

Mme Chair, Mr Commissioner,

My Name is Zenon Chmielowski.
I have lived in Danford Lake for 25 years.
This is my home and I cannot stand by and watch it destroyed by people with misguided intentions.

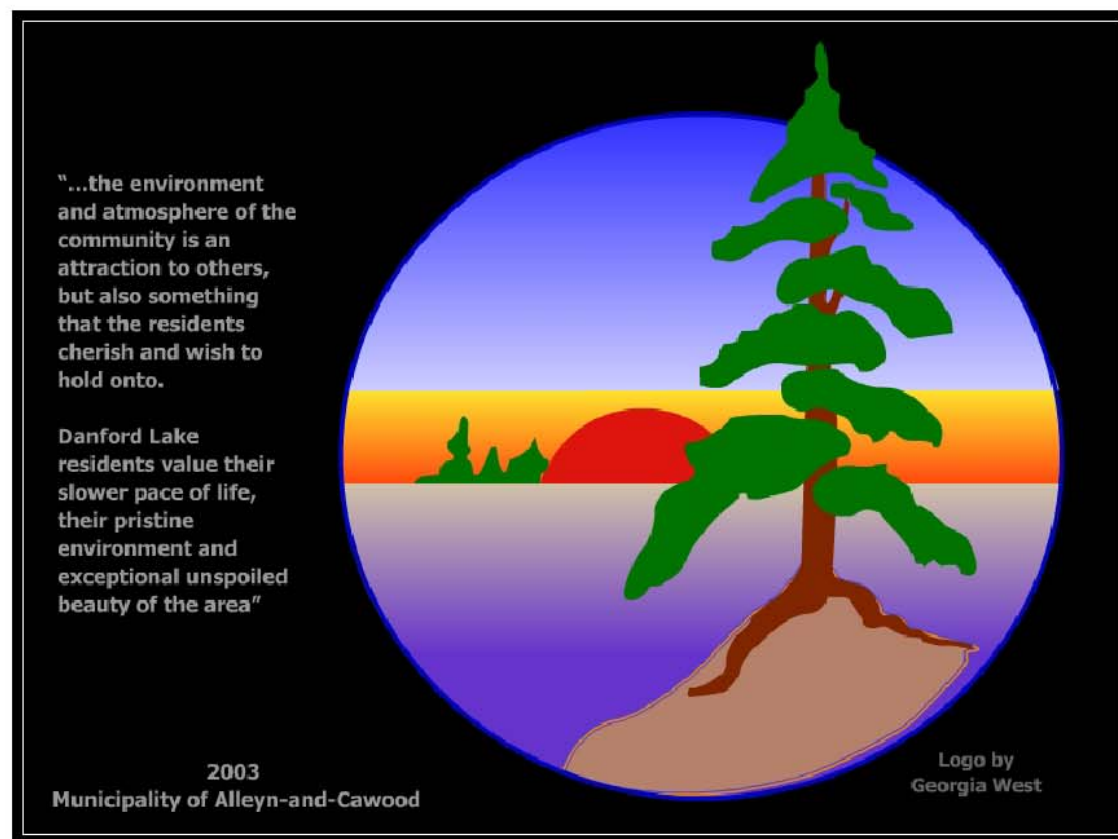
I oppose this project for many reasons.
All of them have been represented here by other concerned citizens.
I would like to focus on the issue of road safety.
I also have much to say about the attack on democracy, so strangely tolerated by the Government of Quebec, but due to limited presentation time I will go straight to the declining safety on these local roads.

However, before I begin, please allow me to introduce an artist's vision.

Danford Lake has seen better days;
days when people were as one;
when elected officials shared the people's vision of this little town's future.

We were all proud of our pristine, unspoiled environment.

The mood of those days was so well captured in the LOGO created by Mrs. Georgia West.



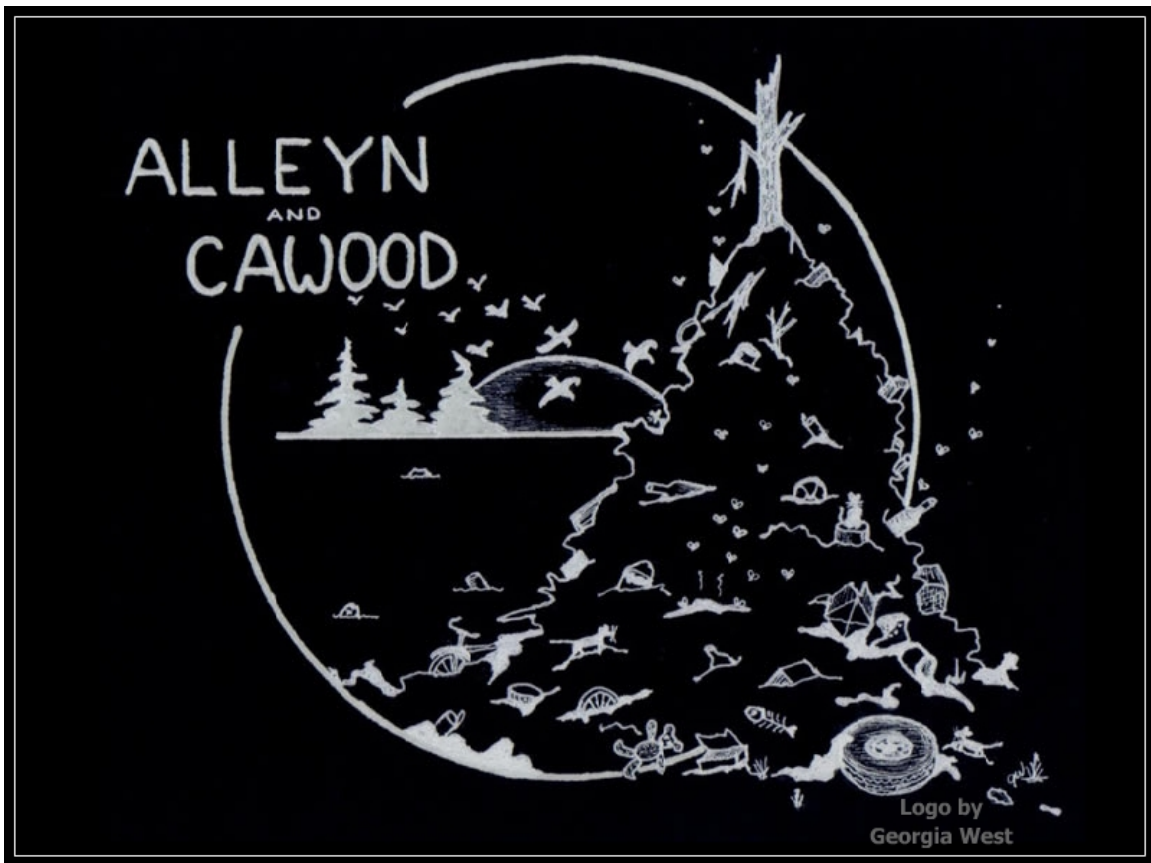
But then the winds have changed.

