

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

ÉTAIENT PRÉSENTS:           Mme SYLVIE GIRARD, présidente  
  M. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, commissaire

**AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE  
SUR LE PROJET D'AMÉNAGEMENT  
HYDROÉLECTRIQUE À ANGLIERS**

**DEUXIÈME PARTIE  
VERSION ANGLAISE**

VOLUME 2

Séance tenue le 28 mai 2003, à 19 h  
Église d'Angliers  
14, rue de la Baie-Miller  
Angliers

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**THE PRESIDENT:**

5 We will start with an intervenor on the phone for the movement called "Adopt a river", Mr. Alain Saladius. Good evening, Mr. Saladius.

**Mr. ALAIN SALADIUS:**

10 Good evening, Madam Chair.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

15 So thank you for being present on the phone. I would like to ask the public or the audience to keep very silent because with the telephone line, it is not always easy to understand everything. Mr. Saladius, we are listening to you.

**Mr. ALAIN SALADIUS:**

20 Good evening, everyone. So "Adopt a river" is representing many groups in Québec, *Ecotourism Adventure Québec*, *Eau Secours!*, *Québec Federation of Canoe and Kayak*, *The Nature and Parks of Canada Society* and the *Wildlife Conversation Union of Québec*.

25 So the Submission we have filed aims first at taking advantage of the Doyon Inquiry Report that was submitted in '97 and that has reviewed many small power plant projects. So, in light of this inquiry, a new government program was launched in May 2001 and the purpose of our submission is to verify, to make sure that the conclusions and the spirit and intent of the new program is respected.

30 So one of the first findings that we saw is that the Angliers Project does not respect these rules. This project was not submitted to the bid system. The contract with Hydro-Québec was signed before the opening of the bids, of the bidding process at the end September 2002. So, by the fact that there is no competition on the price and on the quality of the project notably in environmental terms and also in terms of the regional economic spin-offs, for us, it seems to be a contradiction with regard to the program.

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40 So we consider that this project should not, well does not respect the rules of the new government program and should be rejected on this ground. Because of the absence of competition, we can expect that the cost paid by Hydro-Québec will be higher, as compared with competitive context.

If we look at the factors related to the price, you know, Hydro-Québec will not benefit from this competition. You know ten per cent of the revenues, \$8 millions, so it represents \$800,000 per year of loss for Hydro-Québec by the fact that there is no competition. So, that was a very important point for us.

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Also, there were many arguments related to job creation. In the Report, we see that it's very little documented. The number of permanent jobs created is very vague. It would be more adequate to talk about person/years. We also have to identify these jobs, where the people will be working, either at the head office or in the region. We also want to mention the fact that the promoter has no control over the "entrepreneur" that will be hired to do the work.

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It was often mentioned in the documents that we have to respect the competitive context and the people. But we have no guarantee that the region will have those economic spin-offs or benefits.

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On the other hand, another important flaw is the fact that the contract is a secret contract that was signed with Hydro-Québec. So, it's not possible to assess the actual price or benefits that the promoter will draw from the project.

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We have established a table in Appendix 1 of these papers, in which we make forecasts based on certain plausible and realistic assumptions. We anticipate profits in the order of 20% after income tax. And 20% of net profit after income tax, it is considerable if we know, if we see that the promoter incurs no risks in the sale of power.

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He has a firm contract for over twenty-five years, so it's a profitability that is abnormally high and in the paper, we established different comparisons.

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On the other hand, it's also obvious that the First Nations have not been consulted or are not part and parcel of the project. And if they are, you know, as holders of rights, of land rights, there is a note that is very explicit in the documents that have been filed. Miss Gaudet's secretary at the SAA stated in May 2002, she denounced that situation.

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In the Doyon Report, many recommendations mentioned the fact that the First Nations are not consulted and sometimes, they are even fooled in those situations.

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Now the local benefits, initially, they are estimated at \$160,000 per year. This will benefit only the Municipality of Angliers, while the government program said that the benefits should be aimed at the whole MRC. And the program provides that the MRC should be in partnership with the promoter. In the current situation, it is abnormal or even illegal the fact that the municipality is associated to the promoter.

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Something else we want to emphasize. The profits for the first year are estimated at \$1.2M and out of this \$1.2M, there will be only \$160,000 the first year that will go to the community.

In the spirit and intent of the government program, if it had been respected, the MRC could have been associated up to 49% of the project, which would have incurred benefits of around \$600,000 the first year for the Municipality and the MRC.

