they are outside of the biodiversity reserve, because the limits would have been changed ...

Mr. TERRY BEAUDOIN :

3085

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

... it is still possible that the Ministry of Natural Resources may require you to legalize these occupations. I do not know, but it is a possibility.

3090 **Mr. TERRY BEAUDOIN :**

Another thing ...

3095 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

But I am not going to ask Mr. Desrochers to comment on it.

Mr. TERRY BEAUDOIN :

3100 Another opinion I am going to give, I think we are all wasting our time because I think you answered the question. Now, if the Aboriginal people can build cabins or chalets anywhere, so why are we going to make a biodiversity park or whatever and the Indian or Aboriginal people can come and build and pollute the land like they do? Because I have been hunting moose on Mécatina River for the last fifteen years and I have never seen nobody pollute a piece of land as much as they do, big time.

3105 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

So ...

3110

Mr. TERRY BEAUDOIN :

So, we are all wasting our time. I think you are wasting our tax monies.

3115 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

So, your comment is to the effect that, within a biodiversity reserve, there should be more effort as to the uses within the reserve, whether or not they change or pollute the environment, whomever that may be ...

3120

Mr. TERRY BEAUDOIN :

3125 They are making a law for White men and then we are making another law for another one. It is probably a waste of our time. I see the pollution that they do. And if they have the rights to be there, it is a waste of time, I think.

THE CHAIRMAN :

Thank you, sir.

3130

Mr. TERRY BEAUDOIN :

Thank you.

3135 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Any more comments? No? Thank you.

3140 Anyone else who wants to express an opinion? Mr. Joncas, do we have to write him down on the register? No?

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

3145 Me, I find funny that a piece of land such as where they want to put that biodiversity reserve is becoming so interesting for the Minister of Environment to do so.

3150 Never since Jacques Cartier passed here 1534 that the Ministry of Environment took any interest to our land and now, because they are stuck with their pants down, they have got to find some land in order to put a biodiversity park, they are interested in our land.

3155 Before they do some things there, they should look with the other departments of a development plan such as the development plan like we see on the Newfoundland Island. When Parks Canada went in the Grosse Morne area, the people of Grosse Morne never moved. They lived with Parks Canada and they collaborated with Parks Canada.

3160 If the Environment Quebec will come, and sit down with us, and work with us in the same sense that Parks Canada worked in the Grosse Morne area, there could be a lot of things that could be done and we could live broadside and do our daily activities what we are doing now, because nobody of us is going in there and tearing everything apart. We like the nature that is in there and we want to keep it as it is.

3165 And why Environment Quebec is so interested in that piece of land? Is it because they can find no other place? And is it because it is not going to affect so many people? And it is all those questions that Environment Quebec never did give us an answer why they were so interested in that piece of land.

THE CHAIRMAN :

3170 Let me simply as an answer state from the transcripts from the first part the comments that were given the by the Department.

Relating to Jacques Cartier, yes, there is a very recent concern, because the law was passed in 2002 regarding, you know, the Loi de conservation du patrimoine naturel. It is only

four years old. It is very recent.

3175

But the government made the decision to reserve 8 % of the territory of the province of Quebec. Then it was determined that the province would be divided into a number of natural regions and that, within each of these regions, about 8 % of the territory would be set aside as reserves.

3180

This here is part of the Lower North Shore national region. And within that region, 8 % of the territory, according to this Act, has to be set aside as reserves.

3185

They selected areas on the basis of how representative they were of this whole natural area or sometimes because they were unique. For example, the Brador Hills are unique in terms of their geology and some of the plants that grow there. So, this is how various areas were selected.

3190

Then it was determined which ones were feasible, in the sense that if there are land mining claims in a given area, you could not set biodiversity reserves. If, for example, the Romaine River is to be developed for hydro power development, you are not going to set up a reserve there, et cetera. So, in general terms, this is how this area was selected.

3195

Now, regarding parks like national parks, like Parks Canada, yes, there are national parks in Canada. There is one in Grosse Morne. There is one near Mingan also. There are parks here and there. It is a totally different issue. National parks are federal government projects and there is, in any case, a moratorium in Quebec on establishing new federal national parks.