Winds brought on by a private corporation.

According to an old war tactic "DIVIDE AND CONQUER" the people of this village have lost their united front, which served them well for generations.



If this hearing, does not manage to turn the winds around, this new LOGO shell represent the vision of Danford Lake, for generations to come.



Thank you, Georgia.

No words could have done this better.

Let me now proceed straight in to the issue of traffic, and Quebec's acceptance of the high risk, the issue of the ultimate price, some Quebecers may pay for this project.

Years ago, I have seen a banner in a windshield of a commuter's van.

The banner said: "Pray for me. I drive Hwy 105".

This road has been known as "killer highway". It has claimed many lives; caused many tragic moments in families.

For years, local residents have struggled with the fact that Highway 105 is the ONLY link to civilization.

This is the only choice for working commuters, for students traveling to school.

In my family alone we spend 12 person-hours per day traveling Hwy 105 and 301.

Hundreds of local kids travel to and from school every day. Often when a bus is a little late I start to panic. Is my daughter OK? What if something happened? I freeze and wait in terror. This is all I can do.

As a bus driver myself I get to see a lot of situations, which could end up in horror.

No matter how good the drivers are (and a lot of them are good) there are simply too many vehicles on these bad roads.

These roads used to be simple country dirt roads, winding around hills and river curves. Then they were paved. They are still country roads ... which have been paved. These routes have not been designed for heavy traffic. They have never been designed. Just happened to be there from the old, logging days.

Putting more and more traffic on, is like playing Russian Roulette. It is reckless and irresponsible. It is putting public safety at risk and – in fact – is costing lives.

Placing a facility near Danford Lake, which will cause a dramatic decline in road safety is simply criminal. It takes a blind fool to not see, at what cost this facility would operate.

Human lives are at stake, and everything possible must be done to prevent this from becoming reality of the 21st Century Quebec.

I make this claim based on experience, my own, and my colleagues.

If you permit me, I'd like to play a short video of a few testimonies of my colleagues.

(Video of testimonies given by three other bus drivers was played on the screen.)



Testimony of Sue Martin:

Over the years there have been a lot of close calls and it gets worse and worse every year where the trucking gets heavier and heavier.

*This is a road that was never built for this kind of trucking.
People put their kids on the busses in the morning thinking they will be back home safely in 7 hours, but will they?
More trucks, over a hundred a day on this highway will only make it more dangerous.
Just for an example of a close call, this week...
There was a convoy of three transports behind me, three trucks; not loaded, so moving pretty quick. Very close behind me, so that I could not make a safe stop; I couldn't even safely pull over to let them get by me.
This is the kind of thing we deal with every day.
More trucks will only make the situation worse.*

Testimony of Mr. Doug Brown:

...I stopped to drop her kids off, after they were in the corner there, and err...she yelled at the kids to stay back. I looked in the mirror and a tractor trailer was coming, err...he was trying to get stopped. Smoke was flying off his wheels there, and I took off and swung to the side, and he got stopped, and the kids got on...

Testimony of Mrs. Karen Milford:

My experience was, I was stopped to let children off. I had put my four-ways on, and ah... a big truck came around the corner and when he's seen the four-ways he tried to brake and stop, and ah... when he did this, the trailer, the truck jack-knifed and it headed for our bus. It was unbelievable, and I just screamed at the kids to get down and brace themselves, and I help onto the steering wheel and braced myself; and he managed to regain the control of the vehicle, and he stopped, like...inches... from our buss. I'll never forget it. It's in my mind... every time I close my eyes, I see it.

(End of testimonies)

Just this last September, I and some students returning home to Danford escaped death by a matter of inches. It was a nice, warm, sunny day. We were only a few km from Danford. I stopped the bus to let a student off. The bus stop is just past a curve and on a down-hill slope, not visible to the traffic behind the bus until the last few moments.

If I may, I'd like to play a video of that road section.

This will show how little time one has before hitting a bus.

(The video was presented here)

Notice that in the first frame, going up hill, you cannot see the Bus. In the Second frame the Car approaches the top of the hill (about 300 feet behind the Bus). This Car was prepared to stop and did this in 3 seconds (about 130 feet).



Now back to my story.

As the student was getting off the bus, I heard some squealing noise. I looked back and saw a truck burning tires, trying to stop. It did stop. Just inches from the back of the bus. I cannot describe what I felt. I was numb.

Had this been a rainy day, I and the bus passengers (all Danford residents) would have been dead.

I cannot emphasize enough, how much danger hangs over our heads every day.

For the purpose of this hearing I have studied the issue of safety, or rather the science of collision, and would like to present my findings.

As a Marine Engineer and a Computer Programmer I was well equipped to do this job.

I have refreshed my knowledge of some laws of physics, which could be applied in calculating the dynamics of stopping a vehicle.
I have also visited websites of Road Departments of various countries, as well as many university sites.

In order to be able to play “what-if” scenarios I have developed a computer program, which would take away all the laborious calculations and allow me to concentrate on the issue at hand. The main question I wanted answered was:

