

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

PRESENT: Ms. CLAUDETTE JOURNAULT, Chair
Mr. DONALD LABRIE, Commissioner

**PUBLIC HEARING
PROJECT TO ESTABLISH A
TECHNICAL LANDFILL SITE AT DANFORD LAKE
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALLEYN-et-CAWOOD**

SECOND PHASE

VOLUME 3

Hearing held June 13, 2007, 19 h
Salle Héritage
4C, chemin d'Amour
Low

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESENTATION OF BRIEFS :

WILLIAM COMMANDA, ROMOLA TREBILCOCK.....	1
RENATO LIVINAL	7
JEAN-MARC BOUCHER	19
DANFORD LAKE AND DISTRICT PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION SHANNON H. MARTIN	23
CHRISTINE SCHNUPP	27
MIKE POWER	30
RAYE THOMAS, GILLES FORTIN	31
MUNICIPALITÉ DE KAZABAZUA ADRIEN NOEL	42
STACY MOLINEAUX	48
JAMES IRWIN	49
RIGHT OF CORRECTION :	
DENIS ROULEAU	51

MS. CLAUDETTE JOURNAULT,
THE CHAIRWOMAN:

5 (Translation) Good evening, everyone, and welcome to this third session of the second
portion of the hearings concerning a land site, landfill site, in Alleyn-and-Cawood. As you know,
to participate, we had invited you to pre-register, and a great number did. So, we're going to hear
the eight (8) persons that are on the register for this evening. I think we may even have nine (9)
people.

10

And if time allows it, other people might be able to intervene, and I would ask them to
indicate to the secretariat that they would like to speak out. And so, the right to rectify any facts
that you might find erroneous, this is a right that you have. And so, you can also register at the
back for this, or you can do it by writing until next Wednesday.

15

So, we're going to hear Mr. William Commanda.

MR. WILLIAM COMMANDA:

20

Thank you, thank you for inviting me, thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my
thoughts about the proposed dump project. The voice of Mother Nature is speaking loudly and
urgently. And, today, I add my voice to those of the many wishing to halt development of the
proposed major engineered landfill because of the threat it poses to the lakes and rivers and the
vicinity of Danford and to the Ottawa River watershed. All modern studies alert us to these
25 dangers to the earth and water tables.

25

30

In my own reserve, a trench dump was established, I believe, in the 1980's. And even
the City of Maniwaki dump their garbage there. I recall seeing countless of refrigerators, and
stove, washers, and dryers, everything they had. Then, we hear from the Hospital of Maniwaki
that called the reserve Indians, warning us not to drink our water. For a decade now, we don't
drink our water at home. We are being furnished by the federal government Indian Affairs in
bottled waters. Twice a week, they pass with big, big bottles.

35

This is a crucial time in our country and the global history, when we must urgently explore
new innovatives and comprehensive options to address the challenges presented by a modern
post-industrialized urbanized world. I pray you will be moved to join me and others in this effort to
more constructive dialogue and advance our harmonious exchange of ideas, so that we can come
together making our best efforts to leave a meaningful legacy to our children and the whole world.

40

I wish I could have gone to school to be able to talk better in your language. I have

learned a few words also in French, but I've never been in school one day in my life. My schooling was making birch bark canoes with my uncles.

45 I started at twelve (12) years old, because at the time they were picking up the children to send us to residential schools a thousand (1, 000) miles away, and there was nothing you could do. There were these mounted police with the priest going around and just taking the children without permission. A lot of us, we spent fifteen (15) years in these schools, and lot of them died also, because they were sexually abused and also mentally abused in every way.

50 I was a chief from 1951 to 1970, for twenty (20) years, and I could not write anything. I had to have a secretary with me. What I'm doing here today is my friend here, she's from Africa, and she has been educated in college, but she's very fluent in English. And I would ask her to say more about what I've been telling her.

55 MS. ROMOLA TREBILCOCK:

Merci, we only had very little time to prepare formal words for this evening.

60 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Could you give your name?

MS. ROMOLA TREBILCOCK:

65 Romola Trebilcock, for the last ten (10) years, I have supported the work of Elder William Commanda informally, and his work has been to promote understanding of the issues of Mother Earth and promotion of harmony.

70 A few years ago, I wrote a book about learning from a kindergarten drop-out, a book about Elder Commanda. And over the years, I have learned that he has done a lot of work over the last twenty (20) years, especially to promote awareness of the abuses of Mother Earth and the need for us to come together to work on protecting and safeguarding the environment.

75 And these have included things like making presentations to the Pre-Earth Summit in Rio about seventeen (17) years ago to participating in the United Nations' Cry of the Earth conference, serving as a spiritual guide for a walk for Mother Earth from the Boston coast to the Santa Monica coast.

80 More recently here in Canada, Elder Commanda has served as the honorary elder for the boreal rendez-vous to promote protection of the forest and waters in Canada. He has received a Heritage River Conservation award. And, presently, he serves as honorary chair for

the Ottawa River Heritage Designation Committee. And in November last year, he organized a water-life workshop to promote awareness of the increasing desecration of the water.

85 In 1987, Elder Commanda, who was keeper of three (3) sacred wampum agreement belts, made a presentation at the national constitution debate. And he pointed out that, in this country, without the inclusion of the values of the native people, the respect for the land, the respect for Mother Earth, we have contributed to the desecration of the soil, the waters, the air, the depletion of the trees, animals, and plants, and the impact on our life has been profound.

90 And he suggested to the Prime Minister and others twenty (20) years ago that we needed remedial action, but, twenty (20) years later, we see we are in global crisis around pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, global warming, climate change, and our lives are being transformed. And he believes it will take collective commitment, will, and cooperation to leave a healthy world to our children.

95 He talked a little while ago about the trench dump being established on his reserve in the late 1980's, and then recalls over the past decade not being allowed to drink waters on his reserve. He knows there's an increase in cancer. More and more people are dying of cancer in his community. Right now, three (3) children are fighting cancer in his own family. His great great
100 grandson has only one kidney. And so, he sees the health problems of the community escalating together with the increased pollution in the environment.

105 And now, of course, most of us realize that the water conditions in most reserves across the country are bad, but it is now happening all over. And just today, Elder Commanda heard about people who had been swimming in the Ottawa River being in hospital because of skin irritations and diseases.

110 He is the Algonquin elder, and the Ottawa River watershed was the traditional territory of his ancestors. So, this area here in the Danford area is a very important part of the watershed connecting him from Maniwaki to Ottawa, where he does a lot of work and onto Montreal where his ancestors were. And, recently, he has been concerned about many hazards in the water systems: the green algae, chemical contaminants, sulphuric acid spills, dead fish, bacteria, and pollution in the river, a threat of uranium mining in the watershed. A few weeks ago, he took
115 photos of fish rotting on the Gatineau River.

120 He has also raised his voice in support of the designation of the American eel as a species at risk, because ninety percent (90%) of the eel population has been depleted in the years of abuse of the water system, including through the installation of many Hydro dams and other polluters.

In view of that type of passionate interest in the earth and the waters and the Ottawa

125 River watershed, and also in light of his responsibilities as the keeper of the sacred seven fire prophecy wampum belt, which wampum belt William Commanda has carried for over thirty (30) years, it dates back before the time of the newcomers in this country, going back several hundred years, and that the prophecy belt warned the people of the transformation of nature and their lives that would come, and would warn them of a crucial time where we would seriously have to reflect on our relationship with Mother Earth and with each other.

130 And he and others believe it is time for us to pay greater heed to the voice of the indigenous peoples, who talk about a relationship with Mother Earth rather than a commodity to be utilized better.

135 Elder Commanda believes that the voice of Mother Earth is speaking loudly and urgently today in the storms, in the fires, in the hurricanes, in the general disruption of nature's cycles. And he thinks we need to be much more mindful and careful about the impacts, the long-term impacts, of our actions on the environment.

140 With respect to the proposed engineered landfill, he is conscious of the threat it poses to the lakes and rivers in the vicinity of Danford and to the Ottawa River watershed. And from his studies, modern papers alert us to the dangers to both the earth and the water table, some such practices, because he has read that the liners erode in time, and they contribute to the pollution and unsustainability of the land.

145 Elder Commanda believes that it is a crucial time in the country and in global history when we must explore new and innovative options to address the challenges that are presented to us by a modern post-industrialized urbanized world, and he believes we should be guided by a principle of economics enunciated by a friend: net global planetary benefit.

150 We need to think about the benefit of our actions on the planet itself. And in this context then, he and other indigenous peoples like to remind us of the interconnectedness of many issues, when we are talking about the earth.

155 We have learned about new technologies for waste management, a few - maybe a year and a half ago, Elder Commanda listened to presentation by a mayor of a city in Sweden on some of the innovative garbage management practices they were utilizing there, incineration, plasma gasification. And I see, in some of the preparation materials, there are opportunities for exploring that type of waste management option here. And he would suggest that we spend some time looking at things like that that may not impact the watershed so deeply.

160 And, finally, when we've looked at the potential impact of some of these newer technologies, we have noted also that they can contribute to energy saving and contribution to our energy resources.

165 And Elder Commanda would like to state that, right now, in his work, he has developed

170 a vision for the Chaudière Falls area, which is where the Gatineau River meets the Ottawa River and the Rideau River, where the Province of Quebec meets the Province of Ontario, where Hull meets Ottawa, a centre for a symbolic reconciliation with Mother Earth and with all people to draw together the many solitudes of Canada. And he believes that it's through the earth that we will find a way of resolving our differences, when we come to work together on her behalf.

175 And he sees in some of the new technologies opportunities to move away from some of our older ways, where we didn't know better and we explored or exploited hydro, for example, and contributed to the near elimination of the eel, amongst other things, where now we perhaps could offset our energy needs through other technologies.

180 And so, he would like many of these ideas to be explored in a harmonious dialogue, constructive dialogue, and this is part of the message that he has wished to share with the group today.

185 Elder Commanda is actually Dr. Commanda. He has been acknowledged by the University of Ottawa for his efforts in many areas. Recently, he was presented a key to the City of Ottawa by Ottawa, even though he's actually a Quebec resident. At the same time, he was presented with a peace award by the mayor in Montreal, suggesting that communities are beginning to realize the interconnectedness of peoples and issues, and are recognizing his big passion as much for the area, as much for the waters, as also for the people. Merci beaucoup.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

190 (Translation) Could you tell us about the prophecy?

MR. WILLIAM COMMANDA:

195 (Translation) The prophecy, the prophecy of the seven fires, was made about a thousand (1, 000) years ago, the oldest prophet that we know of. You have to remember that, one day, that the newcomers in our land, whether English or French, to come and join us, they will be lucky to work together to save life. And whatever they do will save the earth, because we cannot abuse the earth and the waters.

200 Now, it's two thousand (2, 000) years ago, the 9th of September of 2001. The prophet told us that it was the chance or the opportunity to choose - to change - there was a way of changing the life. And there are many things that were done at that time. There has been many earthquakes. The wind did a lot of damage to the world, especially in the United States with hurricanes.

205 Because there are people - we can't blame them too much, but because all these things

were done at the time of Christopher Columbus. So, the second coming, he was given an order by the pope. It was Alexander VI at that time. The pope gave him all our countries here, because we were not Christians. So, they said Christopher Columbus saw it as an opportunity.

210

So, the pope said, so, you can go and take over this country and even destroy these people. So, they started killing children. We were seventy-two (72) million people in those days when Christopher Columbus came here. In the space of a hundred (100) years, there were forty (40) millions left only, and we wonder where did the rest go.

215

We must - we can't just give all these things to people, but when you come into the world, the belt is there to speak the truth.

220

In 1987, the last meeting of the constitution with Brian Mulroney, he was the Prime Minister at that time of the constitutional debate. And I read to him all about what was in the prophecy of the wampum belt, but he didn't believe it. It sounds like he doesn't believe in those things, but many of those things prophesied have happened.