90 Now the project situation, due to the fact that we don't know all the costs and profitability figures, they are not all public, it is difficult for us, it is more difficult to ask the promoter for some improvements to the project. For instance, the ten-cubic-metre per second flow or reserve flow, there is \$1.2M of profit the first year.

95 If we would increase the flow to twenty cubic metres per second to have a better environmental quality in the small reservoir, Reservoir des Quinze, his profit would go down by \$50,000. So we would be more comfortable to ask for a higher reserved flow.

100 The fact that it is hidden poses a difficulty to assess all the aspects of the project and we would ask that all the costs of the \$55 millions be clearly detailed. This would allow us to assess the costs for building a spawning area. These costs are only \$50,000. So it really puts into perspective the money that is dedicated to the environmental protection, as compared to the centres of the government program.

105 So in terms of project justification, we would like other solutions to be considered by Hydro-Québec. For us, it is unacceptable that Hydro-Québec, in the answer that they gave on May 20th, hide behind its Hydro branch, Hydro distribution branch, not to consider the energy-saving measures, which could be developed for under 2 cents per kilowatt/hour.

110 In the project, there is also an alternative. Alternative number 1 that would have allowed to maintain a better water-flow in the small des Quinze Reservoir.

115 It would have been important that the costs or advantages and disadvantages of this would be mentioned and we consider that the noise, because there is some concern about the noise, we must not fear that the noise, but we must fear the silence caused by these power plants because the fall will become silent.

120 Then, we are wondering in the agreements that were signed, the first agreement with the municipalities, Hydro Angliers and the municipality and the second agreement between La Régionale and the Municipality of Angliers, so we are wondering if Hydro Angliers is part of La Régionale or is it a branch or... what is their status in this partnership.

125 In the second agreement, there is no mention that Hydro Angliers. It is like a second agreement that makes the first one void but like with a new partner. So we find it a bit strange.

130 Now we already talked about the potential participation at 49% by the MRC. I would like to mention again the Doyon Report that is appended to our submission. There are recommendations at the very end. Among the 103 recommendations, we made an inventory and I am mentioning something that is not in our paper but as I said we need to verify the respect of the recommendations, and we found 25 that are not followed up upon or not complied with in the Angliers Project.

I will list them briefly, the number of those recommendations that have not been complied with. They are number 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 20, 23, 25, 26, 29, 32, 44, 45, 52, 53, 54, 60,

135 63, 65, 66, 68, 69 and 93. So we consider that these recommendations are not being complied  
with right now. So in fact, the Angliers file, the first small dam project was studied following the  
Doyon Report. We are sorry that this will burden you more.

140 Now, there has been many land transactions done, acquisitions by the municipality from  
the Department of Natural Resources to then be ceded to the promoter. But we realize that the  
promoter had acquired, or acquired along the years almost all the land, all the lots, so that  
competition was not possible or at least very difficult for the other promoters. So it is a form of  
monopoly that was created along the years that should not be repeated.

145 There are ways of doing things. Normally the Department of Natural Resources could  
have purchased those lands for, there were transactions at \$18,000, for \$20,000, \$30,000,  
\$40,000, it would have been possible for the Department of Natural Resources to purchase those  
lands and to allow the other promoters to compete. And we remind you, this would have allowed  
a savings of \$800,000 per year.

150 Now the presence of the yellow sturgeon, this is a species that might be declared  
vulnerable. We should not neglect the presence of the sturgeon. We were told that they have  
been observed near the spillway of the dam mainly in the spring.

155 So there are measures or its presence should be better quantified. The reserved flow  
should probably be heightened or that a passage-way be developed or built. But what we see, it is  
not because this fish is squeezed between two dams that measures should not be taken to allow  
its future migration.

160 So in fact, to conclude, another aspect is the promoter's experience. There are many  
intervenors who are the same as in the Winneway issue and another project. In the appendix that  
was filed, we are concerned to see the way that these files have been processed in the past. In  
one project, there's been some floodings. So it would be advisable to clearly verify what is written  
in the Doyon Report, so that preventive measures be taken or directives be issued to the  
165 promoter. So this sums up our submission paper.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

170 Thank you, Mr. Saladius and by the way, we have already read your paper carefully  
because it's going to be in the Documentation Centre for every to read.

For the movement "Adopt a River", is the Ottawa River one of the rivers that you have  
adopted?

175 **Mr. ALAIN SALADIUS:**

Yes. The des Quinze River has been adopted by Léopold Lauzon. He's the sponsor.  
Léopold Lauzon is the sponsor.

180 **THE PRESIDENT:**

In your paper, when you talk about the program, you're talking about the subsidy program or grant program? So you mention certain aspects that would not exactly correspond to the spirit and intent of the grant regime.