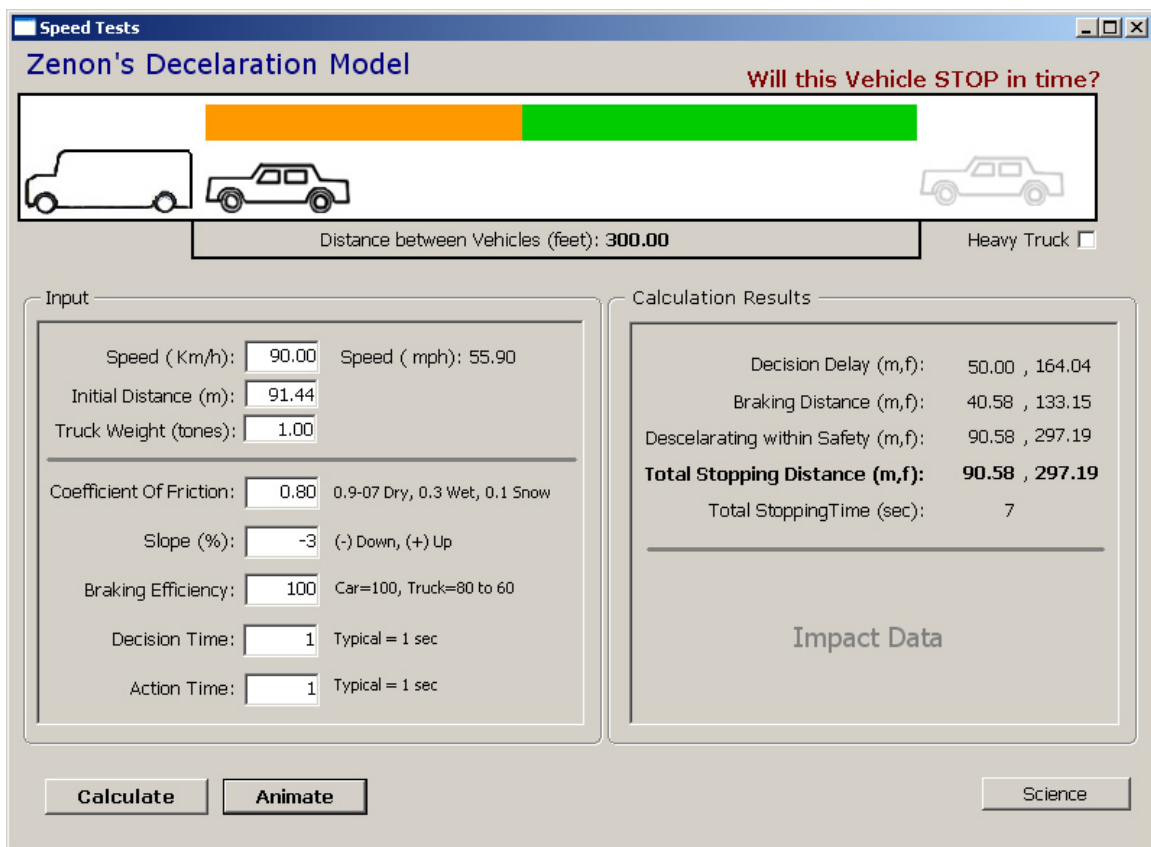
“What are the factors involved in stopping a vehicle in motion”, and finally:
“What are my chances of surviving this job - considering the state of the roads and the traffic placed on them?”

What I have found is: “I should quit this job as soon as possible, because the next time it rains, a heavy truck may not stop in time”

Lets now load the program and play a few “what-ifs”.

This program performs certain calculations to show how various road conditions, as well as human reflexes, can impact the safety, and that the dangers we face on these roads are much greater, than most people expect (*Please see Annex 1 for scientific basis*)

We will start with a car traveling at 90 km/h on a perfect sunny day.



The parameters have been pre-entered, so we can go ahead, and get the calculations.

To make it easier to visualize what is going on, I have programmed this Animation to read the results of the calculation and give us a visual representation.

You will notice three colour bar.

The green colour represents the distance of driver decision/reaction delay. This would be the distance the car has traveled from the moment the driver had noticed the bus, but the brain needed time to process the information, to assess the danger, and to invoke reaction. This usually takes about 2 seconds, and during this time the car moves at its full speed passing the distance of 164.04 feet in this case.

The Orange colour is the distance traveled while attempting to slow. Orange – in our case – is the braking within the safety zone, that is, before hitting the bus.

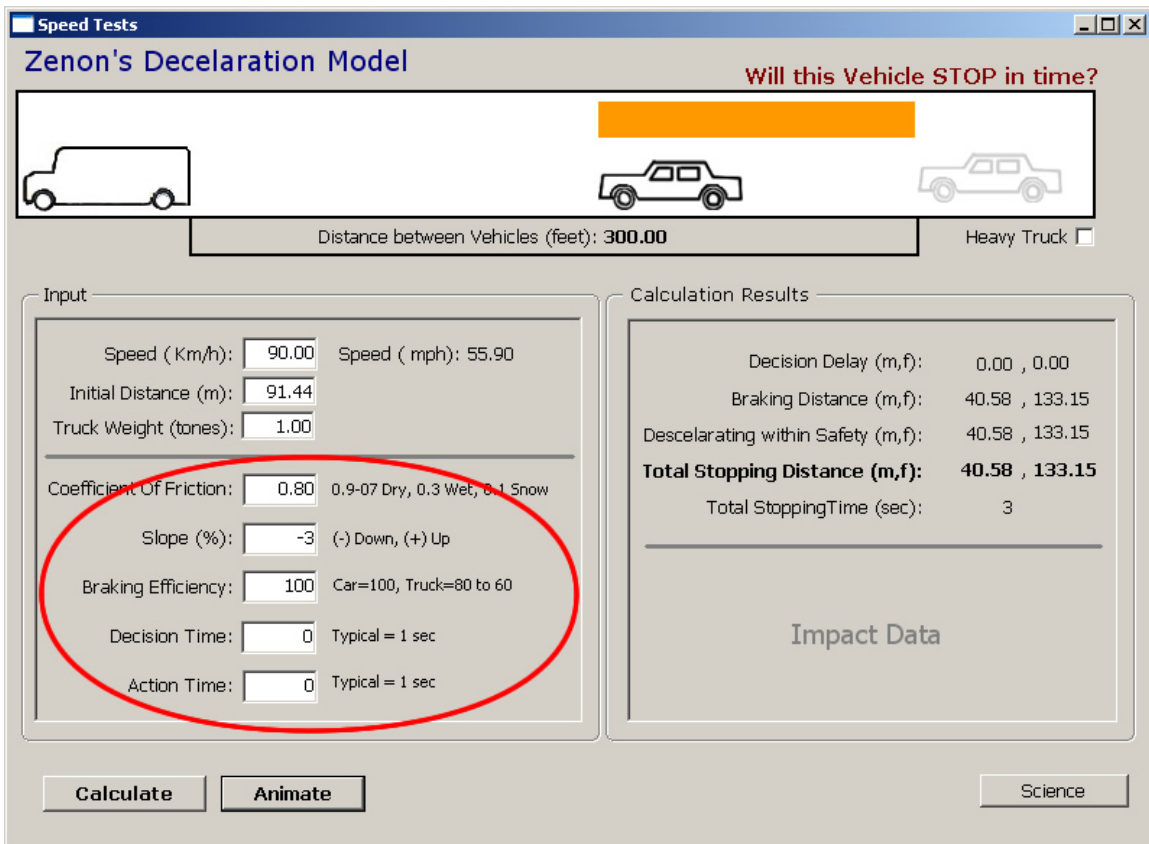
If this were a collision, you would see a read colour bar – representing the red zone, or the collision zone.

Now we do not see the red bar, because the car was able to stop within the safety zone.

We can see that with the 2-second delay, the driver was able to stop just 3 feet from the bus.

In most situations the driver follows the bus coming onto a stop, and is not surprised, so they do not have that delay. Lets take the 2 seconds away, and rerun the scenario.