225

And the native teaching through the wampum belt is to respect all forms of life, water, fire, the air, the wind, the earth, the trees. We are all connected, and we are all dependent on one another. Our parents, we are all related to water and nature. We are all related. And, the wampum belt, this is what it tells us.

230

And as I said, the things that happened in the United States, all the things that happened through the wind have caused a lot of damage, like these hurricanes, but nothing changes, because, in 1993, we were at the United Nation. There were four hundred (400) Indians who were there. I was there four (4) days with all the elders.

235

And the elders, they warned the people at the United Nations that if the world didn't change, if they cut too many trees, if they polluted the waters too much, and if the fires would escalate, they would be escalating. And the water will hurt people, because there will be floods. A lot of people will perish because of the water. And the fire would cause a lot of damage, will burn houses, and even people.

240

And so, these were all the warnings that were given in the past, and it was the elders from the Opi Nation and from other nations in the United States, the Navajo's. There were a lot of prophets amongst these nations, and they talked about all these things that have happened and are still happening. And I'm still waiting for the changes. We're not going to be able.

245

So, we don't want violence, because this is not the way to act, with violence. It's never good. You have to accept our brothers, the French, and our brothers that are English, and to live in harmony and in peace with them. And it would be good, because, in time, they would

live with nature, but there are a lot of things that are not going very well. And this is what the prophecies of the wampum belt say.

250

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Thank you for your testimony; well, that is a philosophical life message that you have given us, and we thank you very much, sir.

255

MR. WILLIAM COMMANDA:

(Translation) Perhaps if it were possible for me to speak my own language, I might be able to explain a lot of things, because as I explained, I didn't get to go to school, but I learned a bit of French. I worked on the log drives and so on and with lumberjacks. And I learned a bit of the French language, *meegwetch*.

260

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Thank you very much for having shared your experience with us, sir. So, now, we invite Mr. Gilles Pelletier to please come forward. Is Mr. Gilles Pelletier in the hall tonight? No? Well, we'll call his name later; so, Mr. Renato Livinal, please.

265

MR. RENATO LIVINAL:

Good evening, Mme. Chair and Mr. Commissioner, good evening, thank you for giving me the opportunity of expressing my problems, my sorrows, my anger, my sleepless night with you. This regards the establishment of the engineered waste landfill at Danford Lake, the municipality of Alleyn-and-Cawood, Province of Quebec.

270

Permit me, Mme. la Présidente, to thank you for the opportunity that you are giving us to do this. It has been a long time in coming, but, finally, I can see that with you and your troops are doing us justice. So, with that, I would like to thank you so much.

275

I am a resident of Chelsea, Quebec. I am also a landowner and a developer of approximately four hundred (400) acres of land in Danford Lake. And as such, I have a very strong interest in the above-noted project. Should this project proceed, this waste landfill will severely affect my development of these four hundred (400) acres.

280

Let me say to this commission at the outset that I am not in favour of this project receiving authorization from the Province of Quebec.

285

My submission is to outline my involvement in the municipality of Danford Lake, Alleyn-and-Cawood, for the past twenty (20) years: from the time of my purchase of approximately four

290 hundred (400) acres of land in Danford Lake in 1987 to the present June, 2007.

I hope to explain to this commission my journey and the development of this land, my involvement with the Mount O'Brien Association, and as the current President of the association, and the Danford Lake municipality for the development of a provincial park, as well as my own
295 efforts to develop my own land for recreational, eco-tourism, and mixed use retirement community.

I also want to state that the view of the residents, landlords, and the five hundred (500) last month O'Brien association members in Danford Lake should be closely listened to, and that
300 democracy should be the rule of the day. The decision should reflect what the residents, landowners, and the association members want from their municipality.

Purchase of my four hundred (400) acres of land: In 1987, I purchased approximately four hundred (400) acres of land bordering Highway 301 on both sides of the actual highway in Danford
305 Lake with the intention of subdividing and constructing four (4) season chalets in this property for a vacationing and retired community.

When I purchased this property, this land was zoned recreational, thereby allowing me to subdivide and build chalets. I contacted and had several formal meetings with the mayor, as well
310 as the building inspector at the time regarding multiple zoning, and they gave me a positive response. Because of these formal meetings and having received a verbal approval, I proceeded with the development plan for these four hundred (400) acres submitted to the municipality for their subdivision processing.

Development of my four hundred (400) acres of land: It was in the year 2000 that I started to develop my land in association with the Mount O'Brien Association. The Mount O'Brien
315 Association was formed by residents and landowners of the Danford Lake to develop a nature park with the long-range view that this nature park would become a provincial park of Quebec. This would draw visitors and tourists from Quebec, Ontario, United States, and Europe. This park would have several lakes and nature trails that would provide rare, natural attraction for its visitors.
320 This would be eco-tourism at its best.

In the spring of 2000, we began construction of a secondary road through my property leading to the proposed Mount O'Brien provincial park. It was determined that the road was
325 necessary to cross my property, enabling members of the Mount O'Brien Association to access several lakes, including Lake O'Brien and Lake Copeland as well as the proposed park.

The municipality of Danford Lake participated in these efforts, in this endeavour, in that they helped in the construction of this road by providing machinery, labour to fix the entrance of
330 this road, and also to provide grading.

Although this road still needs to be brought up to municipal standards, it is presently being used by the members of the Mount O'Brien Association to get to the lakes and the proposed park.

335 Business plan and investment opportunity: Attached to my submission is a copy of the business plan and investment opportunity for Lac Miljour Estate, which was drafted for the proposed development of the four hundred (400) acres.

340 Lac Miljour Estate is a development site for residential seasonal community of two hundred (200) to two hundred and fifty (250) lots of one (1) to three (3) acres, on which to be constructed are four (4) seasonal pine chalet at the least one thousand (1,000) square feet. Once the chalet is constructed, the occupant could enjoy the natural serene beauty of the land, its lakes, streams, and the adjacent nine thousand (9,000) acres Mount O'Brien wilderness and the proposed nature park with its lakes.

345 I hired Mr. André Durocher, land surveyor, to explore the four hundred (400) acres and to present us a plan of subdivision for these two hundred and fifty (250) lots. It took us several years to decide on this planned subdivision.

350 After meeting with both Mayor Joseph Squitti and the building inspector, at that time, Mr. Barry Derouin, personally and received their approval, I submitted my business plan to Mayor Squitti personally in August, 2003.

355 The development of the project was to be completed over four (4) phases and was expected to take five (5) to eight (8) years to complete. All that was necessary to start the development of phase 1 was stated verbally by the mayor and the building inspector to me, was to apply for a building permit to the municipality of Danford Lake, Allevyn-and-Cawood, and to abide by their construction guideline, namely: number 1, minimum one-acre lots; number 2, septic bed to conform to provincial standards; number 3, a set of four (4) lots, only at the time of sale, are they to be surveyed and registered, for obvious reasons, at that time, the municipality will acquire the taxes for each lot; number 4, at that point, the building permit will be issued to the individual owners.

365 This above was to compromise the total requirements by the municipal office in the name of the mayor.

370 In order to start selling one-acre lots, I had to develop a marketing plan. This involved setting up a web site, placing advertising in the Ottawa Citizen, spending money in advertising in Europe and the United States, and working towards the completion of a secondary road leading to the proposed Mount O'Brien park. I also had to work on a main road in my property leading to

Lake Miljour, as well as to negotiate with Hydro Quebec for the hydro lines through my property and eventually to each lot.

375 Long after I started selling lots, I discovered to my great dismay only last year that the municipality of Danford Lake, that is to say, the year 2006, the municipality of Danford Lake is now refusing to issue me any building permits, any, not just one section, but the total amount.

380 Mayor Squitti was completely aware of the status of the development and has been since the year 2000. Mayor Squitti had encouraged, approved, and helped out by providing equipment and labour to build the access road across my property to Mount O'Brien.

385 Subsequent to Mayor Squitti and his wife's visit to my personal residence in his effort to obtain my support for the proposed landfill site and realizing where I stood on the proposal, Mayor Squitti and his new building inspector, Mr. Courchesne, in the late 2006 - that's last year only - after six (6) years of planning, now informs me that new provincial laws, new provincial laws, according to them, prohibit residential development in any property within a radius of five hundred (500) metres of the current landfill.

390 So, we're talking about a dump. I've been living with the dump for the last eight (8) years or longer than that, actually, since 1987, 1988. So, I do know what it's like trying to live with a dump next door. This existing landfill dump at Danford Lake borders my property within a five hundred (500) metre radius, affects part of my four hundred (400) acres.

395 I still plan to develop my land, once the existing trench landfill dump at Danford Lake is closed. Initially, they were telling us 2008. Now, we're talking about 2009. So, I don't really know which one it is, and the issue of the project of the engineered landfill in Danford Lake is decided.

400 Loss of revenue and profit is often what I refer to as collateral to the community and, in this particular case, myself. The business plan and investment opportunity of Lake Miljour Estate that I presented to the municipality of Danford Lake in 2003 - that is before the mega dump came about - personally to Mayor Squitti defined a development site for a residential seasonal community of two hundred (200) to two hundred and fifty (250) lots of one (1) to three (3) acres, in which to construct a four (4) season chalet for at least one thousand (1,000) square feet.

405 My involvement with Lake Miljour Estate is both as a land developer and as a building contractor. It is my goal to sell these two hundred and fifty (250) lots, as well as build chalets on those lands for my customers. Revenue would occur through the sale of these lots and profit accrued through the construction of the chalets. I want to create a business. I also want to satisfy
410 future landowners with a seasonal home for their enjoyment.

415 I am presently advertising these lots at the price of twenty-five thousand (\$25, 000.00) to forty-five thousand dollars (\$45, 000.00) per lot, depending on whether the lot is a back lot or a waterfront lot. I feel that my average price per lot at the current 2007 market value, 2007, this year, is at approximately an average of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35, 000.00).

420 This would give my development project a land value of two hundred and fifty (250) lots times thirty-five thousand (\$35, 000.00), which will give us eight (8) point three-quarter million dollars less the usual development cost. I estimate this development cost to be a half a million dollars, which leaves me with eight point two (8.2) million. See competitor analysis.

425 I'm also a contractor, and I wish to build homes for purchase of Lac Miljour Estate. The cost of constructing one thousand (1, 000) square feet homes at 2007 year's prices is approximately a hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) per square foot for a total of a hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150, 000.00). The usual profit from constructing homes ranges from ten percent (10%) to fifteen percent (15%), thus giving my construction company a profit of fifteen thousand (\$15, 000.00) to twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars (\$22, 500.00) per home.

430 Taking ten percent (10%) as a rule of the project, I feel that, over time, Lac Miljour Estate would receive fifteen thousand (\$15, 000.00) times two hundred and fifty (250) lots or three point seven five (3.75) million dollars less its operational cost. These projections are at the lower end of the scale, as some landowners will want larger homes greater than one thousand (1, 000) square feet.

435 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Fifteen (15) minutes have gone by, sir.

440 MR. RENATO LIVINAL:

Okay, since the threat of the proposed landfill across the highway from my property, my plan has suffered significant negative follow-out and has come to a standstill.

445 To date, several customers expressed interest in purchasing lots. One particular customer made an offer to purchase two (2) lots, which were accepted for ninety thousand dollars (\$90, 000.00), as well as having me build a chalet on one of these lots for approximately two hundred thousand dollars (\$200, 000.00). The bottom line is that I lost in that particular deal a hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$125, 000.00).

450 And I'm running right through that, so that I can meet my time.

Should the Minister approve the engineered landfill project, I will suffer extreme losses,

455 as I do not think that my property will have the present market value, that will be extremely difficult to sell and build homes at Lac Miljour Estate. My sale losses will exceed over eleven (11) million dollars at today's market prices. See competitor analysis. This represents collateral damage to me as a landowner and developer because of the proposed landfill.