3200

So, this is how I will answer your question or your wondering why Environment Quebec has determined that this area could be set aside as a biodiversity reserve and why there are no national parks being considered. This is a totally different matter, I think.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

3205

My last thing, the Commission should at least get the full information on what potential of development that is in this area before they make their final recommendations.

3210

The Natural Resources today don't have a clue what is in that. In order to do that, knowing the territory, it will take four to five years or six years, all depends on the budget they have got, to cover that land. And it is not with planes up in the air, not going down on the ground that you are going to know what is the potential was there in that area.

THE CHAIRMAN :

3215 Mr. Joncas, I can tell you, and you will find that in the transcripts from last light's hearing in Havre-Saint-Pierre, that the representative of ... I don't want to give the wrong name, but his name is Mr. Lévesque, he is the mayor of Sept-Îles?

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

3220 Yes, Ghislain Lévesque.

THE CHAIRMAN :

3225 And he is Regional Council of élus.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

3230 Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

3235 And he said essentially that there should be a moratorium on these reserves pending a thorough evaluation of their economic potential in terms of hydroelectric development, mining and wind power.

Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :

3240 Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

And these transcripts will be available here next week or ten days from now approximately.

3245 **Mr. ARMAND JONCAS :**

3250 The Foothills of Guernesé Lake is probably eventually the best area to develop the windmill industry. You ask Hydro-Quebec, in all the province, the best potential development for windmills is in the Municipality of Blanc-Sablon.

THE CHAIRMAN :

As far as I could tell tonight, anywhere near this building would be good.

3255 Monsieur Landry who will be our last speaker, last word for tonight.

M. JERRY LANDRY :

Rebonsoir.

3260

LE PRÉSIDENT :

Bonsoir, monsieur Landry.

3265

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

I am just curious to know, out of the 8 % of the territory of the province of Quebec, which percentage does the Lower North Shore include? Is it 50 % of the 8 %, 80 %, 70 %?

3270

THE CHAIRMAN :

Mr. Bérard should know these figures by heart. So, I will ask him to come up here and answer the question.

3275

I am being told by Mr. Boudreault that within the Lower North Shore Natural Province, what is proposed presently ...

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

3280

Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

3285

... because there are no actual permanent reserves, but what is proposed in terms of various types of protected areas amounts to 10 ½ %.

Mr. Bérard, is that correct?

M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

3290

Oui, pour la province naturelle du Plateau de la Basse-Côte-Nord, c'est 10.5 % actuellement, sauf que le Plateau de la Basse-Côte-Nord couvre plus large. Bien, c'est différent de la région administrative en tant que telle.

3295

Pour les chiffres concernant la région administrative, on a déposé un document à la commission qui fait le bilan des aires protégées par province naturelle ...

LE PRÉSIDENT :

3300 Oui.

M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

3305 ... au Québec et par région administrative.

THE CHAIRMAN :

3310 It is never as simple as you would think, because there is a difference between the administrative region called Lower North Shore and the Natural Province ...

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

Yes.

3315 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

... in terms of its biology, and plants, and all that. The figures are available, Mr. Landry. They have been submitted to this Commission and I do not have them in hand now.

3320 Mr. Bérard, do you have those figures in hand, the ones you said you submitted to us last week?

They are in writing and they are probably already available on our website and you can find these figures. But in terms of the natural province ...

3325

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

Yes.

3330 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

... area called Lower North Shore, it is 10.5 %.

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

3335 10.5 % of the ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

3340 Natural province.

M. JERRY LANDRY :

C'est 10 % du 8 %, c'est ça? Autrement dit, sur le ...

3345

LE PRÉSIDENT :

Non, non, non.

3350

M. JERRY LANDRY :

Bien, c'est ça. Moi, je veux savoir sur la région ici concernant Blanc-Sablon pour voir s'il prend trop de notre région, puis ...

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THE CHAIRMAN :

I get your point.

3360

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

Yes. I want to know if out of the 8 % ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

3365

The plan is that each national region should have 8 % of its territory eventually in the end as natural protected ...