This looks much better. The car stopped within 3 seconds and 133 feet, that is, 167 feet behind the bus.

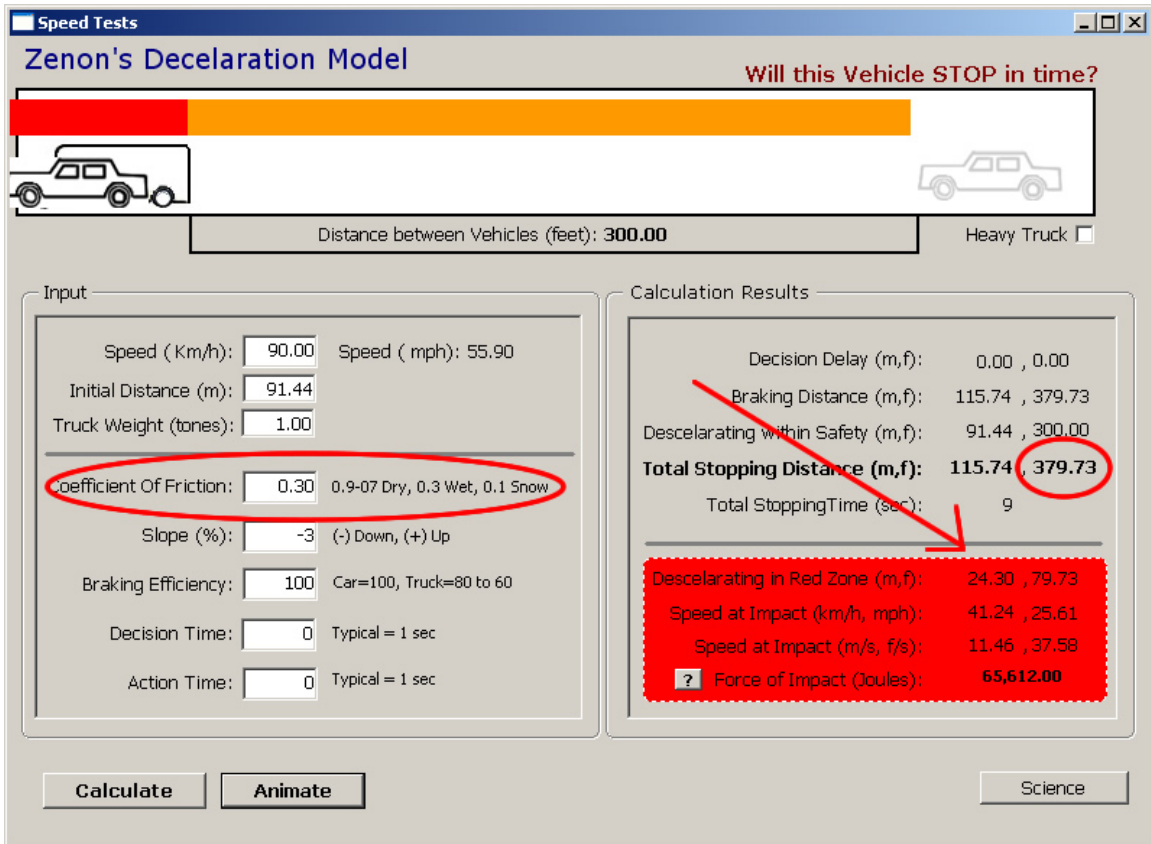


All looks good.

On the picture above, in the red oval, you will see parameters, which represent various driving conditions.

The Coefficient of Friction is a value, which modifies the vehicle's ability to decelerate, based on road conditions. On a dry day and a good road surface it is typically 0.9 to 0.8. However, you will be lucky to have one third of that on a rainy day, and even worse, much worse in snow.

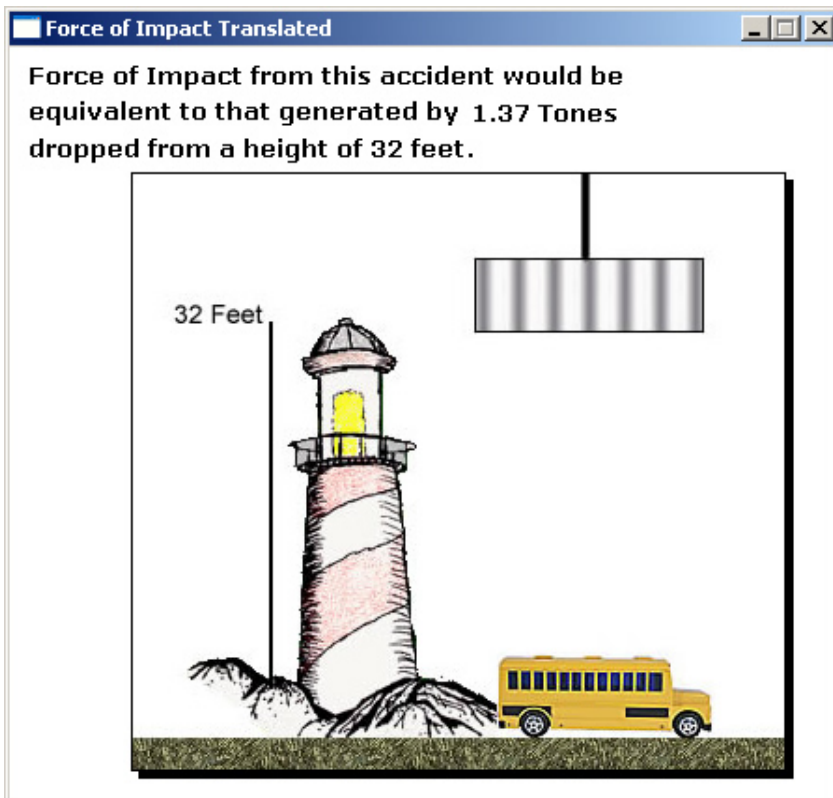
So let's put some rain on this highway, and see how this will affect the driver's ability to stop this vehicle. To do this we will change the Coefficient of Friction (the force resulting from the tires working against the road surface) to the value of: 0.3



As you see the car needed 379 feet to stop. We have a collision. The car drove into the rear end of the bus (and this is without Decision/Action Delay – in this case)