460 Alternative revenue sources for the municipality of Danford Lake and alternative technology: Essentially, what I'm saying is that should my project go ahead, it will produce approximately four hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$450, 000.00) in taxes which are tangible, which are not subject to a bouncing up or down. If anything else, they will increase with the years, and that will be a net revenue to the municipality.

465 In conclusion, I suggest that a comparative analysis of various alternatives considering all possibility for better garbage disposal with minimum collateral damage to all community affected must be the norm in the final decision-making process.

470 And I'm also concluding one point, if I may be permitted to do so, is that the majority voice of Danford Lake and vicinity, about ninety percent (90%) of the resident owners are not in favour of this proposed engineered landfill. This has been demonstrated at several town meetings.

475 Recently, the restored democratic rights by the executive of the Mount O'Brien Association gave the members the opportunity to vote on the proposed mega dump, resulting to approximately one hundred percent (100%) of members rejecting the proposed mega dump.

480 This commission was set up to hear the citizens of Danford and surrounding communities, to present their case, and to demonstrate to you their deep concerns and opposition to this dump. Lobbyists of the proposed dumps have approached you to have you make your decision in favour of this landfill. Their personal gain is their prime objective, concern, and greatest motivator to see this through, all at the expense of the majority of the community affected by this project. And I thank you.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

485 (Translation) Thank you; so, there are some questions.

THE COMMISSIONER:

490 (Translation) Yes, sir, Mr. Livinal, do you have any lots that have been sold?

MR. RENATO LIVINAL:

(Translation) I sold some lots to my family, and that's all. (End of translation) When the

rough gets going in English, well, then, you always have friends and family that will try to back
495 you up and prevent you from going bankrupt.

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) When you bought the land for development, did you know that the trench
500 dump was less than five hundred (500) metres from your land? Did you know that it was perhaps
going to be closed in 2008?

MR. RENATO LIVINAL:

To answer your question, I used to be a friend of the Mayor Squitti. I took him as a
505 gentleman's word. For years, I lived on the man's word and his promises that there was nothing
needed to actually go ahead with the development plan. I would have not committed myself to
spend money and developing the land, agreeing with the Mount O'Brien Association to actually
perform such a high level of a job in constructing a road to the Mount O'Brien.

I would not expended any of those expenses, should Mr. Squitti have had the courtesy or
510 the knowledge from what I gathered, because up to last year, none of them knew what was going
on really, because they never, ever told me what - every time I asked them to tell me to send me,
for example, an application for a building permit, it was never given to me, not one simple form
515 stating a building form which details the specifications or what is required for a building permit.
They never gave it to me up until last year.

It was only through the forcing of pressing both the existing - not existing, because he's no
520 longer there, the inspector that I finally got a piece of paper saying these are the regulations, the
new regulations. So, it was only up until last year that this came about. Only since the LDC came
into the picture that, all of a sudden, a whole bunch of barriers were thrown in my face.

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Yes, but the trench dump that is less than five hundred (500) metres from
525 your development project, didn't it worry you at the time?

MR. RENATO LIVINAL:

The dump was put there after I purchased the property. And I had had several meetings
530 with the councils and with the mayor, because of the problem that I had for years, Mr.
Commissioner, with the dump next door to me, like garbage and all kinds of stuff that were just
flying over my property.

535 So, I've had correspondence with these people, but never once would they ever said to

me, look, you can't build here, to the fact, Mr. Commissioner, that when I expressed to Mr. Squitti that we were going to proceed formally to have the land surveyor do the actual surveying, none of this stuff ever came out. So, we proceeded. We had the building - the plans, and everything was fine, you see. So, that's what happened since last year.

540

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) So, the trench dump was not apparently a problem for the development.

545

MR. RENATO LIVINAL:

As far as I knew, up until last year, yes, there was a fact in a sense that the current dump in the back of my property has been giving me plenty of trouble since 198... - I would say 1988, that I can recall. Now, we're talking approximately twenty (20) years. So, my memory is not all that good, you see. So, that was not a problem. The problem was primarily the garbage that was flowing over by the animals, for example. The animal will actually take the garbage bag and take it into my property. So, those are the problems.

550

And with these problems incidentally, I was bringing the - I would bring these up to the mayor's concern, and he finally, finally decided to hire a superintendent or I don't know the title, a keeper, a garbage keeper. And for the last few years, the situation improved. It did not solve the problem, but it improved. It did improve.

555

Mr. Squitti, and I'd like to bring this out to you, is at - towards the end of the - I think it was 2003, 2004, he kept on promising we're going to close this dump, and we're going to close this dump, but he alluded to opening another dump to cover my dump, if I can call it my dump, so that it would solve my problem, but never did he ever say to me, Renato, this is going to be a mega dump.

560

And it only came out in the last years that I realized the magnitude. It was a catch-22 situation. Would I agree with him to go along with the mega dump, and he will close my dump, my dump, not my dump, their dump, see?

565

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) A last question, Mme. DesRoches from the Conseil de l'environnement, CREDDO, said that there was some question that Mount O'Brien would be on the list of protected areas. Do you agree with that project?

570

575

MR. RENATO LIVINAL:

Oh, yes, certainly, certainly, I've taken over office as the President of the Mount O'Brien

580 Association. I believe it's approximately three (3) weeks. We had our ups and downs. We do have social problems, believe it or not. It's not they and us. It's not the problem with the pro-dumpers and the against-the-dumper. The problem is also within our association, unfortunately, because we do have pro-dumpers and un-pro-dumpers on that.

585 So, we've been very busy in trying to sort of cool things down, settle things down. And it was through a directive from my part that, finally, the executive of the Mount O'Brien Association decided that the issue was so big that they had to go to the members for a vote to see exactly where the members stood on this mega dump issue.

590 And so, a vote was actually sent out whereby we got the result from the members as to what the members actually wished. That was a process in the democratic process. And the results, you all know what the results have been.

595 An accent to this, one may think as to why, in hindsight, Mr. Squitti never - always denied us to have a referendum. The Mount O'Brien Association proved that the will of the people is what it is. They're against the mega dump. And I'd like to point out to you, Mr. Commissioner, that the Mount O'Brien comprises not just they and us. It comprises a lot of residents and taxpayers. We're all mixed in there together.

600 From my experience, I've been at it for twenty (20) years, not two (2), not three (3) years. It's true I live in Chelsea, but I've travelled back and forth. I've been very deeply involved with the development of both projects. I travel back and forth, and I've never seen the problem that I'm experiencing now from a social point of view.

605 The problem has been instigated, if I may use that word, by driving a wedge into we the full-time residents and the outsider, which, in my opinion, from my background, as a world traveller, I find it very, very disturbing, Mr. Commissioner. I just can't understand that. You know, I mean we're part of a family, and we should be treated as such.

610 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) I don't have any further questions.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

615 (Translation) Could you explain your land in respect with the five hundred (500) metres away from the garbage or the dump trench or dump trenches?

MR. RENATO LIVINAL:

Yes, yes, madam le Présidente, I do, and that has been another one of the biggest

620 issues that has been tormenting me, in that several requests verbally - and, lately, everything is done by e-mail, but now - because the word is cheap, and it just doesn't work with these people, the current administration of Danford Lake.

625 So, several requests by e-mails, and I have - I can show this proof to you, as well as I can prove to you with the loss of customers that I've had, is that they - in spite my insistence to obtain a building permit, as of today, Madam, I still have not received an answer. That is why I said they have totally denied me any building permit.

630 So, right now, I'm sitting dead. My business is dead, not because of the bad publicity of the proposed mega dump, but also by the attitude or the lack of the current administration of Danford Lake, simply because I'm against the mega dump. It's just a retribution process. So, you've got all these social factors that are occurring in there.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

635 (Translation) At the end of the session, we'll ask the people of the sustainable development. The representative is here? I will ask him to explain, if you can, the distances or the minimum distances from the residual matter trenches and how do apply these distances. Are you going to be able to explain that difference?

640 MR. JEAN NBARAGA:

645 (Translation) Yes, Mrs. Chair, it's very simple. When you - as you have noticed, it's when there's no localization standards. They have been changed to the MRC, so that they will be deciding in their power to determine the zoning. They can decide which is which or which use can be compatible, and this is how they will decide or determine the distances that should separate.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

650 (Translation) So, it's a new ruling or regulation that comes from the MRC, and they would have defined the zone of non-building?

MR. JEAN NBARAGA:

655 (Translation) Yes, you would have to ask them, because they're the ones who have decided on the new zoning. So, there's no standards of localization now, so...

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

660 (Translation) Have you decided - have you checked on the zoning and what's happening

with that?

MR. RENATO LIVINAL:

665 The zoning, as I pointed out in my written brief, when I purchased the property way back in 1987, it was zoned recreational. So, that was one of the basic consideration for the development process. If the land would have been zoned agricultural, for example, I would not have been able to do anything, okay.

670 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) But how is it zoned?

MR. RENATO LIVINAL:

675 (Translation) After so much probing from last year, now the inspector, which is no longer there, wrote me a note advising me that the zoning has been changed to forestry, but that I could proceed and build. So, that's the essence. I don't remember the exact wording, but that's the essence of the memo.

680 I'd like to point out, Mme. President, is that, on in of my e-mails to the inspector, I was specifically asking him since you're not allowing me to building within the five hundred (500) metre zone radius, can I build a single family home outside of the zone. As of today, I never got a response. So, that shows you the state of relations that are existing. On one hand...

685 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) I would advise you to contact the MRC, and because the zoning rests at the MRC, Pontiac MRC. Just check with them and ask your municipality why you cannot have permits, but ask it in writing. So, it's just an advice.

690

MR. RENATO LIVINAL:

695 I've done that, Mme. President, and they have not responded me. That has been since last year, but I will take your recommendation, and I will do that again tomorrow, to ask exactly what you just suggested to me. And, hopefully, we'll get that straightened out, and, hopefully, I can restart the business again.

700 I thank you so much for taking the time. I do - unfortunately, I was not able to - I was hoping that I would go it slowly in my presentation, but you do have all the necessary evidences that I put on with my presentation. It's in your hands, and I would suggest that you please look a them.

705 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) We read all of them. Is the representative from the MRC Pontiac - could you come forward, please? Could you identify yourself? And with the MRC, you are responsible, but your responsibility in respect with the municipality, can you explain that to us?

710 MR. PIERRE DUCHESNE:

715 (Translation) My name, Pierre Duchesne, yes, I work at the MRC Pontiac. My role, and I have several responsibilities, when a municipality adopts either a rule which is zoning regulation that has been modified to take into consideration the layout, it is us at the MRC of Pontiac who has the task of deciding at Pontiac.

720 As far as I know, the municipality of Alleyn-and-Cawood has applied the same rules for the last twenty (20) years, even before I came there. And following a revision of the layout plan, Alleyn-and-Cawood has still not adopted these rules. So, it's urbanization modified and to take into consideration the layout.

725 What Mr. Livinal was mentioning, it was never sent to the MRC of Pontiac. So, it was not approved or disapproved by the mayors of Pontiac. So, it's not effective as such. So, it's the old rule that prevails, as far as we're concerned. So, according to me, the old zoning that was considered recreative still applies. And even if we find with a forestry zone today, like chalets is acceptable in a forest zone in the layout that we have determined, and it would be according to the rules that the municipality might have decided.

730 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) So, I would ask you to work together, because there's enough fighting in the region right now without creating others. So, I think that you have an interest in clarifying this and working together to make sure that the rights are respected for the people, who've had some dreams.

735 MR. PIERRE DUCHESNE:

(Translation) So, it would be a pleasure to meet Mr. Livinal on that.

740 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) So, good luck.

745 MR. RENATO LIVINAL:

(Translation) Thank you.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

750 (Translation) Is Mr. Gilles Pelletier here? Jean-Marc Boucher?

MR. JEAN-MARC BOUCHER:

755 (Translation) So, good evening, my name is Jean-Marc Boucher. I'm an owner of land since 1980 in Alleyn-and-Cawood in Lake Neil. We built a cottage in 2003. Our intention is to retire there. So, it's about three (3) kilometres from the Danford Lake village and not far from the LET. I am a member of the coalition against the LET, and I present here tonight - I'm here as an individual.