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But beyond those aspects that you raise, this project that is part of an already existing infrastructure, on what ground do you question this project?

190 **Mr. ALAIN SALADIUS:**

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Well, it does not allow the community to be involved enough. The regime provides up to 49% participation by the local communities and right now, there's only 2% of the revenues, the \$160,000 of the \$8 millions represents only 2% of the revenues that will stay in the area. So, if we really want to respect the spirit and intent of the new program, we should allow the local people to be partners and this project does not do that.

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And there is nobody at La Financière Manuvie or the promoter, there is nobody from the Municipality. It is a private company that comes and draws benefits from the existing infrastructures. They recuperate that, you know, the dikes and everything to their own benefit. So it does really not respect the spirit of the new program.

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Another aspect, an alternative solution that was applied in certain areas was to set up partnership companies with Hydro-Québec and the local people. In our paper, it is mentioned on three different occasions where this formula was applied. So the law does permit that kind of situation. That reminds me of a recommendation.

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The numbered recommendations that I mentioned, there are many recommendations that highlight the process that was followed in Angliers and that proves that it did not follow the legal process. Number 7 says that it is addressed to the government. It requires that municipal authorities proceed by public bidding before ceding any rights or property. And then in the case Angliers, it was not done.

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Another recommendation says that the municipalities cannot be partners with a promoter. I can't remember the number of the recommendation.

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**THE PRESIDENT:**

There is something I would like to understand, Mr. Saladius. When you refer to the competitive rules, are you referring to the bidding procedures of Hydro-Québec or are you referring to the sale of land?

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**Mr. ALAIN SALADIUS:**

225 It is a combination of two. The Department of Natural Resources should have made sure, like for the Water Power Rights, the Department could have purchased those lands, as I mentioned for maybe \$30,000, which opens the possibility for other promoters to build power plants.

230 Right now, the promoter held all the lots or land that would have allowed the construction of a power plant. Another promoter could not have come without using expropriation process. The other promoters, there was a blockade in front of them.

235 As for Hydro-Québec, they did not, well, the Angliers dossier was not among those where a submission had to be presented before September 30th. Anyway, nobody will contradict that. Angliers, there was a contract already signed, that was signed separately without any competition.

240 So just for indication, what I was told about the Matawin River dossier, another small power plant project, one of the three that were authorized by Premier Landry, the Matawin Project, there is a difference of 1.5 cent per kilowatt/hours between the lowest bidder and the second one. So 1.5 cent difference out of 4, 5 cents, that's a big proportion. Hence the importance of ensuring competitive rules for the promoters and take all the possible means to make sure that these rules are in place and respected.

245 **THE PRESIDENT:**

So my colleague Mr. Bertrand Bouchard has a question for you.

250 **Mr. ALAIN SALADIUS:**

Yes.

**M. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, commissioner :**

255 So it concerns the criteria to determine the profitability of a project. You say that the contracts are secret, so we cannot assess this profitability. So in your opinion, the fact that it is a company that takes charge of the project could be a criteria that would satisfy you, it is to ensure the long-term viability of the project.

260 **Mr. ALAIN SALADIUS:**

No. We have no doubt about the solvability of all the promoters that made submissions to Hydro-Québec. This project could be profitable for Hydro-Québec if they purchase at 6 cents and they sell it back at 6 cents per kilowatt/hour. But it would be more beneficial if they could pay 3 cents and sell it back at 6 cents.

265 So as a public body, is it normal to sign contracts and make transactions without any competition? The answer is no. In any government project, construction of a road, of a building,



the government will always try to obtain the best price, the lowest bidder, that is always. So we don't see why in the Angliers dossier, it would not be the same thing.

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And as for the secret aspect of the report, in *Le Devoir* of October 5th, 2002, this situation has been, the aspect of secret contracts had been exposed by Rita Dionne Marsolais, the Minister at the time. She said no more secret contracts. Québec was asking Hydro-Québec to disclose the price they would pay for electricity. So we see that decision of making the documents secret is a political decision.

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If the promoter would accept to make public its costs and rates, there would be no problem. Transparency would be there. Right now, what we must ask the promoter is to make this contract public, to accept that Hydro makes it public. But in all these files, there is no competition problems. It's a basic matter of transparency.

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**THE PRESIDENT:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Saladius, for your participation.

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**Mr. ALAIN SALADIUS:**

I also thank you.

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**THE PRESIDENT:**

And we will take into account and consider all your propositions, your opinion. And thank you and good evening.