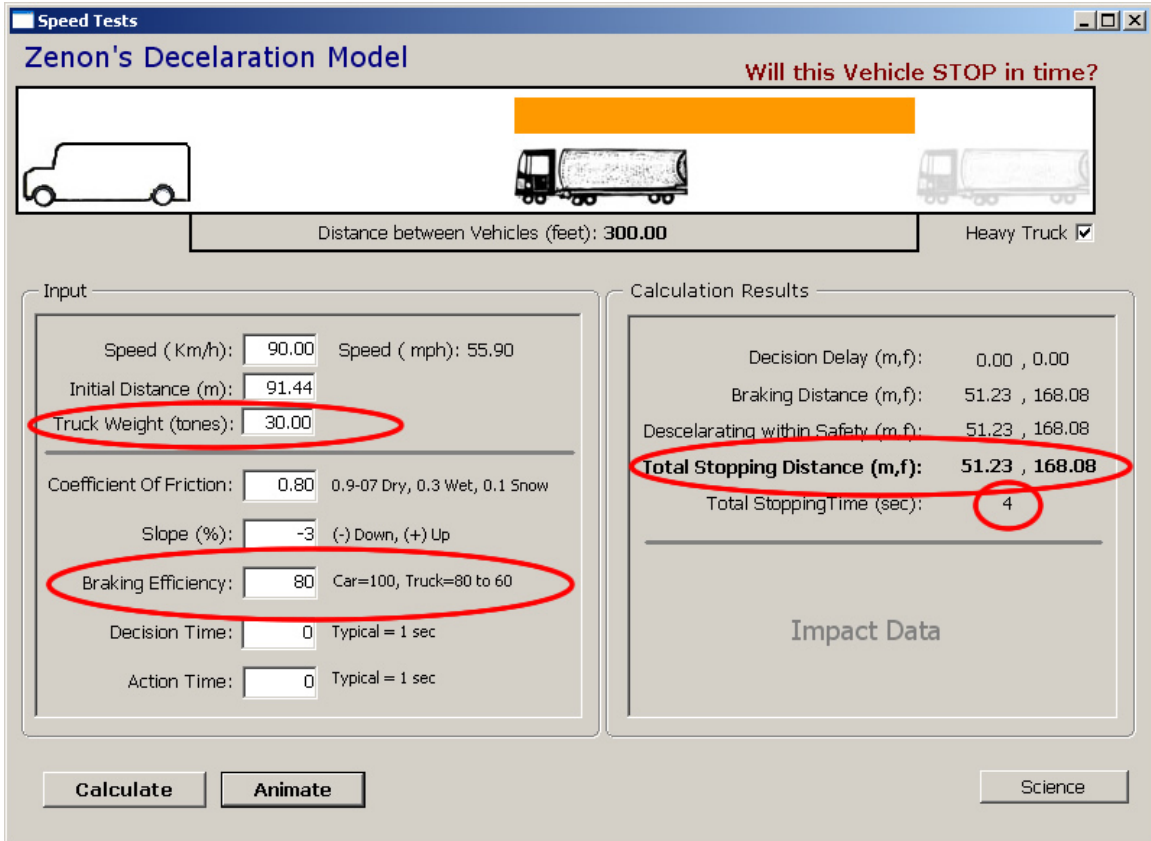
$$E_k = \frac{1}{2} mv^2$$

Using formula for Kinetic Energy: the program calculates the energy released by the impact. To help visualize what the 65,612 Joules really mean, I have provided this screen, where you can see the interpretation of that force.



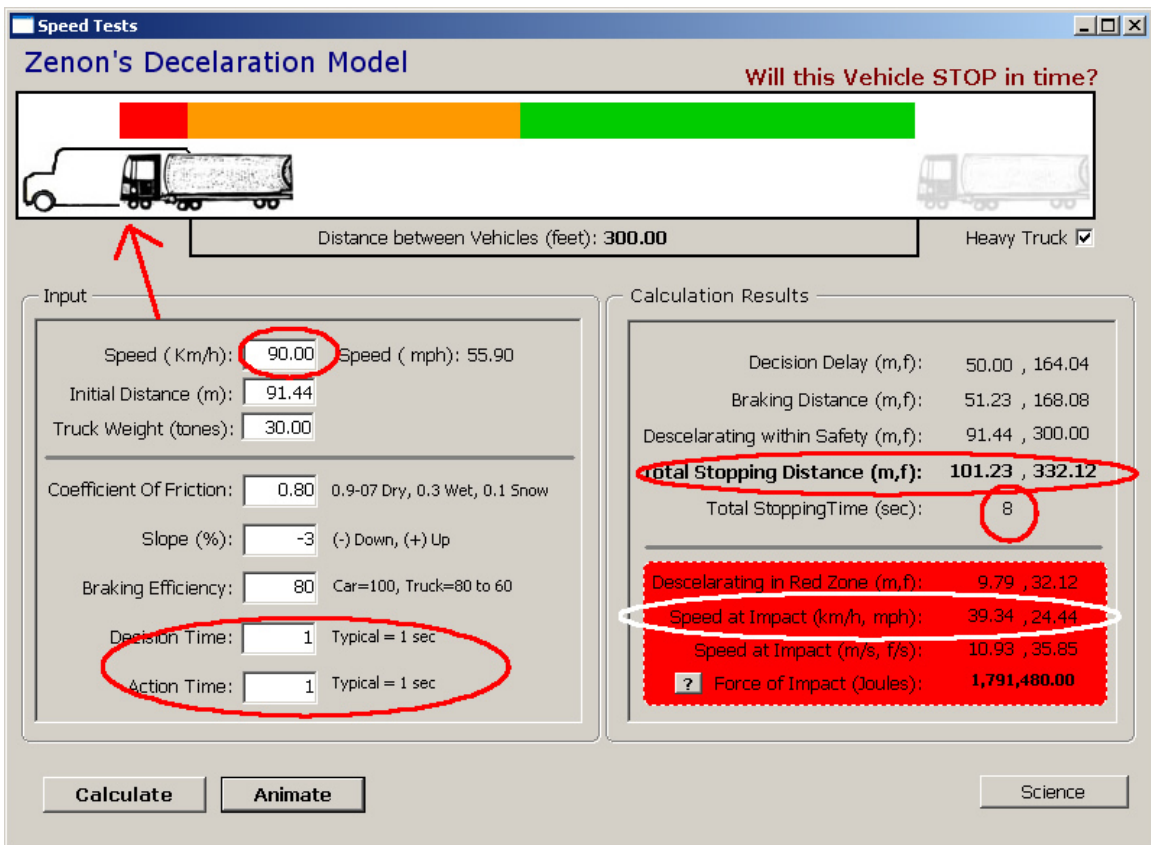
In our case, here, this force is equivalent to dropping a load of 1.37 Tones from a height of 32 Feet.

Let us now bring a heavy truck into the picture.



It has been documented that the Braking Efficiency of Heavy Trucks ranges from 80% down to 60% (depending on Tires used, Load percentage, Braking System installed, etc). In our case this truck needed 168 Feet, and 4 seconds to stop. Compare this with our Car of the 1st case, which needed 133 Feet, and 3 seconds. In both cases, the drivers followed the bus and were aware of it (Delay Time = 0).