760 My interest and concerns are great. The lakes, river environment are at top of my priorities, but I'm not talking about this, because you have heard it from many angles from many people, who are more knowledgeable than me, but there are things that have happened that I must remind you or explain to you in terms of my concern.

765 The session of the February 28th in Otter Lake, Mrs. Danièle Howie indicated that the session was in the hope to give the citizens the right to express their concern in the different way that this project could affect their lives and the lives of their society in general or the community at large, and that only the citizens could do that. It was the objectives of the BAPE.

770 The promoter or the proponent concentrated his efforts on documentation, on technical documentation, but there are many questions remaining on social factors that need to be addressed with the promoters and the municipalities. And many have not been answered, and that we should deepen the debate on these aspects of the project. Fortunately, the BAPE, first and second part, gives us a chance to express ourselves, and for this I thank you.

775 But my concerns or the things that bother me: First of all, there were questions asked to Mayor Squitti, and the answers that were received in that evening from the mayor, questions that we asked him and regarding his opening towards our concern on that issue, do not inspire us, any trust. And it's the same for a lot of participants from Alleyn-and-Cawood and the pro-mayor.

780 Regarding the comment of the mayor, no increase, tax increase, I would like to give you my reality. As I said, we built our cottage in 2003. I do not have the amounts for 2004, but I have 2005, 2006, and 2007 municipal taxes. They were nine hundred and thirty dollars (\$930.00) in 2005, nine fifty (\$950.00) in 2006, eighteen hundred and eighty-four (\$1, 884.00) in 2007. If it's 785 not a tax increase, I don't want to receive one. So, it's almost doubled.

The budget that I have received from the municipality for the same year varied between

five hundred and twenty-one thousand (\$521, 000.00) to five hundred and ninety-nine thousand (\$599, 000.00). This is 2005.

790

So, it would be interesting to know if all the citizens from Danford have received the same increase in taxes or only the ones who are seasonal are more interesting, only those who object to the site. So, that's my first concern.

795

The question that I asked in part 1 regarding the procedure for the layout of the project from the MRC, after having - after trying to get a good understanding in the procedure and to receive confirmation of the proceedings at the MRC by the man here, Mr. Duchesne, everything was sort of - we went around with another procedure.

800

So, personally, I think it was a lack of participation or maybe some neglect on the part of the authorities at different levels towards the implementation or clarification of that procedure. The laws that are supposed to give the right to the citizens seem to be neglected or overlooked or ignored. So, it's a matter of transparency, and I don't think - it was not given to us.

805

After making a request with the Municipal Affairs, so that the Minister would get into the situation that were becoming dangerous for the mayor and his councillors and even for general public at the meeting, I received no indication that the Minister had any interest, and we didn't see any action on the part of the Minister.

810

The activities for that project are a long way from being clear and transparent. That is my personal opinion. If there are no changes in the participation of the MAM, I'm afraid if the project goes ahead, there will be very little verification, and I will get to that in a moment.

815

Another concern, major concern, is the transportation of these residual matters between provinces. There seems to be a law that we shouldn't transport residual matters that come from outside of Quebec, but there seem to be another law or some kind of arrangement that allows those that contain a certain quantity of recyclable matters. An officer admitted in the first part that this law is not put into effect by the Government of Quebec. It's a matter of resources or money.

820

The proof as submitted by the commission against - shows that many trucks come into the province with residual matters. The door seems to be wide open. There's no indication that it's going to change. So, Cohen & Cohen, they will probably bring it to the LET in Danford Lake. Cohen & Cohen is a company.

825

I said that I wouldn't talk about the environment, but I think I have lied a little. I sent a question in the first part, and I don't know if it was received. Danford Lake has about twenty-five hundred (2, 500) square metres. Within its peripheral place, it has quite a large surface. And if we take a ten (10) metres average, it's three point seven (3.7) million of cubic feet. The leaks of

leachate will be detected by nine (9) wells and pumped by these nine (9), the same nine (9) wells.

830

A resource person in part 1 refers to a leak of ten (10) litres a day or three thousand six hundred and fifty (3,650) litres a year in a normal case. It doesn't refer to the damages to the filter that are in there, and that would create even - or cause more leaks. It's difficult to believe that nine (9) wells can guarantee the cleaning of the leaks.

835

Another consideration, another concern, regarding the transportation, it's two (2) points. The level of noise: In the communities that are near the 105 and the 301, and the measures have been done in a flat land where the noise is not as heavy, the sound was not so bad, but the percentage related to the noise, it might not - that might be more realistic, in fact, but there's no indication that tells me that this percentage was applied to the most or the noisiest part, which would give us a high degree of noise. And that should be compared to the level of noise that - to a level that will be acceptable, but I have no indication on that.

840

The other thing that concerns me is the damages, eventual damages, made by the heavy trucks for the houses that are near the roads. A study, a realistic study, should look at the actual situation where the houses have extensions or stress on the foundation or even cracks. So, the vibration of these heavy trucks will cause eventually displacement of the soil or the ground, which will eventually create more stress on the foundation. And so, it will just aggravate the one that exist. This was presented in the first part, but it was cast aside as a problem of the people's homes and their structure.

845

850

The next point is the most difficult: the increase of the risk of accidents. It was mentioned the important number of trucks will increase the risk of accidents and serious accidents, if not fatal, on our roads. It's difficult to accept this project, knowing that eventually these people will pay for their lives because of this project, when we know that there are other alternatives that exist and do not present as many risks.

855

My last point, it's a lack of indication towards the cost of operation. In a document of the promoter, PR310, we mention the cost related to the build of the site and the cost of maintenance once the site will no longer be in operation, after the closing. The section 511.2 should present some estimates as precise as possible on the operation costs of the site, and we do not find any, but no information, no estimation, and no other indication to the effect that the cost will fluctuate.

860

The promoter does not give us any cost regarding the fees that he will ask the municipality per ton for the residual material. He will have carte blanche. He can ask any amounts he wants. There will be no competition, if the province will allow it, because the municipalities will not have any choice but to use it.

865

870 These are all my concerns. My position towards the project you already know.

And suggestions: Maybe a minimum of least two (2) years, January, 2011, rather than January, 2009, to implement this law. It will give us the chance to look at the risks and to best assess the impact and problems regarding the transportation and social effects in the communities.

875

This will also allow us to consider other alternatives in order to manage the residual matters disposal, and the health of the people and the security and safety of the people, and the leaks of leachate that will be unavoidable according to some reports produced by experts including a resource person in the first part. I was referring to ten (10) leaks a day or ten (10) litres a day.

880

This project should not be authorized. Quebec should grasp its opportunity to become a leader in the management of the residual matter disposal and, at the same time, an example and a model for the rest of the country by appealing to new technologies that are more viable or more beneficial and considering the health and the safety of their citizens, and instead of ignoring the laws that are put in place, and also put in place some laws that will protect the natural environment instead of sending these sites into the small municipality, while offering no support and no alternatives. Thank you very much.

885

890 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Your property is seven (7) kilometres from the proposed site?

MR. JEAN-MARC BOUCHER:

895

(Translation) Yes, according to maps, it's about seven (7) kilometres.

THE COMMISSIONER:

900 (Translation) So, you looked at all the potential risks associated to a LET. What is your main concern in terms of the potential risk?

MR. JEAN-MARC BOUCHER:

905 (Translation) It's the transportation on the Roads 105 and 301, the roads that are very dangerous. There have been more accidents lately. If we increase the circulation - my father was a trucker. So, it's not necessarily the trucks who cause the accidents. It is the presence of the trucks that cause the accidents. It's other drivers, who do not know how to manage around a truck when they have to change gears in the hills and down the hills. It causes a change in the driving. You can be sure there will be more accidents.

910

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) What municipality are you?

915

MR. JEAN-MARC BOUCHER:

(Translation) I'm in Alleyn-and-Cawood and Neil Lake.

920

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) So, the circulation on Road 301 is...

MR. JEAN-MARC BOUCHER:

925

(Translation) I go to Danford Lake, to the village at Danford Lake.

THE COMMISSIONER:

930

(Translation) So, this is the transportation --

MR. JEAN-MARC BOUCHER:

(Translation) 105 and 301, yes, they're both a concern for me.

935

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) I have no other questions.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

940

(Translation) Thank you for your testimony; so, we're going to take a break for fifteen (15) minutes. Thank you.

SHORT ADJOURNMENT

945

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Is Mr. Shannon H. Martin in the hall, please?

950

MR. SHANNON H. MARTIN:

Can I proceed?

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

955

(Translation) Yes, please do so, sir.

MR. SHANNON H. MARTIN:

960

My name is Shannon Martin. I'm the President of the Danford Lake and District Property Owners Association, and I'm making a presentation on their behalf. Now, this is an association of property owners that is located about two (2) kilometres west of Danford Lake on Highway 301, on both sides of Highway 301.

965

It's composed of a cluster of eight (8) lakes, which I'll read to you. There's Danford Lake itself, Little Danford Lake, McConnell Lake, Shea Lake, Egg Lake, Farm Lake, and McAuley Lake. In fact, there's two (2) - and Lyon Lake, excuse me; there's actually two (2) smaller lakes hardly known by anyone called Freddie Lake and Andy Lake. (Presentation of brief)

970

Now, I would like to add something very brief, which is not in my brief, but which we are all deeply concerned about. You've heard people describe how the issue of the mega dump has deeply divided the village of Danford Lake, and you have asked whether it is possible for those wounds to heal.

975

It should be clear that a vast majority of seasonal residents and a good majority of full-time residents of Alleyn-and-Cawood oppose the project. I believe that if the project is turned down, that there is a possibility of the community coming together again. The rejection of the project would be a great relief for many reasons to the majority of the community.

980

There would undoubtedly be a resurgence and further development of business in tourism and recreation. This, hopefully, would gradually lead to a positive attitude and further efforts to develop these possibilities. Residents would come together to build a future, taking advantage of all the possibilities of the area.

985

But if the project goes ahead, because of so many opposing it, because of the daily reminder of a growing mountain of garbage and increasing truck traffic and noise, and because there will be no future in development of recreation and eco-tourism and its associated jobs in Alleyn-and-Cawood, there will be nothing to bring that community together. The divisions will not heal, and the community will slowly die. Thank you.

990

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Thank you.

995 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Mr. Martin, yes, you have talked to us about your worries, your preoccupations, your complaints, but if your group of members would have some proposals to make when you take into account that there is this regional problem to be solved, there are certain
1000 time lines that are fixed by law. Have you thought of certain solutions and how we should face this problem on a regional level?

MR. SHANNON H. MARTIN:

1005 Well, of course, my members, as I pointed out in my brief, really believe that it is the wrong thing to do to have a large landfill, and they don't really - honestly don't think about any suggestions to approve it. Now, and also I think that, as members, they haven't really thought very carefully about the problems, but our association literally spawned the coalition.

1010 And, of course, I'm a member of that coalition, and there has been a great deal of thought by the executive and members of the coalition about these problems. And, of course, presentations are being made to you over these few days by members of the coalition that speak to that.

1015 So, as the association, I don't come to you with answers to that question but the coalition very strongly comes to you with answers to that question, and you'll be hearing from them. And you'll be hearing from people better than I to explain them, but the coalition believes very strongly that they do have answers and they do have suggestions that should be followed.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

1020 (Translation) Yes, I agree, sir, but...

THE COMMISSIONER:

1025 (Translation) But if I understand your reaction is fairly emotional, as you say, more than rational. Is that really what you're saying or...

MR. SHANNON H. MARTIN:

1030 No, actually, on thinking over my presentation, I realized that we oppose the landfill for reasons that most other people oppose it, but that there was a missing element. I thought that people - a few people were, but a lot of people were being much too rational, and I thought that I should convey to you the fact that there are some extremely strong feelings that stand behind - the reasons are rational, what I consider to be, but there's some very strong feelings behind them.
1035 And I think when you present your report to Quebec City, that I hope that you would include that.