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**THE PRESIDENT:**

So the second intervenor, I would like to invite for the Timiskaming First Nation. Good evening, Mr. Polson, Mrs. Chevrier.

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**Mr. RANDY POLSON:**

If you allow me, I will do my allocution in English. Since we left for our break, I had some people come over. I had the people from Long Point come over and have supper with us at my cottage down the road here, my camp. And we were expecting about twenty-five people and we prepared meals for twenty-five people and we had eighty showed up! But everybody ate and we had a very good meal.

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Well, I had a chance, an opportunity to talk with the elder that did her presentation this afternoon, Mrs. Hunter, and she was telling me on the journey down this morning, just as she was arriving to the Sand Point, Long Point territory, which used to be her birthplace, they encountered a bear swimming, which is very, you know, strange to meet a bear in the middle of

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the lake swimming. And she took the approach that the bear came from the people that are in the graves at Sand Point came and gave her a message.

315           And I think the message she spoke to the Commission in her mother tongue, I would hope that you will try to find the ways to translate Mrs. Hunter's message that she gave to you by the bear.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

320           We're going to try.

**Mr. RANDY POLSON:**

325           So, I will start off my concern with the sturgeon. I have an affidavit here that I would like to present. It is from one of our local trappers. He has been trapping the territory for the last forty-odd years or so. And in his affidavit, he is mentioning the fact that, I will read the affidavit as it was written by Mr. Norman Webbee. It reads:

330           **"That I know from personal knowledge there are sturgeons in the water from Angliers, Québec, to the Première-Chute at des Quinze River. That I have fished these waters for the last forty years, that they range from two and a half pounds to thirty-five pounds. That I know Peter Stanger, who also brought fish from these waters. That up the river, the sturgeon are larger than down the river. That it is in the best interest of the**  
335 **Timiskaming First Nation people that these and other species be protected, as well as the natural spawning areas. That I am aware of their spawning areas. That in the month of June, a person can see them jump. That I make this declaration knowing that this is the truth. That I make this declaration of my own free will."**

340           And it is signed by Norman Webbee and it's signed by the commissioner of oaths Rita May Stanger. It was signed at her Band office this morning. I would like to deposit that as a document for the BAPE.

345           The other thing, I would maybe draw your attention to the maps that are at the left or to my left here. You will notice that the index on the maps identifies places where our community members have fished and the fish that they are taking. Each of the little squares represents an interview by the people from our community. The other map, if you look at it, is more of the territory of the nation itself and the Timiskaming Band.

350           That is for information for BAPE. It is that the research is on its final legs of being completed. It should be over by the end of the summer or early fall. We should be in a position to have all our research documented and ready to present to whatever department that it is going to be presented to, to hope that we can, you know, be able to solve the problems before they come to the table.

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And I guess the issue is not how the Timiskaming First Nation can benefit from the spin-offs. The issue is when will our concerns be dealt with? The question who will sit down with us to answer some of our interests on the protection of the species and the wildlife?

360 You know, when we hear comments from people that are saying: "Now, can it impact on the First Nation whether the water passes over a dam or through a turbine?" I guess it makes you realize that the people don't understand what is the impact that it could have on the wildlife.

365 We are told too by Hydro-Québec that they cannot deal with the issue of aboriginal title. We are told by the BAPE hearing that they are not here to sit down and address our aboriginal rights and yet projets continue to move.

370 At some point, we have to be involved in the process and hopefully by your recommendations to the government that a chance will be given to our community to be able to voice our concerns in a way that we can, you know, prove that we have to sustain the species that are out there. We base our language and everything to the earth and to the forest and when there is no more, we lose our language and our culture.

375 I had the opportunity this afternoon to show one the people that are working with us, Monsieur Croteau, to show him where we do our sweats and where we have our ceremonies at my place. And you know, this is things that are part of our culture and our tradition and we haven't stopped using them and we are going to continue practicing.

380 And I think through this Commission now hopefully that we could bridge, make the bridge between the non-native and the native and grow together. I don't think we are here to try to stop any development but rather to participate in it and to protect the future for our next generation.

With that, I would like to thank you, Mrs. President.

385 **THE PRESIDENT:**

390 Thank you, Mr. Polson. I would like to ask you a question. What concerns you the most in this kind of project for your community? You have just told me that somewhere, it is not necessarily only an economic spin-off project but it is about the species themselves, wildlife species or fish. At first, what is your main concern about this project?