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

3370

Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN :

... as protected areas. What is projected now amounts to 10.5 %, correct?

3375

M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

Oui, mais en tout cas, si je comprends bien la question, c'est plus précisément concernant la région d'ici.

3380

M. JERRY LANDRY :

Ici, oui, si c'est bien réparti,

3385 **M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

C'est ça.

3390 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

You mean the geographical area of the Lower North Shore.

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

3395 Yes, is it ...

THE CHAIRMAN :

What are the limits that you are talking about?

3400

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

You are saying that 8 % ...

3405 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Mr. Joncas, please do not interrupt.

3410 **M. JERRY LANDRY :**

Je veux savoir, c'est ça, la région de Guernesé, c'est un gros territoire. Vous avez pris beaucoup de territoire. Vous dites que c'est 8 % du territoire du Québec ...

3415

LE PRÉSIDENT :

Non.

M. JERRY LANDRY :

3420 ... qui devrait être ... Non?

LE PRÉSIDENT :

Non, non, non. Laissez monsieur Bérard nous donner ...

3425

M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

3430 Oui, je vais vous donner l'information. Si on se réfère à la page 1 du document de consultation, le territoire de Guernesé contribue à 0.12 % du réseau des aires protégées actuellement au Québec.

THE CHAIRMAN :

3435 Alors, Guernesé would amount to 0.12 % of the total protected areas now proposed for the whole of the province.

Mr. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

3440 Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

3445 Guernesé itself, Guernesé Lake hills, it is 2,000 and so square kilometers, amounts to 0.12 %.

Mr. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

3450 Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN :

1/10th of a percent of the whole of Quebec.

M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

3455 Et les Collines de Brador ne font pas une grosse différence parce que c'est 32 kilomètres carrés.

THE CHAIRMAN :

3460 Now, if you add Brador Hills, you add almost nothing, because ...

M. JERRY LANDRY :

3465 Donc, 1 % des aires protégées, c'est ça?

M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :

Non, 012 %.

3470 **M. JERRY LANDRY :**

.012 %?

3475 **M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

.012 %.

M. JERRY LANDRY :

3480 O. K.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

0.12 ou ...

3485

M. JERRY LANDRY :

0.12, oui.

3490 **M. OLIVIER BÉRARD :**

0.12.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

3495

0.12, zero, one two percent.

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

3500 Okay.

THE CHAIRMAN :

Of the whole of protected areas in Quebec.

3505

Mr. JERRY LANDRY :

Thank you.

3510 **THE CHAIRMAN :**

Thank you for coming here tonight. As I said, we are here to hear what you have to say.

3515 And our mandate is to bring all this back to the Minister, not only what is being said here tonight in Blanc-Sablon, but what has been said and what will be said again during the last meeting which is tomorrow morning at Pakua Shipu across the river from St. Augustin.

After that, we go back to Quebec City and we will be preparing our report. And we will submit it to the Minister by February 14, 2007.

3520 I invite you to find out what was said in the other meetings and what will be said tomorrow by checking on our website or going to the documentation center in the municipal office here in Blanc-Sablon where all the briefs, and all the transcriptions, and every other documents ... we still have answers to be given to some of the questions we have addressed not only to the Ministry of Natural Resources, but we have addressed a question, among others, to Hydro-Quebec
3525 regarding their plans for hydro development on the various rivers along the Lower North Shore.

So, all these questions will receive answers because these commissions have the same power as judges of the Superior Court. So, when we ask a question, we expect to get an answer.

3530 On behalf of the Commission and all our team, I thank you all for coming here expressing your views and be sure that your views will be part of our report.

I thank all participants, the proponent, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks, Resources persons, specifically Mr. Desrochers from the Ministry of Natural
3535 Resources, and all those who, through participating to this public hearing, have allowed us to better understand what the projects are all about, and where they are going, and where they should go.

Thank you very much.

3540

Je, soussignée, **LISE MAISONNEUVE**, sténographe judiciaire, certifiée sous mon serment
3545 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.

ET J'AI SIGNÉ:

3550

LISE MAISONNEUVE, s.o.