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Thank you.

1040

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) My question is really about how can you do - can you arrange it, so that there is a regional management approach that will meet the will of the - that will comply with the will of the population, and that we can imagine - think of solutions that will be, let's say, convergent solutions rather than divisive solutions, so, uniting solutions, let's say? And so, how do you think that the citizens can help their local political and regional leaders to come to the right decision in this matter?

1045

1050

MR. SHANNON H. MARTIN:

Well, I think it's fairly straightforward, and I think what happened in this particular case, it was all done wrong. You have a private promoter coming in sort of trying to come under the table and misrepresent what was going on, and sort of trying to pull things over on people.

1055

I think the way to have people's support is to be open and to tell them what is going on and what the problems are, to ask them for their solutions or for their reactions, and just to be honest and open. And that's, I think, a duty of a municipality, and it's the duty of the MRC's.

1060

And if they do that, whether the people necessarily agree with it or not, if you have that approach, if you're open and you discuss those problems openly, and you ask them for their views, then they will cooperate, and they will go along with whatever is decided.

1065

And an example is, right now, I'm not the best one to speak about this, but the MRC's and the Gatineau are - have been carrying on discussions about their mutual problems, and they've been having a study done as to the possible solutions. And they're now trying to figure out how to work together and work on the same time frame.

1070

They have a deadline to close these landfills. And as I understand from yesterday from our own MRC, they have come up with some short-term solutions to solve that deadline. And they're also looking at the long-term solutions as to what is the best way to deal with our garbage.

1075

And I trust that what they will do is be open with people, have meetings before the fact and not after the fact, and ask for their opinions. And that's the way you get people's cooperation.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Thank you very much for your testimony, sir.

1080 MR. SHANNON H. MARTIN:

Thank you; you're very welcome.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

1085

(Translation) Mme. Christine Schnupp.

MS. CHRISTINE SCHNUPP:

1090

Excuse me, I would like to do my brief in English. My name is Christine Schnupp. My family resides in Kazabazua off of Highway 301 about six (6) kilometres from the village of Danford.

1095

My concerns for this landfill proposal are about the environmental damage to the many wetlands surrounding the landfill site and to the rivers and the water sources nearby.

I feel that transportation of urban waste to rural areas greatly reduces the quality of small-town life for any small community that values rural living.

1100

As we are all aware, garbage is a valuable resource of energy, too valuable to be dumped into a mountain, two hundred (200) feet high of garbage by a private corporation concerned only with making fast money. If the promoter of this landfill along with their Ontario business associates want to make money, they should be investing in waste technology that respects the environment.

1105

I'm really trying to understand how this is happening. We live in a small town that is renowned for its landscapes, clean lakes, and wildlife, a true Quebec cottage country. I wonder how a two hundred (200) foot high mountain of garbage fits into this landscape in an area that's dependent on tourism.

1110

Other alternatives such as plasma gasification must be pursued, as this landfill proposal can only lead to the downfall of our community and homes.

1115

I would no longer have pride or respect living in this Quebec cottage area, and I would not have respect or trust for any government official who would allow this two hundred (200) foot high mountain of garbage to go forward, especially in this serious time of Kyoto debates and the

environmental issues that affect not only our community, but Canada and the world. We must stop this now and ensure we have a plan that meets the needs of the future and of the environment.

1120 I ask how did this proposal ever get approval without significant community consultation. And why were residents denied their right and their request to the promised referendum, when the true reality and consequences of this proposal was finally revealed? Does the municipality of Alleyn-and-Cawood have resolutions pertaining to any discussions concerning cost research for a public referendum? Because as reported at the public hearings, the municipality did not have
1125 money to hold a referendum.

In my opinion, this project is not acceptable to the community, because the basic issue of true and open discussions of a regional landfill site were denied to the residents and surrounding communities. How can trust be given to this Ontario-based promoter, when all the truth was
1130 hidden from the public?

After the Pontiac MRC adopted the project, the residents and the public were again denied their input to a proposal destined to change their home and community. Thus, public hearings were requested and granted. And for this, I thank you. I thank you.

1135 Now, I ask of the BAPE to feel the heart and soul of our community and finally bring the social justice of government decisions back to the people of the community.

The Quebec government must discourage the creation of big regional landfill sites, and the City of Gatineau must not truck its garbage to distant rural areas. If the Pontiac MRC needs a landfill, it should be restricted to only Pontiac MRC after durable environment solutions such as recycling, composting, and perhaps gasification are implemented, which would minimize or eliminate the need for disposal.

1145 I thank you. I would just like to ask one question to the commissioners that: Is it possible the analysis of the viewpoints presented here forming your report to the Minister, if it would be available in the English language?

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

1150 (Translation) Yes, well, then, the BAPE produces its reports in French. However, as we have indicated, we will ensure that the conclusions as well as the various recommendations of the reports and the communiqué will all be translated.

1155 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) You said that you live west - six (6) kilometres west of Danford Lake on the 301. Is that what I heard?

1160 MS. CHRISTINE SCHNUPP:

Yes.

1165 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) East, so, between Danford Lake and Kazabazua, right?

MS. CHRISTINE SCHNUPP:

1170 Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) What's the main concern regarding this project for you?

1175 MS. CHRISTINE SCHNUPP:

I would have to say the way the project was presented.

1180 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Okay.

MS. CHRISTINE SCHNUPP:

1185 It was not open. It was not fair. It's like they have something to hide, and that's the only way that they can have a landfill here is by hiding the truth.

THE COMMISSIONER:

1190 (Translation) You don't have a specific concern regarding the risk to the environment, anything that comes to mind when you think of such a site? It's just a general concern and distrust towards the...

1195 MS. CHRISTINE SCHNUPP:

No, I have a big concern for the wildlife and the water sources. All our area, our jobs depend on tourism. There'll be nothing left if a dump comes. We won't - our tourism won't develop. My husband and myself, we both depend on tourism to make our living and...

1200

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Is your residence along 301, on the road directly on the 301?

1205 MS. CHRISTINE SCHNUPP:

My residence, the 301 is my backyard, but I live on Lee Road.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

1210

(Translation) Thank you; Mr. Mike Power.

MR. MIKE POWER:

1215

Mme. Chair, Mr. Commissioner, my name is Mike Power.

(Presentation of brief)

1220

I should add that I bought this property in 2004 and, in 2005, invested quite a lot of money in time in renovating the property. And I should mention that if I had known that this landfill project was even thought about, I would not have bought the property in 2004, and I would not have renovated it or started the renovation. (Continuation with presentation of brief)

1225

And I must add that, as of what I heard yesterday, the municipalities from the City of Gatineau all the way up to RCM Upper Gatineau Valley have come together and said that, from what I understand, that this - they're against this project, and they want to work together for a solution. And I think that is the proper way of doing it, and I would encourage RCM Pontiac to reconsider what they have done and to follow the same process.

1230

I probably could not make any similar recommendation to the municipality of Allevyn-and-Cawood, because, at this time, it looks like their integrity has been destroyed, and they're probably best, at this point, just to walk away from this whole process. Merci beaucoup.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

1235

1240

(Translation) So, you are part of the RCM of Gatineau. And Gatineau Valley, through its reeve, declared yesterday that they wish strongly an approach that will be regional for residual matters, and that this approach must assess all the different scenarios before making a decision, and that will be whether it's a short, mid, or long term. And what do you think that the citizens can do in your RCM to make their point of views heard, and that they should - and that your RCM should bring to the table with the other organizations that will be - has to work in that direction?

MR. MIKE POWER:

1245 Well, I'm encouraged that this process has already started with the BAPE hearings. My firm belief that the citizens can do and are doing now is to, first of all, make sure that the process is correct. Before you reach any conclusion, we must all agree on a process, and the process must be extremely open and consultative and be one that is consensus-building, because there are differing opinions, and different opinions are fine. We need to build consensus.

1250

So, I think if we can get the process straight and agreed upon by everybody, we will then reach a conclusion that we will get the greatest possible buy-in to.

1255

So, I think that is the first thing that citizens can contribute to, to make sure that there's a process. And then, once that is in place, which I believe is happening now, then engage in that process. Again, the public coming to meetings like this is some of the best things they can do.

1260

Writing to their politicians is another great thing that they can do. Politicians or anybody in - any political element of our municipalities, if they read the deliberations of the BAPE, even what has happened to date, it is obvious that they see what the public opinion is, and they will be heavily influenced by it.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

1265

(Translation) Thank you for your testimony; Mr. Raye Thomas.

MR. RAYE THOMAS:

1270

Mme. la Présidente, Commissioner, my name is Raye Thomas. I'm a professional engineer with a PhD in electrical engineering. I have been actively involved in environmental issues since 1973, particularly in the development of sustainable renewable energy sources.

1275

My wife owns land which borders on Lachute, which is the most challenging rapid on the Picanoc River, downstream from the proposed mega dump. And together, we have several properties in Kazabazua, again, near Danford village. So, we're rate payers in both Alleyn-and-Cawood and Kazabazua.

1280

As an engineer, I'm appalled that, in this day and age, we are still considering burying garbage of all kinds in the ground, garbage that will be around to haunt our children and grandchildren risking their health and safety for decades, if not centuries.

I'm particularly appalled since much of the so-called waste contains energy, which can be captured and used by other approaches. These would remove the risk of potential pollution of

our soil, our waters, and our air.

1285

Now, as you know from the question and answer period, I have many concerns about the proposed mega dump, but since time is limited, I'll concentrate only on a number of biophysical aspects of the actual site.

1290

Part of my brief is a report prepared by the environmental engineering firm, Envir-Eau, of Gatineau, which I tabled during phase 1 of the hearings. The document is labelled DC2 on the BAPE web site. I'd like to thank the coalition against the Danford mega dump for funding the review by Envir-Eau. Mr. Gilles Fortin, Vice-President of the firm, is with me tonight to answer questions on his report after I finish my presentation.

1295

I won't go through this list, but I will cover - these are the sort of topics I will discuss.

In preparing for this day, together with Mr. Fortin and Mr. André Carrière, in April I visited the site where the actual landfill is proposed and explored site and the surrounding area.

1300

In May, with my wife and six (6) others, I canoed the Picanoc River entering the river upstream from the proposed site and went downstream to well below the lodges of the Five Mile Club, which club, I would point out, opposes the landfill.

1305

I would also like to confirm from experience that, contrary to the statements by the proponent's consultants, there are locations upriver where canoeists and kayaks can and do enter the river in increasing numbers.

1310

In our four (4) hour canoe trip, we passed the entrance to Grove Creek, which flows past the dump site and enters the Picanoc, passed the cottage of Mr. Gilles Pelletier, which was referred to by Mr. Poulin as a shelter largely because it doesn't seem to have Hydro, but actually it had solar electricity, which I can confirm from my work since 1973 does work. Then, we went on past the Five Mile Club and eventually stopped at the cottage/hunting camp of Bob Wilson, who will be - will present later in the hearings.

1315

Oh, oh, that one didn't come out, unfortunately. The slides don't seem to have shown up on this. I'm sorry for that. This one, I had a number of slides, one of which showed a photograph of a view of the canoeists at the entrance to Grove Creek looking directly at where the landfill site would be. And it was very clear that, from Grove Creek, from the Picanoc, you can see the landfill site, and it will become even more visible if you are - even more visible once the garbage starts rising up to this two hundred (200) foot height.

1320

This location also at Grove Creek is essentially where the water - the treated leachate from the landfill site is supposed to enter the creek. Three (3) of my colleagues met yesterday with a landfill operator. He stated that although the leachate is treated, the resulting product is

1325

equivalent to raw sewage. So, never mind how bad the actual untreated leachate is which can leak into the soil. The leachate that is emptied into Picanoc is very bad, and the water is slow flowing at the point of entry, not very attractive. The Picanoc would clearly be at risk.