**Mr. RANDY POLSON:**

395 It is the whole thing about the project itself. The fact of not being able to consult the documents in a language that, I can speak French and I can read it, but to comprehend it, I can't and my community can't understand it. And I think when we have major developments that are occurring, such as what happened in the '60s when they built the first, the Première-Chute, we were cut off from fishing the sturgeon there and we have pictures yet that date back to those days where people were fishing the sturgeon and along comes Hydro-Québec and saying: "Well, we are putting a dam here". And you know, we keep losing our fish.

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405 Just yesterday, one of our artists that went over on the back here towards "la réfection du barrage" des Quinze to go gather some cedar to make cedar drums. He was told by the people over on the other side: "You can't come here no more. This is off limits to the public and you have no more access to your cedar". The cedar grows to the South of us more but it has been harvested quite a bit around the area and it is hard to find the big cedars to make the drums with, and we were stopped there again.

410 And when you see the impact that the first, the three dams that are there right now have on the water, on the shorelines around our community, there is big slidings coming in not only at the site of our community but if you go down towards the cemetery, you could the landslides there and that is all because of more water coming through the system, whatever. But there is a lot of erosion taking place...

415 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Are you talking about the Miller Bay area?

420 **Mr. RANDY POLSON:**

425 No. Well, the erosion starts, I guess, from the first dams. As you go down, there is erosion and land slidings all over along the waves. If you go up down des Quinze Lake and Lac Simard, you are going to see a lot more erosion, where the banks are coming. It makes it hard to even trap the beaver in there because you don't have no area where you could set your trap because the bank is so steep.

430 So there is many concerns that our people have and we were hoping to be able to address this, our concerns through this here. But we were lacking in the information that was provided to us and we couldn't, not only we did not have the funds to properly address this project but we didn't, you know, couldn't understand the material that was given to us.

435 I can understand that the promoter had a good intention. But I think, you know, it could have been easily translated, the documents. As mentioned by Chief Mathias this morning, Mr. Carter himself does not speak French and you know, here he is giving us French documents he can't read himself, so.

It makes me wonder too, is it just a trick to keep us in the dark or do they really care what we feel as a First Nation people, what kind of development should occur on our lands?

440 **THE PRESIDENT:**

I would like to see with you maybe, I think we talked about it this afternoon, you came with Mrs. Chevrier this afternoon. I am asking you the question again, I forgot if I asked you before.

445 I wanted to know... she had a question but I asked all the members of your community if there were impacts or spin-offs or any kind of interesting exchange during the development of the Rapides-des-Quinze Dam and the creation of the COMAXTEM to optimize spin-offs, economic spin-offs.

450 I would like to know if in the region you have people who were able to participate?

**Mr. RANDY POLSON:**

455 We had some people come in when they were talking about doing the "réfection du barrage". They were coming in to try to help our people to get cards. But the minimum requirement for these cards was six thousand hours, I believe.

**Mrs. BEVERLY CHEVRIER-POLSON:**

460 6,000 hours of experience before you can take the exam to get the card.

**Mr. RANDY POLSON:**

465 And when we don't have no industry in the community, it is impossible.

**Mrs. BEVERLY CHEVRIER-POLSON:**

470 It is impossible for us to have one of our members gain 6,000 hours of experience to go and write the exam in the first place. So, it didn't help us whatsoever.

**Mr. RANDY POLSON:**

475 In the Mémoires that were put in in the Commission BAPE by the Timiskaming Band for "la réfection du barrage des Quinze", within the documents the impacts, they identify 26 sites of aboriginal historical sites, whether they are archaeological sites or whatnot. But in the presentation from La Régionale, I don't see any mention that there is going to be any effect on those 26 sites that were identified in Hydro-Québec position paper that they put in at the Commission BAPE a few years go back for the "réfection du barrage".

480 **LA PRÉSIDENTE:**

Pour Rapides-des-Quinze?

**M. RANDY POLSON:**

485 Pour Rapides-des-Quinze, oui, exactement. There was 26 sites identified at archaeological sites of the First Nation, whether it was camp sites or grave sites, we are not sure. We did intensive research in that area too. But for myself, I have only been with the Council since December of 2002 and I haven't really gone into the research department yet.

490 We met with the Ottawa, the funding agencies in Ottawa and we did a preliminary round of presentation but we didn't go in depth. And myself, I can't really identify which sites but I know they are well identified within the Hydro-Québec's papers that they put for the "réfection du barrage des Quinze".

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**THE PRESIDENT:**

These were sites that were identified in the region or were impacted by the projects?

500 **Mr. RANDY POLSON:**

"Des sites qui étaient" identified by Hydro-Québec and they exist from here, between here and the Première-Chute which falls into Lake Timiskaming after.