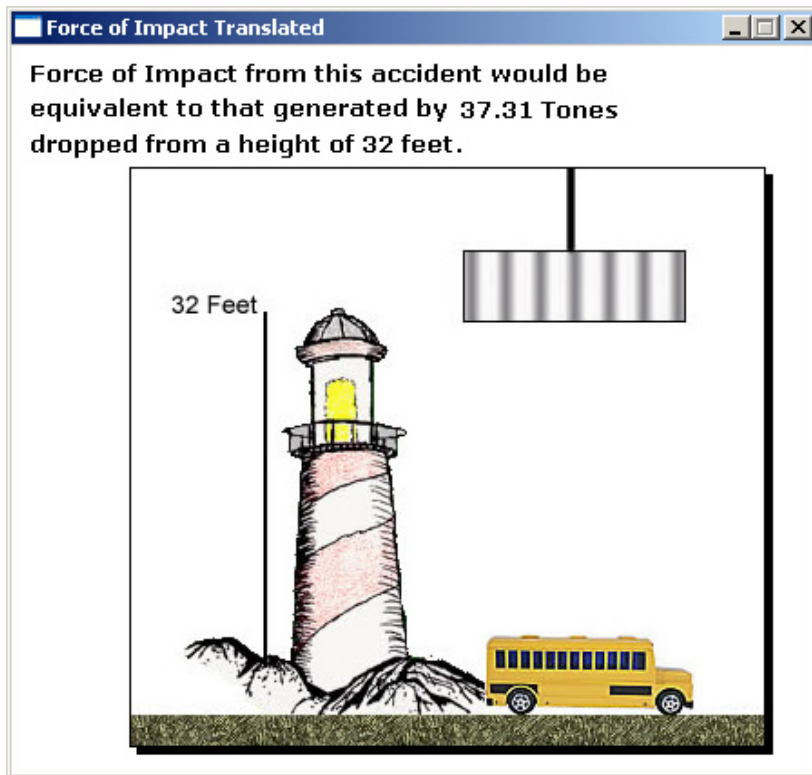
Let us now assume, the Truck Driver did not pay attention (was distracted, or tired) and did not expect the Bus to stop. We will enter the usual 1 sec for Decision Time, and 1 sec for Action Time.



This Truck would plunge 32 Feet into the Bus at Impact Speed of 39.34 km/h and generating Impact Force of 1, 791,480 Joules (164 Feet were lost to the

Decision/Action Delay. During these two seconds the Truck was traveling at 90 km/h – not stopping !!! – see the green coloured bar)

This Force would be equivalent of 37 Tones dropped onto the bus from a height of 32 feet.



All this in GOOD, DRY conditions (no rain, or snow).

Coming back to my September, near collision story, I must conclude that the driver of the Truck must have taken too long (or just long enough) to start stopping his rig. He/she ignored the road sign warning of stopping School Busses.

He/she did not expect the Bus to be blocking the road just past the hill/curve. When he/she saw the Bus and realized the Bus was not moving, it was (or could have been) too late.

The data presented above, clearly shows that narrow, winding roads (with very limited visibility) combined with heavy vehicles and humans (often inefficient due to many circumstances, such as fatigue, distraction, age, etc) at the wheel, are a recipe for a disaster.

The difference of a few feet, or even one second may be the difference between death and life.

Placing more trucks on these roads will only increase the risk of fatal accidents.

I believe it is only a matter of time before a child pays the ultimate price.

Summary:

As we have seen, Highway 105 and Highway 301 are not suitable and cannot support this project.

These two highways are the only choice for the residents of this region, the only blood line for these communities.

The proposed dramatic increase in the number of Heavy Trucks on these roads will have a direct impact on the number of fatalities – a cost much too high.

Canadians lives will be lost!

Those who authorize this project will be morally responsible for those lives.

Mme Chair, Mr. Commissioner,

If you recommend that this project be licensed to go ahead, please include in your recommendation that this project will require a new highway designed and capable of supporting this operation.

If a new Highway is not possible, this project is not possible either.

This is the only route to major center for the local population.
This route cannot be monopolized by a private corporation;
corporation clearly willing to endanger the lives of the Canadian People.

Better, more sensible solutions are available and they must be chosen.

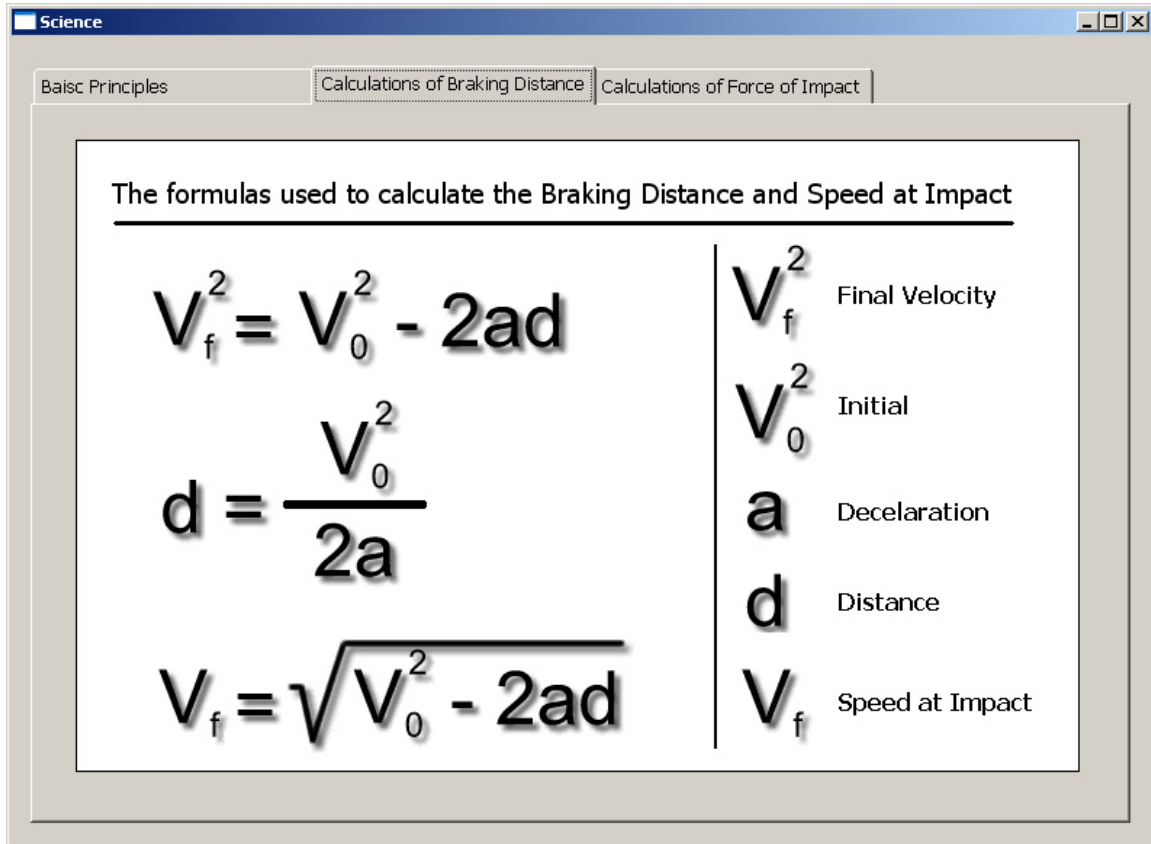
In final words I demand, that this Province put the safety of its citizens first, before any other interests,

- **before the interests of private corporations,**
- **before the interests of officials without vision**

Thank you.