1330 Returning to visibility, I would also comment that Mount O'Brien, on the other side of the
301, rises to three hundred and eighty-six (386) metres, which is well above the hundred and
eighty (180) to hundred and ninety (190) metres of the proposed landfill site. The site will be visible
from Mount O'Brien during the operations and long after the operations cease. This would be an
affront to the sensibilities of many visitors to the top of Mount O'Brien. And as you heard, the
1335 Mount O'Brien Association also opposes the landfill project.

 Referring to the site itself, the land proposed is relatively flat covered mostly with conifers
up to twenty (20) metres high. And, of course, these will have to be stripped off before bringing in
the garbage.

1340

 Deer signs are everywhere on the site. And it is my experience that this is the type of
sheltered territory that deer like to winter in. The deer population would be interrupted by the -
disturbed by the landfill.

1345 Turning to the soil, the soil, I had a photograph that showed the soil. The soil is totally
wrong for a landfill site. All engineers agree that a thick layer of compacted clay soil is best for
landfill sites. The very fine grains help prevent water movement. The permeability is
approximately one by ten to the power of minus seven (7) centimetres per second. So, it would
take thirty-two (32) years for contaminated water to move through one metre of compressed clay.

1350

 However, there's no clay on the site. The soil consists of first vegetable matter in a top
thin layer, which is covered in moss. Then comes a layer of coarse sand followed by a layer of
fine silt-like sand. These layers are quite permeable with coarse sand being the most permeable in
orders of magnitude higher than for clay.

1355

 The site is as bad as the trench landfill in Danford, which the mayor has said - Mayor
Squitti has said is the wrong kind of sandy soil to be used. Mayor Squitti stated that the landfill,
trench landfill, in Danford is built on sandy soil, and this is totally the wrong type of soil. Why
choose the same wrong type of soil for a much larger landfill?

1360

 Unfortunately, my slides don't show much. This was simply a sample. It does show up a
sample of a well where they were able to test for the water table. And I had other slides which
showed the testing for the water table and the type of soil. I'm not sure whether any of them came
through. None did, unfortunately.

1365

 Despite the fact that the water table exists in coarse sand in many areas of the site,
Teknika has used a permeability close to that of fine sand to come to the conclusion that it would

1370 take approximately a hundred and forty (140) years for leachate leaked into the soil to reach the nearest well about one kilometre away. Well, from my viewpoint, dilution from a dump should never reach anybody's well.

1375 Further, Teknika should have used coarse sand data. As an engineer, you should also - always think of the worst-case scenario, rather than something very close to fine sand. Had they used coarse sand data, contaminated water could reach the nearest well in twenty-eight (28) years, which is just before the active operation...

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

1380 (Translation) Excuse me, we're going to lose a lot to information in the transcripts, because - that is in the transcripts, because the translators --

MR. RAYE THOMAS:

1385 Sorry, sorry.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Simply can't keep up. So, please...

1390 MR. RAYE THOMAS:

1395 Okay, alright, I apologize for that. I get carried away. From my viewpoint, pollution from a dump should never reach anyone's well. Further, Teknika should have used coarse sand data, the worst-case scenario, rather than something very close to fine sand. With coarse sand data, contaminated water could reach the nearest well in twenty-eight (28) years just before the active operation would cease. This is not, to my mind, acceptable.

1400 Now, since clay is not present, the site relies strongly on geo synthetic liners, high density polyethylene and geo synthetic clay liners. The high density polyethylene liners are one point five (1.5) millimetre thick. That's very, very thin, and sheets would have to be welded together on site with the attendant difficulties of doing it on the site. The geo synthetic clay liner is less than one centimetre thick, thinner than a baby's diaper, not much protection. It's supposed - I'm sorry.

1405 THE COMMISSIONER:

1410 (Translation) I'm sorry, sir, because you have technical information that is very interesting, but it's the - there is some information here that is not translated, being translated. So, it's to your advantage to go a lot slower, if you want this to be - to come across.

MR. RAYE THOMAS:

1415 Oh, right, sorry, right, okay, the geo synthetic clay liner is less than one centimetre thick, and this is thinner than a baby's diaper. It's not much protection. It's supposed to have a hydraulic permeability of three (3) by ten (10) to the power of minus nine (9) centimetres per second, and this is stated to be equivalent to a one-metre layer of clay.

1420 However, a one-metre layer of clay could not be penetrated by a small sharp stone. Yet, under the weight of bulldozers and garbage, a small stone less than two point five (2.5) centimetres in size can penetrate either type of liner. So, the result would be leakage through both liners.

1425 In my written brief, I have used information from a design guide prepared by Layfield Plastics, a maker of such liners, to point out the rest. And I copied part of it. I can leave that with the commission, if they wish.

Wetlands are close to the site, and I had a photograph of the wetlands, which you could see from the site.

1430 Now, I'd like to comment on a figure that is in the report from Envir-Eau, and I had a copy of that on the view graphs, but unfortunately it doesn't show up. If we - the figure I'm referring to is figure 1 in the report.

1435 There are twenty-nine (29) excavations to shallow depths with a mechanical shovel, and that's labelled P in the figure. There are fourteen (14) drilled holes labelled with F, which stopped at depths between thirteen (13) and twenty-one (21) metres.

1440 It's interesting that, in the middle of the site, two (2) holes were drilled to thirty-eight (38) metres, F-113, and forty-nine (49) metres, F-114, and these did not hit bedrock. Below these two (2) sites, below the top layers of sand, coarse sand and gravel were again found, and this is further evidence to say that they should not have used data for fine sand in determining the ability of contamination to move through the soil.

1445 In the southeast part of the site, rock was reached, and the closest to the surface was one point two (1.2) metres. In the southwest, rock was reached at twelve point nine (12.9) metres for one of the sites. In the north, rock was reached at fourteen point five (14.5) metres, twelve point nine (12.9) metres, and fifteen point seven (15.7) metres in three (3) of the sites. That's shown on the figures.

1450 No drilling was done in the rock to determine its characteristics, and this is significant. The only digging done in the northwestern and western sector was by mechanical shovel to shallow depths, so that the actual depth of rock in those areas is not known. Mapping of the soil conditions was clearly incomplete. The shallow mechanical shovel excavations in the

northwestern sector tell us absolutely nothing. And to my mind, the implications of what was found have not been properly interpreted.

1455

What are the implications? Rock was struck in several areas. If rock is fractured, water can move quickly along fissures, and we could see contaminated water travelling one kilometre or more each year. So, time to reach the river, the surrounding wetlands, and nearest wells could certainly be less than one year. This makes the risk far too high. We need to know the quality of the rock before any decision could be made to put a landfill there.

1460

The results for the deep wells, the deep drilling sites, show a deep depression or crevasse in the rock, which is filled with coarse sand. The results suggest to me that the crevasse could extend in the east/west direction beyond the landfill site edge.

1465

Well, what's the effect of the non-uniformity of the soil on leachate collection? The stated intent of LDC is to make the liners have an east/west slope of two percent (2%), two (2) metres in a hundred (100) metres. This causes the leachate flow from east to west at where they would be collected.

1470

The Layfield guide states that you must allow slack in the liners to allow for expansion and contraction, and that folds or waves can be two hundred (200) millimetres in height. If these run across the slope, they will block the free flow of much of the leachate to the collection points. Leachate will sit on the liner for long periods of time, and chemicals in the leachate can attack the liner, causing it to fail faster than if the leachate flows away.

1475

Document DB21 filed with the BAPE confirms that the - independently that the folds or waves were made. So, this will cause the problem I mentioned.

1480

However, there can be a further more serious effect caused by the actual terrain. Where there's a rock in a small depth under the surface, the garbage cannot cause much compaction of the soil.

1485

However, in the deep area where the sand depth is large, there will be much more compaction under the weight of the garbage. I can envisage an effect much like that of a saggy mattress. The liner sags down in the centre. A large pool of leachate stays there attacking the liners and eventually causing them to fail. This is not acceptable.

1490

And I conclude from that point of view, non-uniform soil conditions, we shouldn't risk this.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Please take a little bit of time between the sentences, because this is very

1495 technical and we're losing a lot in the translation. So, please take a little time between the sentences.

MR. RAYE THOMAS:

1500 Right, will do. So, did the translation do this about uneven compaction?

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

1505 (Translation) Yes, and we have your text, but it's for those who are going to read the transcripts. There's going to be a lot of gaps in the information. So, take time and leave a gap between sentences, between - before going to another bit of information, leave a bit of time. I'll give you a hand signal like this, if you don't mind, because I'm trying to follow and follow what you're saying at the same time, as I'm listening to the interpreting. And often I feel that there's - you're losing them here. So, please continue.

1510 MR. RAYE THOMAS:

Okay, right, so, I had commented that from the standpoint of differences in the soil conditions, there would be uneven compaction, and this would allow leachate to flow into that centre region and stay there and attack the liners.

1515 The other major implication of this uneven soil condition is as follows. No landfill site is allowed under regulations where there is a good aquifer. Teknika argues that their tests show that there's not a good aquifer on the site. Well, the measure of a good aquifer is based on the ability to pump twenty-three (23) cubic metres of water per hour from a well on the site. They have not proven their case.

1520 Initially, they did not do a pumping test and had to be asked to do so. When asked to do so by MDDEP, Teknika suggested - selected location F102 where the drill had bedrock after twelve point nine (12.9) metres. A pipe with a screen at the bottom would be then sunk into the well to less than three (3) metres below the water table. In the selected well, there was not a large height of water above the underlying rock.

1525 So, the site was totally wrong for the test. No one drilling a well in that site would have chosen that particular site. In fact, they would choose a deep site like F113 or F114, where the drilling showed that rock was not reached at thirty-eight (38) and forty-nine (49) metres. Using one of these sites would have enabled a true test of the aquifer, not one designed to show that there was a good one present. And from answers to questions, I've seen that the Ministry of Environment agrees with this conclusion.

1530 A strong possibility still exists that there is a good aquifer on the site. For example, what

1540 if the deep crevasse runs towards and even reaches Grove Creek or the Picanoc, and there is a direct link with the Picanoc's water. Then, pumping water could bring water from the Picanoc to replace the water pumped out. In that case, the aquifer would have to be judged as a good one. Also, if there were fissures in the rock, they could allow the water to flow in to replace that pumped out. The aquifer would then also have to be judged a good one.

This direct link would work in the opposite direction as well. Leachate could rapidly reach the Picanoc through the same mechanisms.

1545 Since the proponent has not proven there's not a good aquifer present, I feel that the project should be refused on that basis alone.

1550 In passing, I would draw your attention to the fact that the Museum of Nature in the nation's capital has on record sighting of the wood turtle along the Picanoc. Of course, none were sighted in May of 2005 by the proponent's studies. This is their nesting period, and they would be difficult to see. Dr. Raymond Samure, from this area, now working in the U.S.A., is a world expert on this protected species and will attest to the sighting.

1555 Now, there are far too many potential problems with the site based on my study, based on Envir-Eau's study. It's unsuitable, and the landfill should not be approved. My conclusions are on the slide there, but I want to divert from those and say something in closing regarding options.

We're looking for a short-term solution and a long-term solution. We need to do something about landfill in view of the deadline looming ahead of us.

1560 During phase 1 of the hearings, the representative of the MRC of Pontiac, Mr. Pierre Duchesne, stated that there were no options available except the landfill in this particular time. He was wrong. For example, I was at the planning committee meeting this morning at the MRC of Pontiac, and Mr. Duchesne was there. Both short-term and long-term solutions were considered.

1565 And there is an offer on the table which would represent a short-term solution: for the landfill site in Lachute to take the garbage for Pontiac. A transfer site would be set up in the Pontiac, and the merged garbage would travel to Lachute in two (2) trucks per day. The tipping fee was agreed to be tied to that of Gatineau, which is currently thirty-two dollars (\$32.00) per ton. Thus, a total cost including trucking, transfer fee, and tipping fees would be in the order of sixty-five (\$65.00) to seventy dollars (\$70.00).