505 Right now on the Ontario side, we have two other Hydro development projects that are starting up. One is on the Metabetchouan River, which is the inlet into the Montreal River and then flows into the Lake Timiskaming. That is another area that we have great concerns on.

510 And the other one is kind of North-West of Lake Timiskaming, it is the Missini River, which in turn comes in from the Adams Mine. The Adams Mine, we already a fight, ongoing fight there against the City of Toronto who wants to bring their garbage and put it in on the Northern part, North-Western part of our traditional territory.

515 So we have the Adams Mine. We have the two Hydro projects on the Western part of our boundaries and we have the Régionale on the Eastern side.

520 And the Timiskaming Band right now is not looking in any way of getting spin-offs or anything. Our goal and our concern is at some point in life, someone has to speak and represent the animals that are living on the land and you know, that we treat as, you know, being our brothers.

525 And you know, we have to have respect and somebody has to voice their opinion and that is the role that the Timiskaming Band has been taking over the last few years, since we had the Adams Mine, the Bennett toxic waste incinerator, they wanted to come up. I guess you could say the Timiskaming Band are environmentalists, if you want to call us that, but we are not looking for to gain any dollars through this.

530 We are looking at the protection and the care of Mother Earth because in our minds, Mother Earth has been raped and raped over and over again by industry, whether it is Hydro or forestry development. But Mother Earth has to have its time to heal so that the future generations can benefit from the resources that are here. And hopefully that by, you know, sustaining the species and life, we will be all able to share with them, not only the natives, but the non-natives too.

535 Because you know, when the first non-native came to the lands, our forefathers accepted them here. They were willing to live in partnership with the non-natives. I think we have to go back to that vision of that time and share the land and share what is there so that we all can survive together as a people.

540 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Thank you very much, Mr. Polson.

545 I'm going to be calling for the next speaker from La Société de développement du  
Témiscamingue, Mr. Guy Trépanier. Good evening, Mr. Trépanier. You are with?

**Mr. CLAUDE GAGNON:**

550 Claude Gagnon, President of La Société de développement.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

Nice to meet you. We are listening to you.

555 **Mr. CLAUDE GAGNON:**

So, Miss President, Mr. Commissioner.

(READING OF THE ACCOMPANYING LETTER).

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So please to page number 3, the *Presentation of the Société de développement du  
témiscamingue*.

(READING OF THE BRIEF)

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So move to page number 4, 1.4 Action Plan, which is also in the document. So please  
jump directly to page number 6. Service Offer, I will invite you to read it and then move to page 7.  
I will let my co-worker Guy talk about Historical Background.

570 **Mr. GUY TRÉPANIÉRIER:**

*The issues of hydroelectric development in Timiskaming.* Maybe to start with history.

(READING OF THE BRIEF)

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2.2 The place of hydroelectricity in Timiskaming, we surely should say in the economy  
of Timiskaming.

(READING OF THE BRIEF)

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Additionally for the maintenance, we have major works that are being done, for example  
in 1986-1987 at Rapides-des-Quinze, there were \$35 millions worth; in 93-97, Rapides-des-Iles,  
\$39 millions; 2002-2005, Rivière des Quinze, \$80 millions. It is a project we have already  
mentioned; between 2002 and 2007, there will be works effectuated down in Rapides II and



585 Rapides VII for \$65 millions each; after 2007, there will be other works in Première-Chute of the amounts hard to be determined.

(READING OF THE BRIEF)

590 **THE PRESIDENT:**

I will ask you to speed it up and get to the conclusions please. I will allow you two, three minutes.

595 **Mr. CLAUDE GAGNON:**

Very well. As for *Economic Spin-Offs*, I think there are very important points related in terms of construction, operations, added value to the tourist product. I think that in the sectors, in terms of construction, it is very important. Now here is a summary.

600

It is very important because already up to now, in terms of construction, these are already things that will create direct economic spin-offs and the one that is very important is the one of maximizing the hiring of Abitibi-Timiskaming construction workers through COMAXTEM.

605

There is a partnership, example, existing and COMAXTEM will be in a position to present it when they make their presentation in terms of the work that already has been conducted with Hydro-Québec and in various projects that were initiated here in the region.

610

And as for added value to the tourist product, we are talking about Angliers, they have always stood out through well organizing their tourist product. Major investments were made to have their interpretation trail and public park in front of the dam that is improved year after year.

615

As for royalties paid off to the municipality, I think others spoke about it today. And the rest is written. I hope you read the document with interest and with the recommendations.