ANNEX 1 - Scientific Basis

The program presented here is based on scientific principles expressed by the following:



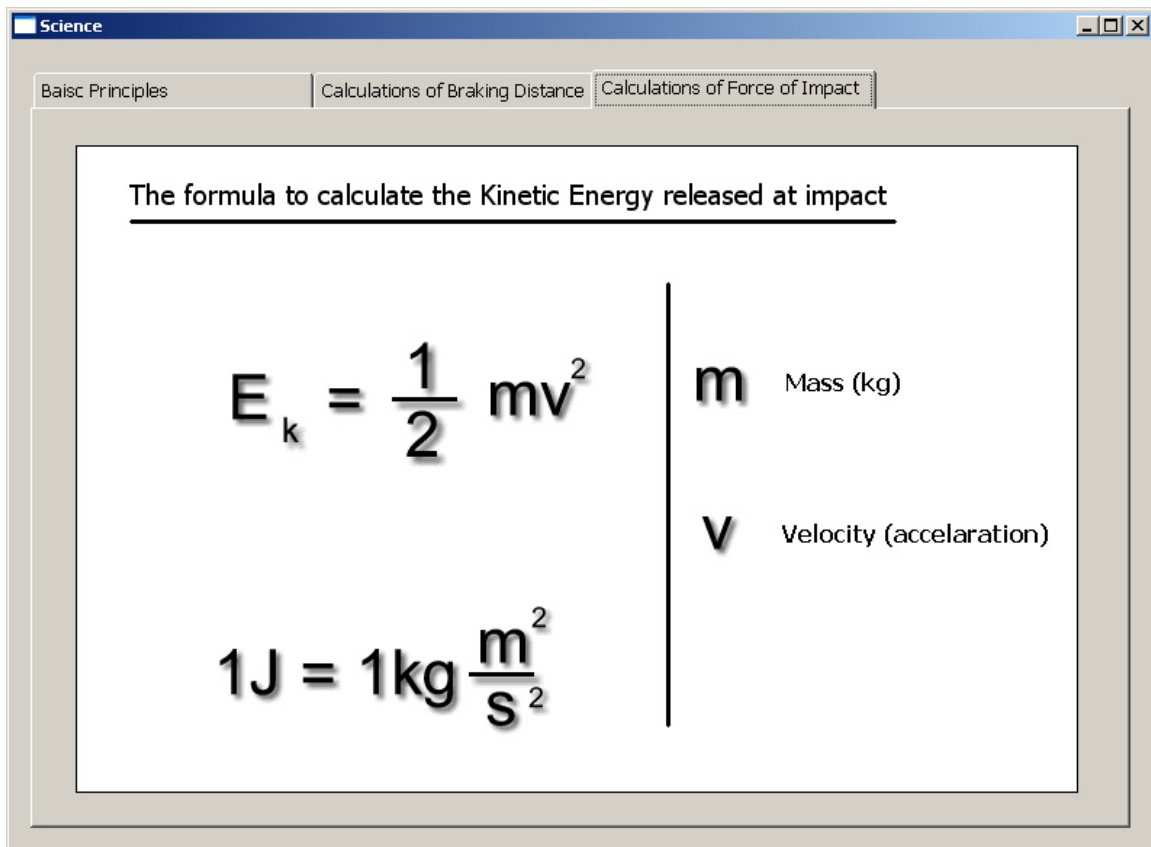
The screenshot shows a software window titled "Science" with three tabs: "Baic Principles", "Calculations of Braking Distance", and "Calculations of Force of Impact". The "Calculations of Braking Distance" tab is active. The content area contains the following text:

The formulas used to calculate the Braking Distance and Speed at Impact

$$V_f^2 = V_0^2 - 2ad$$
$$d = \frac{V_0^2}{2a}$$
$$V_f = \sqrt{V_0^2 - 2ad}$$

Legend:

- V_f^2 Final Velocity
- V_0^2 Initial
- a Decelaration
- d Distance
- V_f Speed at Impact



The screenshot shows a software window titled "Science" with three tabs: "Baic Principles", "Calculations of Braking Distance", and "Calculations of Force of Impact". The "Calculations of Force of Impact" tab is active. The content area contains the following text:

The formula to calculate the Kinetic Energy released at impact

$$E_k = \frac{1}{2} mv^2$$
$$1J = 1kg \frac{m^2}{s^2}$$

Legend:

- m Mass (kg)
- v Velocity (accelaration)

Mme Chair, Mr Commissioner,

I live in Danford Lake.

I'd like to underscore the word LIVE

Every few seconds a child is born into this World. From that moment, until the last breath, we have so many days to experience our creative ways of survival.

It is said that, every human being, is the author of their own story.

Of course this can only be true in a free, democratic society, a society based on fairness, mutual respect for one another, where respect for the people's values is the driving force of freedom and prosperity.

In such society any person can indeed become the author of his or her own story.

One should think that this would not be difficult here, in Canada.

After all, we live in a country, which so proudly proclaims its freedoms, its democratic system.

At any time, when a Canadian high-ranking politician travels overseas and points out to the hosting governments, that their track record in Human Rights may be lacking and should be improved, we feel proud and fortunate to be Canadians, the nation that can offer a lesson in the area of democracy and freedom.

We feel so fortunate, because here in Canada, we have the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, we respect one another...

We have a strong believe in DEMOCRACY, a word that stands for so much...

But...

- do we really know what it is to live in a democratic society ?
- do we know our rights and obligations ?
- do we know what Democracy is or what its basic principles are?

Perhaps some of us take democracy for granted. Perhaps some of us have forgotten their history lesson, have forgotten how democracy came to be, or what the alternatives are.

I, who was born and raised in a country under the Soviet Communist system, do know some of the alternatives. I know the taste of the lack of freedom, and can recognize the symptoms of the non-democratic disease.