1570 This is a competitive and a logical - in the case there cannot be an extension of the deadline, a logical three (3) years or, at most, five (5) year solution to the Pontiac's garbage.

1575 This would allow people time to view the plasma gasification plant in Ottawa and be satisfied of its performance.

1580 The members of the committee expressed the opinion that a landfill is not a long-term solution, and that plasma gasification looks like the long-term solution for waste in this area. You should note that Plasco has offered to install plasma gasification plants in the Outaouais at no cost to the municipalities. They've offered tipping fees of the order of fifty-three dollars (\$53.00) per ton. The cost to get garbage to the nearby plant would be less than the cost to transport to Lachute.

1585 So, there are options long term and short term. The three (3) year Lachute solution allows time for sensible planning. There's no place in that type of scenario for a new landfill site in Allevyn-and-Cawood, and I would recommend that that project be turned down. Thank you, and I apologize for my rushing.

1590 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Mr. Thomas and Mr. Fortin, you have - know that the Envir-Eau report was sent to the department, and they are in DQ2.1, and you have noted the answer of the Department of Sustainable Development, yes?

1595 Well, there are two (2) major elements that the department dealt with concerning the pumping tests to determine if the free water table had been - if the pumping tests had been done at the best place for the best results. And I will read you the answer from the - of the Department of Sustainable Development, Environment, and Parks concerning this. And if the testing weren't done at the best place in order to measure the water table - for the presence of a good water table, here's what they say:

"Since the project cannot be authorized until the potential aquifer under the site has not been established by the best company to do this".

1605 So, the department will ask that complementary tests, pumping tests, be done, if this is to go forward.

1610 Concerning the investigation of the rock level, of the bedrock level, which was raised in the Envir-Eau, the department has not had the same preoccupation, because with - they say that the difficulty for interpreting the formation and the potential aquifer of the rock composed of gravel and sand. So, can you give us comments on these comments perhaps, sir?

MR. GILLES FORTIN:

1615 (Translation) Well, we were mandated to verify the Teknika report, and we did not have

the same means that they had at our disposal. And so, our comments were based on what we saw in the Teknika report. And we're not saying that Teknika's study is a bad one. We say it is an incomplete one.

1620 And when I saw this report concerning the bedrock, this did not convince me that there necessarily was not a major aquifer, but I also agreed with the department, agree with the department that the most important aquifer is the one under - is the one with coarse sand and gravel. And when we - it's in this type of aquifer that we search.

1625 For example, I helped with the water supply in Maniwaki, and we were looking for one thousand five hundred (1, 500) gallons a minute flows, and it's close to these large rivers that we do the - that we look for these, because the re-supply of the gravel and sand aquifer, when the level goes under the topographic level of the water, and the water will go from the river to the pump.

1630 And so, that is why I personally, when I do hydrogeological studies, I go into this type of valley. And if you allow, I will perhaps go back on these explanations concerning the report a little more slowly.

1635 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Well, we noted your report, yes, thank you. I'm not an expert in this area, but I looked at the report by the proponent. I read your report, and I have the comments of the Department of the Environment on your report. So, I brought up the principal conclusions of the Department of the Environment, and I was asking how you reacted to these comments that they made. So, do you find these reassuring, or do you still have a doubt?

MR. GILLES FORTIN:

1645 (Translation) No, I find that reassuring, because you saw in the report there is a very quick *rabattement*. So, I would be a bit reassured that the pumping site - I agree with the Department of the Environment that the pumping tests should be in the most promising area, which is in the central area of this sort of sedimentary valley.

1650 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Yes, yes, I agree, but in terms of forage for the bedrock, the department does not see the necessity to do further drilling tests or foraging, because it is difficult to determine what information would be obtained and also the - because of the deposits of gravel and sand and so on.

1655

MR. GILLES FORTIN:

1660

(Translation) I agree the rock aquifers are less productive than the sand aquifers. I agree entirely with the department.

THE COMMISSIONER:

1665

(Translation) So, there's no longer a misunderstanding on the conclusions if complementary tests are done. Mr. Thomas has the document in hand, and you could perhaps give it to Mr. Fortin, so that he can study it and give us his comments in writing. Perhaps that would be the best course to follow. I have no further questions.

MR. GILLES FORTIN:

1670

(Translation) I also - obviously, I'm not an expert in everything, but another time when they choose a place to do a pumping test, it would have to be an appropriate place, and they should consult the department beforehand to establish what area would be favourable to - for a - to install a testing well for a pumping test.

1675

THE COMMISSIONER:

1680

(Translation) Well, we have noted what you have said, and we hope that, in the future, they will communicate in order to determine the best places to go and get this complementary information to get the - to do these tests. Thank you very much.

MR. RAYE THOMAS:

1685

I have a copy of the oral presentation which I can give to your translators, if you wish.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Yes.

1690

MR. RAYE THOMAS:

Okay, I'll do that.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

1695

(Translation) So, the municipality of Kazabazua, please, we invite the mayor, Mr. Adrien Noël.

MR. ADRIEN NOEL:

1700

Mr. Commissioner, thank you for granting me the time to make the views of Kazabazua known regarding the proposal of the landfill site in the municipality of Alleyn-and-Cawood. My name is Adrien Noël. I'm Mayor of Kazabazua. I was born and raised in Kazabazua. So, I'm quite familiar with the surroundings. Our municipality borders the Danford village.

1705

I own two hundred (200) acres of land in Kazabazua. The Kazabazua River flows all the way through my land. I swam in this river. My kids and my grandchildren swam in this river. The question is: Will my great grandchildren be able to enjoy this river, if the landfill site is allowed?

1710

I'm also a member of the Five Mile Beaver Club, which has a hunting and fishing vacation lodge on the bank of the Picanoc River below the proposed landfill site. Our members are concerned with the potential risk to the Picanoc. We are totally opposing this proposal.

1715

I'm also a member of the Mount O'Brien Association, which voted recently to oppose the landfill proposal.

1720

In my role of Mayor of Kazabazua, I am concerned with the effect of the landfill on the village of Kazabazua. Kazabazua is the village that would be most effected by a landfill in Alleyn-and-Cawood. Yet, we were never consulted by the promoter, the council of Alleyn-and-Cawood, or the MRC of Pontiac, when they opted to support such a project. The council of the municipality of Kazabazua sent a resolution to the council of Alleyn-and-Cawood strongly - of their strong concerns of this, and we never got an answer.

1725

To put my concerns in perspective, I'd like to talk briefly about the village of Kazabazua and the effects of the traffic. A narrow highway, the 105, which was never built to accommodate large trucks; some villages in the past were bypassed by the highways, and they were reinforced. Kazabazua, in the village of Kazabazua, this was never done. So, the trucks run through the centre of the village.

1730

The trucks create major safety hazards for the village, and additional trucks caused by a major landfill in Alleyn-and-Cawood would add dramatically to the safety of our citizens. This is because we have people crossing the highway at all times. In the south entrance of the village, we have a bank. And across the street from the bank is a pottery shop. People walk across the highway.

1735

The speed limit entering the village, that's just on top of the hill as you come in. So, these large trucks coming up the highway reach a fifty (50) kilometre zone, and then have to go down a hill to get slowed up. Consequently, few of them do.

1740

A little farther on, we have a grocery store; across from that store, the post office, which

1745

again people walk across the road. Next, we have a general store, and across the road is a gas bar, convenience store, a coffee take-out. Again, people walk across the road. Next to that, we have a school, and the children must walk across the road again to get to our library, which only tells us that there's more people walking. And more traffic gives us more odds of people getting hurt.

1750

I'm concerned for the safety of my people, and I have personal reasons to be concerned. Just to list a few: My sister was hit by a car in the village of Kazabazua at the age of ten (10). The result was a broken back, which kept her paralyzed from the waist down, shortened her life to thirty-nine (39) years. My grandmother was with her. She received a fractured skull, but she survived.

1755

Not two hundred (200) yards from the same area and a few years later, my grandfather was hit by a truck and killed instantly in the village of Kazabazua. My mother lost her life in a car accident and my sister-in-law just south of Kazabazua, leaving four (4) young children and her husband challenged for life.

1760

So, you can see why I feel we do not need more truck traffic in Kazabazua.

Most of the truck traffic carrying garbage to the proposed landfill site would pass through the village, and the trucks turning - coming north from Highway 105 would pass through most of the village and then, at the north end, would stop and turn left on the 301. If you're familiar with this turn, it's a very dangerous turn. Trucks carrying garbage from the north would slow down and turn right on the 301.

1765

These trucks, less than a hundred (100) yards from the turn, the speed limit is ninety (90) kilometres per hour. Our municipality made a resolution to ask the Department of Transport to change this speed limit, and we were refused. So, these trucks that are making a turn, like I'm saying, a hundred (100) yards from there, the speed limit is still ninety (90) kilometres.

1770

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Could you specify your request that you've made to the Department of Transport to reduce the speed? From what section to what section?

1775

MR. ADRIEN NOEL:

1780

In the village, in the north end, this intersection is already a traffic hazard. I'm very concerned about the increase risk of accidents caused by a seventy-five percent (75%) increase in trucks turning at this particular intersection. It's hard to imagine our village having to handle emergencies which may result from accidents at this intersection.

1785 I'm concerned with the increased noise from trucks passing through the village, slowing down, stopping to turn, and then revving up their engines to get going again. We understand that the promoter's study predicts a hundred and twenty-two (122) extra of such events during the period of seven (7:00) a.m. to six (6:00) p.m. This is a very significant addition to the noise in the village. We already have at least one resident who has moved to live on the nearby lake because of the traffic.

1790 Many houses in Kazabazua are old and considered heritage homes. They were built close to the highway when it was merely a dirt track. Now, we have a major paved roadway with a high volume of traffic passing within a few metres of many houses. We have already had examples of truck vibrations causing windows to break. Even though those studies may say that homes are not at risk due to truck traffic, our experience proves in the reverse.

1795 We also have log buildings in the village. Vibrations cause the chinking to crack and fall out. We do not want more truck traffic to cause even more damage.

1800 The village of Kazabazua is where the water disappears underground, hence, the name. The Kazabazua River starts from Johnson Lake in Alleyn-and-Cawood very near the proposed landfill site. It flows through Danford village and then to Kazabazua and on to empty into the Gatineau River. At times in the summer, the flow is very little. So, we are concerned with the potential of a mega dump to pollute this river.

1805 Kazabazua is also already doing its share in dealing with waste in the region. It hosts a sewage sludge treatment facility for the MRC in which it is located. Septic tanks are pumped and the sewage brought to this facility. After treatment, the treated water is emptied into the Kazabazua River. At times in the summer, when flows are too low, the plant has had to shut down, so as to not risk the river. We do not need or want additional treated or leaked polluted water from a major landfill site to risk even greater the water in the Kazabazua River.

1810 We already have extra traffic because of the septic treatment plant. We do not need more to haul in garbage that is not even from Kazabazua.

1815 When we were notified last year that we had to stop burning garbage immediately and we would have to close our trench landfill by the end of 2008, we acted responsibly and acted quickly to arrange for Kazabazua's garbage to be hauled to Lachute. This was done at a time when our budget was already fixed, and we had to divert resources to manage this.

1820 This burden should not have been imposed upon us when our budget was already set. It now costs us sixty-eight dollars (\$68.00) per ton to a landfill site in Lachute, and the transportation brings our cost even higher. This has caused a significant increase in our budget to deal with the problem of waste. Because we made arrangements quickly, we do not need the landfill site in Alleyn-and-Cawood.

1825

We would like to state clearly that my council is opposed to the landfill in Alleyn-and-Cawood which borders our territory. The 2005 chemin de management of the MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau states that the MRC is opposed to a landfill on this territory or in any neighbouring territory. Our municipality agrees with the policy of the MRC.