(READING OF THE BRIEF).

Thank you.

620 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Well, I will be asking you the question that I asked a few other people. Following on experience of other projects that are currently being undertaken and economically for businesses, for the people for the region here, up to now, through the experience you have with Rapides-des-Quinze and others, do you already feel a result or see a result?

625

**Mr. CLAUDE GAGNON:**

630 Well, if you allow me, following a hearing that was heard in another file, where a question was asked if in Timiskaming, we do have an organization that could take charge of development or at least make sure that within the region, there will be the most economic spin-offs possible.

635 Well, we created with the Development Corporation and the MRC an organization called COMAXTEM and I wouldn't want to explain too much what this organization does because later, they will be appearing before you to explain it. So I don't want it to be redundant.

640 So simply I just want to add that this organization, since its creation, has conducted colossal work and with this organization, it was possible to establish partnerships with promoters, such as Hydro-Québec and companies, forestry companies, to establish partnerships to be able to assist those that obtain contracts and make sure we have a maximum of economic spin-offs here in the region.

645 And after the creation of this organization, there is COMAXAT, a company that will be establishing itself here. Following the Eastmain Project, they thought the idea was very good and they expanded to here and are taking advantage of the experiences we have had and that is the result.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

650 So for the Development Corporation, you have an interest that in this file under study, there is, you repeat the creation of this type of organization?

**Mr. CLAUDE GAGNON:**

655 I think it is important because with projects happening here in the region, if nobody gets up here and stands up for our share. Well, most of the time, people coming from abroad arrive with their entire teams, even with their chemical toilets because they think we don't have any toilets here!

660 So I think there is good communication and I am convinced that this will allow for our local businesses to benefit from these projects and after the projects are completed, we know that there is services that must be maintained and that is where creation of service, businesses can be created and provide results, benefits for the population.

665 **THE PRESIDENT:**

According to you the project won't have any impacts on the activities of the Algonquin community. How do you arrive to this conclusion? Is it at an environmental level?

670 **Mr. GUY TRÉPANIÉ:**

675 Well, on the environmental level, the project is very located and I think we specify, well, in our paper, there is a very heavy past. We remember the damming of the Higher Ottawa River and there were good things and bad things. I think we have learned. And in terms of the political issues, well, that is something else.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

680 When you mention in your paper that currently the Timiskaming area is not self-sufficient in terms of energy production...

**Mr. CLAUDE GAGNON:**

685 Abitibi-Timiskaming.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

690 Abitibi-Timiskaming. Are there problems that occur at peak moments during the winter or are there other crises?

**Mr. GUY TRÉPANIÉ:**

695 Well, since the network is linked to the lines coming from the North, the problem is not as bad as before the Cadillac Plant was built. Well now, the demand has increased, so now locally, we can't satisfy the demand.

700 From what I understand with Hydro-Québec, the delivery of electricity to Timiskaming to supply Tembec is fragile. The capacity of lines to support this demand has to be secured by suppliers from Ontario. That is sometimes required to satisfy the demands coming from Timiskaming and the mill.

**M. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, commissioner:**

705 Page 6, you say that the Corporation didn't strike a formal agreement with the natives, but the staff of the Corporation works on a daily basis and supports the various social economic projects of the four Algonquin communities. Can you elaborate a little bit?

**Mr. GUY TRÉPANIÉ:**

710 In the end when we say there is no formal agreement, well, there is no agreement struck with the communities of a type of representation at the Development Corporation of Timiskaming or a formal relationship between the political officials and the officials representing the development of the region.

715 We are trying to bridge these things but there are so many political issues. I think it is difficult to have a formal formula in which everybody would feel comfortable.

720 This being said, this doesn't prevent working with private promoters and leaders of communities, even if limits are imposed. For example, in projects that could have political impacts, I think we're not in a position to systematically work in projects which would have political impacts that would be difficult to manage on a community standpoint and by ourselves.

725 But on smaller projects like businesses, infrastructures, creating community projects, Internet access, centres, business plans, well, there is daily work conducted on these levels and you will understand that when projects arise, such as we are discussing today, well, there are much more complex elements that we weren't able to solve yet.

**M. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, commissioner:**

730 That probably explains why there is no native representatives within COMAXTEM?

**Mr. CLAUDE GAGNON:**

735 Yes, there are none. Exactly none in COMAXTEM and nor at the Development Corporation, even though their seats were reserved for these communities.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

740 Meaning there are still seats that are reserved?

**Mr. CLAUDE GAGNON:**

Yes, they are still there and we are still open and greeting the people. If they want to come discuss with us, we're open to that.