I know the fear of growing where everything is forbidden, where your Mom and Dad are afraid to share their thoughts with their own children.

I know what it means to live in a country, where you know you have no rights, where it is others, who decide, how you are going to live, and how you are going to die.

I left my home – Poland - some 25 years ago, leaving behind my family and friends, leaving my memories, my dreams, leaving it all – to start in a new place, new home.

This new home was to be Canada. Here in this Promised Land I could do everything, with all this freedom, and all these opportunities just waiting to be grabbed. I could start all over again, and go places...

But all I wanted was a home, family, peace, and safety...

I wanted safety from oppressors, dictators, from corrupt officials – from all that, which interferes, which brutally walks into ones life saying: “now you will do this or that – because I say so”.

Here, in Canada, I did not have to fear. This was a Democracy, and I was safe!

Or was I?

Having chosen a peaceful corner, away from the rush of a big city, away from noise and pollution, away from crowds – it was time to build that new life.

It took years of schooling, working, building (the house with my own hands) – all with the sense of accomplishment, and with a sense of safety.

I was building a new heritage, something that I could leave to my offspring, and if I was lucky enough, to my grandchildren. I gave my dream the prime years of my life.

Remember, Canada, the Democracy, was a guarantee of that this future would be safe.

Now, 25 year later, when I am no longer a young 25-year-old, who can start all over, I find myself thinking and feeling that it may be time to pull the roots up - again...

Was the safety under the umbrella of democracy an illusion?

Has Canada failed to protect my right to be the author of my own story?

Would – once again – someone else, not myself, but someone else, with different values, be placed in authority to become the writer, and write my script for me, or should I say, instead of me.

Why do I – again – struggle with the feeling of living in a country, where there is no real freedom, where human rights are just an illusion?

Here, during this hearing, an official, a Canadian official stated that: “people have no rights!!!”, have no say in the matter of any decision taken by a Municipality or an MRC.

These words struck me hard! “Canadian have no rights !!!” – IMAGINE !
These word spoken by a Canadian official in a public hearing.

I now understand why the local authorities of Danford Lake have expressed no fear in adopting a DICTATORIAL approach to governing, by going against the citizens they are supposed to represent, and protect, by disrespecting them, with actions and behavior unbecoming of public officials.

Now I understand where all that courage has come from. It has come from above, for it was an Official from a higher office (higher than the Municipal level), who stated that the people of this country have no rights.

Well, with such encouragement, the Mayor and some other members of the Danford Lake Council feel that it is OK to dictate rather than vote, that it is OK to work against the people rather than with the people, that it is OK to mislead, manipulate – all as a means to an end.

I see that the Canadian Democracy is in danger for it is too weak and too easily circumvented by the clever foxes living among us. In its inherent weakness this system tries to be fair to everyone, even to those who tend to abuse it.

The Mayor, and the local Council of Danford Lake have clearly abused democracy by denying the people the voice that belongs to them – a very basic principle of any democratic system; yet this Council continues to go on being recognized as a legal body with full public functions of this Land.

I can only assume that higher authorities of this region fully support the actions of this Council, and therefore are equally involved in this scandal.

Just recently thousands of young Canadians traveled to France to commemorate the sacrifice of Canadian Men and Women, who died for freedom, for democracy. It brakes my heart to see, that here, on the Canadian soil, democracy is so misunderstood, so easily put aside, when it becomes an inconvenience.

This World belongs to us all – Earth supports the life of all creatures; has done so for millions of years.
During those millions, Humans have evolved to what they are today, and this – I am not sure – if I should be proud of.

For the sake of this land, I wish the Indians had never allowed the white man to enter these domains. This land would not become so scarred, it would hold its untarnished beauty forever.

As it is today, here in Canada, in the - so called - DEVELOPED country, we are about to show some savage behavior.

We are about to dig a hole in a ground and fill it with millions of tones of toxic matter.

Here in a country, that is so proud of its status in the World (technology-wise, and in every other way)...and while taking this insane step, this society is willing to harm its citizens in more ways than one.

This society is about decide, that its people are no longer of equal rights. People living in large Cities will now have the right to smother the country folk, whose life is apparently not as important.

One official said (again, during this hearing) that Engineered Landfills were “the most economical solution”. I ask you, for how long is the economy going to be an excuse for crime? As I see it, harming many, or killing many with bad industrial solutions is no less of a crime, than killing one with a gun.

Because this so called “solution” is so economical”, it makes it OK to expose Canadian children to mortal danger on these local, over tasked, highways (if you can call them that: Highways), to put into ruin the dreams and goals of thousands of citizens.

I am disgusted to be part of the Human Race, this Human Race (of this Century).

The arrogance of Man has no limits. Comparing to the Millions of years it took Earth to evolve and give us life, we are here for just a fraction of a second. We are born, live our lives and disappear into dust...and we are willing to leave behind a legacy of garbage, disease and destruction, with consequences and bills for many generations of our children.

What a disgusting dirty creatures we have become.

Not just physically, but morally, too. So corrupted!!!

We talk about cleaning it up, we talk about Kyoto and reduction of gas emissions, while creating mountains of garbage, and polluting the air we breathe, and to do that, we are willing to kill our children on these highways.

If this sounds sick to you, well...it is.

We won't be here to witness the end of Man, perhaps we won't be here to witness the diseases that our children will suffer, but we are here now and it is up to us, how we shape the future, it is up to us to see that the 8-year old boy, who so passionately spoke here a few days ago, will have the owl and be able to show it to his children.

We have an opportunity to redefine that, which we call Human.

I wish that the leaders of this Province, of this Beautiful Country, could see and appreciate the collective wisdom of the People of Quebec, and choose to respect the call for change, before it is too late.

Let me cite another official during this hearing. The man said: “we procrastinated a little”. The officials procrastinated and now our livelihoods, our homes, and our dreams are threatened. They procrastinated, and now, “5 minutes” before deadline they want a quick solution – to save their jobs, to show the minister that the job has been done. And what a job indeed!!!

They failed the Minister, and they failed the Canadian people.

They went for the solution that happened to walk in their door, the first, the easiest, and the worst. No public tender, no research – just first available, random solution.

The actions of the Local Council of Alayn-and-Cawood, with the support of MRC Pontiac, have caused much damage in the social structure of this community, even before the project has been considered for approval.

As a citizen of this community I strongly urge the Government of Quebec to stand on guard for Democracy. I urge this Government to redefine the laws of this land, to make sure that no one has the ability to infringe on the rights of Quebecers while saying “I did not brake any laws”.

I hope that his hearing, of which, I think as a safety valve when Democracy fails to protect its people from injustice, will cause the Government to take decisive action, and return the dignity to the People of Quebec; return the rights and freedoms that ware taken away be the few, who have lost their way.

Thank You