1830

Earlier this year, Kazabazua council unanimously passed a resolution confirming our support of the MRC's position and against the landfill in Alleyn-and-Cawood. We oppose importing waste into the area and burying it in the ground. This area, with its many lakes and the Picanoc and the Kazabazua Rivers, is best suited to the development of tourism to increase the revenue base.

1835

We have followed the arguments made for plasma gasification and feel that this is a far better technology for waste management than burying it in the ground for future generations to deal with.

1840

I urge the commission to recommend against the establishment of a mega dump in the Alleyn-and-Cawood. Thank you for your time.

THE COMMISSIONER:

1845

(Translation) Mr. Mayor, the speed in the village is...

MR. ADRIEN NOEL:

1850

(Translation) Fifty (50) kilometres.

THE COMMISSIONER:

1855

(Translation) Right now on the two (2) sides and the north.

MR. ADRIEN NOEL:

(Translation) Ninety (90).

1860

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) At the north is ninety (90).

MR. ADRIEN NOEL:

1865

(Translation) In the south, too.

THE COMMISSIONER:

1870 (Translation) When you say the north where you asked them to reduce the speed, it was north of the intersection of the 105 and the 301?

MR. ADRIEN NOEL:

1875 (Translation) About one thousand (1,000) feet.

THE COMMISSIONER:

1880 (Translation) Why is the speed higher at this point on the north end?

MR. ADRIEN NOEL:

1885 It's because we have businesses north of this intersection, restaurants, hotel, garage, body shops, and we feel that the traffic is going too fast past these businesses, and the signs should be brought back, but we were refused.

THE COMMISSIONER:

1890 (Translation) Now, for the time being, it's ninety (90). Why is it ninety (90) at the end and fifty (50) in the south? Was it set by the Department of Transport?

MR. ADRIEN NOEL:

1895 Yes, the traffic coming in, it varies from the north end, changes from ninety (90) to fifty (50) going through the village and down past where I mentioned there was a bank. And then, there's a hill going up. And then, the speed limit is again ninety (90) kilometres. So, the trucks coming north, they hit the fifty (50) kilometre per hour as they're going down the hill. So, consequently, it's difficult to get slowed down by the time they get in the populated area.

1900 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) For the treatment plants, where is it? In the north or in the south?

MR. ADRIEN NOEL:

1905 It's off 301 Highway heading to Danford, actually. We make that same turn with those trucks going in there.

1910 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) And that plant brings how many trucks, and what size trucks do you have?

1915 MR. ADRIEN NOEL:

I'm not sure of the number of trucks, sir, but they're not trailers. They're just tandem trucks. So, they can negotiate the turn more easily than the big trailers. The amount of them is restricted, but I'm not sure of the number.

1920 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) How many per day? Do you have any idea?

1925 MR. ADRIEN NOEL:

I'd be guessing and saying ten (10), twelve (12), fourteen (14).

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Would it be possible to check this information and to send it to us in writing?

1930 MR. ADRIEN NOEL:

No problem.

1935 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) The number of trucks per day on an average and the type of trucks.

1940 MR. ADRIEN NOEL:

Yes, sure.

THE COMMISSIONER:

1945 (Translation) And the correspondence that you had with the Department of Transport to reduce the speed, can you give us that correspondence as well?

MR. ADRIEN NOEL:

1950 (Translation) Yes, we have it in the office.

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) I have no other questions. So, thank you very much, Mr. Mayor.

1955

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Is Mr. Molyneaux here? Anyone else registered for this evening? Any other registrations or rectifications? Anybody registered?

1960

MR. STACY MOLYNEAUX:

Mine will be in English. My name is Stacy Molyneaux. I was born and raised in Danford Lake. I continue to live on the property that I inherited from my mother and father, now with a family of my own.

1965

I find it appalling that a TLS may be coming to my birthplace without a referendum, consultation between council and rate payers, or even so much as an explanation from the mayor on why he did not even bother to explore on his own the impact garbage and truck traffic will have on his constituents.

1970

I feel the mayor is blinded by dollar signs. You could take the statement he made as an example:

1975

"Without this TLS, Danford Lake will basically cease to exist, as we could not afford to sustain the municipality".

He also made this statement to CBC Ottawa in an interview. He says:

1980

"It will be a community decision".

I sit on the Board of Directors for the Mount O'Brien Association. We held a vote on whether or not the membership was in favour of a TLS. Out of a hundred and seven (107) respondents, the result was a hundred and two (102) against, zero (0) for, and five (5) neutral. The majority of the members are rate payers in Alleyn-and-Cawood, Danford Lake.

1985

A petition was signed by over four thousand (4,000) people stating their opposition to the project, but it was simply ignored. You cannot ignore the rights of people and claim we live in a democratic society at the same time. To push a project of this size into a municipality without the support of those who live there is beyond reproach, and I would not want to be the person or persons doing the pushing. For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

1990

Please consider the families who live in the area of this proposed garbage dump before

making your decision. Give them the right to choose what is best for their future.

1995

And you had stated numerous occasions that your job is to listen to the people and make a recommendation to the Minister. I, at first, thought that maybe it would very hard for you to do that, but I believe truly that there's only one (1) of two (2) that you could make. One is to let the people have a referendum, so that they can decide what they want to do, and the other one would be to just stop the whole thing in its tracks right now, because all you have to do is listen to the people that have spoke here.

2000

And I haven't seen one councillor, I haven't seen the mayor or anybody that says they want this dump come up here and tell you why they want it. How come they're not here? That's all I have to say, thank you.

2005

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) So, for the information to be exact, I would like for you to repeat the figures that you had given regarding the consultation that you've had with the Association of Mount O'Brien, because I don't think that it was translated.

2010

MR. STACY MOLYNEAUX:

We had a vote, and there was a hundred and seven (107) people responded in time for the meeting for it be counted. And out of a hundred and seven (107) respondents, a hundred and two (102) voted against, zero (0) voted for, and five (5) were neutral.

2015

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

2020

(Translation) Thank you; is Mr. James Irwin here?

MR. JAMES IRWIN:

My name is James Irwin, and I reside at 362 Road 105 in Kazabazua. I am also a rate payer of the municipality of Alleyn-and-Cawood. I am currently President of the Five Mile Beaver Club.

2025

The Five Mile Beaver Club was incorporated in the Province of Quebec under the provisions of Chapter 155 SRQ 1941 by virtue of the ruling of the Ministry of Fish and Game on September 24, 1959.

2030

The club owns lots number 20, 21, 22, and 23 of range 6 in the municipality of Alleyn-and-Cawood. This body of land is comprised of three hundred and eighty-five (385) acres and is approximately one and one-quarter miles of river front on the Picanoc River.

2035

2040

The club's constitution states in Article 3 that the purpose of the club is to provide for individual members and their guests a place for recreational activities. Its twenty-five (25) members and their families and friends fish during the season on the Picanoc River, primarily in the stretch of river from the clubhouse up to Pine Point, which is located immediately across from the proposed landfill site.

2045

In order to survive financially, the club hosts an annual fishing derby at which the public participates. Its participants access the river through the club's property to harvest pike, pickerel, and bass. This popular event is well attended, and many fish are caught and consumed by fishermen of all ages and their families, including small children.

2050

Located immediately downstream is the Bears' Den, a club consisting of thirty (30) members engaging in similar activities. Lot 14 in range 6 is home to the Pourvoirie Wayne Tanner, a public fishing game club which offers its facilities to both Canadian and American sportsmen. In the short distance between lots 14 and 24, there are three (3) fish and game clubs and a private lodge.

2055

The waters of the Picanoc River have no sources of pollution and have been enjoyed for decades by canoe enthusiasts, including the former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who frequently paddled through its pristine waters in search of quiet and solitude.

2060

This proposed mega landfill site would make this fishing area the most leachate-polluted sector of the river. Concerns about consumption of fish that live in these waters would jeopardize the purpose of the clubs that exist on the Picanoc River, as well as the ability of this small river with slow flowing water during dry season periods to handle the leachate. There are major concerns.

2065

The proposed mega dump's plastic membranes have - can and have failed in other locations. Failure of these membranes would contaminate the drinking water at the club and the entire area, as well as the river itself.

2070

The constant bulldozing and trucking at the proposed site will certainly be heard by fishermen and "canoers" on the river. White-water canoeing, a sport rapidly growing in popularity, has been bringing tourists by the bus load to the river's rapids and provides economic growth in the area with negligible negative environmental impact. The noise would, without question, damage this growing industry and discourage fishing enthusiasts.

2075

A landfill containing millions of tons of garbage cannot help but attract seagulls, rats, mice, crows, ravens, bears, and other scavengers in vast numbers, which will pollute the rivers and lakes of the entire area and cause permanent environmental damage.

2080 This will have a huge negative impact on the value of vacation property like the Five Mile Beaver Club. Area real estate agents already claim that the vacation property values have dropped by thirty percent (30%) in the region in anticipation of the landfill project.

2085 Like all users of Route 105 and 301, the Five Mile Beaver Club members and their guests will encounter many enormous garbage trucks on already narrow and crooked and dangerous roads. According to a recent article in the Lowdown and Holdback newspaper, Transport Quebec has already designated Route 105 as a dangerous highway even before this project.

A private entrepreneur uses the limited liability numbered company dumping garbage on government land for enormous profits is an absolute recipe for disaster.

2090 The traffic problem could only be improved by relocating the processing of the garbage closer to the source, i.e., the city of Gatineau.

2095 Leachate, groundwater contamination, seagulls vermin, could be completely eliminated by using a more modern and efficient method of garbage disposal available such as plasma gasification. This method would immediately dispose of refuse and simultaneously produce electricity. At the same time, the tourist industry and the vacation property values, on which the local economy and municipalities depend, would be protected.

2100 At a meeting of the Five Mile Beaver Club held June, 2006, it was moved and passed by the members of the club that they were against the proposed mega landfill project. I strongly oppose the project and feel that it should not receive government authorization to proceed.

2105 In an era of worldwide environmental awareness, this is an important opportunity for the Quebec government to put a stop to a potentially environmentally disaster project and embrace the twenty-first century technology that its citizens can trust and be proud of. Thank you.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

2110 (Translation) Thank you; so, we've taken note of your message, thank you so much. So, we are now going to rectify. So, Denis Rouleau will be here.

MR. DENIS ROULEAU:

2115 (Translation) Mrs. Chair, Mr. Commissioner, first of all, a rectification regarding the brief of Mr. Boucher. Mr. Boucher says that a monopoly would exist in the event that we would give the right to the LDC to go ahead with this project. What we've heard from all the people here, they all seem to agree that should be the elected, and that the only solution that exists on a short

term and medium term would be Lachute. The situation of monopoly exists at the present time.

2120 Following this, in terms of rectification regarding Mr. Power and Mr. Nelson, I believe, regarding the municipal election where the council would have been elected by acclamation, because the order of the project was not known at the time, so, these elections took place in November, 2005.

2125 The 1st of November, 2004, a year before the election, the municipal council adopted a resolution supporting the project for this site as a regional dumping site.

2130 And in March, 2005, there was a consultation with the public where the notice was presented to the residents before it was submitted to the Department of Environment. So, the origin of all this was open.

2135 In October, 2005, a few weeks before the election, there was a meeting or a consultation with the public again, when Mr. Martin and several members of his association were there. The study, the impact study, was presented to the residents before it was submitted to the Environment Department.

To say that the order and the size of the site was not known, I would say that, a few weeks before the election, there was a great representation of the people from the association who were against the project, and who were very aware of the size or the magnitude of the project.

2140 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) So, thank you. So, we are going to start over again at seven o'clock (7:00) in Otter Lake. You're welcome to come, and you are invited to come to these as well. Good evening.

2145 -----

I, Annagret Rinaldi, the undersigned, Official Court Reporter, do hereby certify, under my oath of office, that the foregoing is a true transcription of the above-named speakers at the public hearings conducted by the BAPE.

2150 AND I HAVE SIGNED:

2155 _____
ANNAGRET RINALDI,
Official Court Reporter.