745

**Mr. GUY TRÉPANIÉ:**

And we understand that for First Nations to fill these seats, it is touchy to try to situate, determine the social or economic or political role of the seat. So that is why, as we were mentioning earlier, nothing formal has been arranged. But the work is done on the field.

750

**Mr. CLAUDE GAGNON:**

And we must also understand that the seat is an economic seat and not a political seat. And that is why in the Development Corporation, well, discussions are concerning anything that is economic.

755

**THE PRESIDENT:**

Very well. Thank you for your participation.

760

So I'll call upon the next speaker for Timiskaming First Nation, Mr. Eric Thivierge.

**Mr. RANDY POLSON:**

So I'll start and after that, I'll let Mr. Thivierge speak. My question is, is it possible to refer to other Mémoires, other papers that were submitted?

765

**THE PRESIDENT:**

As I mentioned at the beginning of the hearing, you are here to provide your opinion but we don't accept opinions of other people's opinions. Everyone here is free to make a presentation and make corrections on facts. It is your opinion we want to hear and not comments.

770

We are not at a discussion table, an exchange on other people's opinions. It is the Commission that is hearing your opinions solely.

775

So I will not accept comments on other people's opinions and I can only accept correction of facts, technical aspects, if there are mistakes of time, length, distance or other technical matters, or dates, but not on opinions.

780

**Mr. RANDY POLSON:**

785 Okay. Because my question was concerning the document that was presented by Mr. Saladius concerning jobs that will be created on the site when it comes into operation. So I would like to know if it is possible to have job description and duties that these four people will have to assume when the plant will be operational, okay, there will be jobs created for the construction.

790 But we mentioned four permanent jobs, sometimes six, sometimes eight. Is it possible to have the job descriptions?

**THE PRESIDENT:**

795 Yes. That was already asked at the first part of the hearings. So that will be provided.

**Mr. RANDY POLSON:**

800 Another thing. Can I submit another picture of the fish that go through the turbines? Is there a way of knowing how many fish are killed by the turbines, Hydro-Québec turbines?

**THE PRESIDENT:**

805 There were some documents submitted concerning this on the mortality rate of fish going through the turbines and assessments were made at different locations that give an average and we hear about 5% to 10% for this type of turbine.

**Mr. RANDY POLSON:**

810 Do they like name the type of species? Is it sturgeon, pike?

**THE PRESIDENT:**

815 No, no. It is not on the species. It is because it depends on the location. However in the impact study, there are other documents submitted which specify depending on the size of the fish. It is the mortality rate depending on the size or the size of the screens in the protecting turbines. So you will see in the impact study on page 81, 82, there is the whole question of mortality.

820 But that doesn't prevent the Commission from asking other questions and there will be additional questions asked eventually in the up-coming days on these aspects. And there were questions in the first part of the hearings for which we are waiting answers for.

**Mr. RANDY POLSON:**

825 Because when they mentioned at the beginning of the hearings, I don't know if it is Fisheries and Oceans Canada or Fauna that mentioned that there is sturgeon stranded between

two dams. Is there a way to force Hydro-Québec to build a passageway for the fish that are caught up there?

830 We said in a previous presentation that there exists a number of large sturgeons. So they are caught there. So, how come Hydro-Québec does not build a kind of passageway for the sturgeons?

**THE PRESIDENT:**

835 Following a question we addressed to Fisheries and Oceans on the sturgeon species, Fisheries and Oceans gave an answer to a question that was asked this week concerning that species. As for the possibility or the need for a passageway, this is one of the aspects that the Commission is interested in.

840 Like in this kind of dossier, the mortality rate, how many go through the turbines, what exists right now, does it deserve to be protected more than has been proposed or is what is being proposed is adequate with the capacity of the species to survive. So these are aspects that are being analyzed by the Commission.

845 They are also evaluated by the different departments in the process, either at the federal level by Fisheries and Oceans, and also with the Québec Department of the Environment and the FAPAQ. These are aspects that are being evaluated by the Commission.

850 **Mr. RANDY POLSON:**

Thank you.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

855 We have not forgotten them.

**Mr. RANDY POLSON:**

860 Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll give the floor to Mr. Thivierge.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

865 I gave you a little portion of the first part of the hearing!

**Mr. ERIC THIVIERGE:**

870 Good evening, Madam Chair and Mr. Bouchard. I just want to make a first comment about the job. Someone earlier said that the possibility of automation will make the present people working on the dam now will get rid of their jobs. So there is no guarantee that those jobs will be

kept. So much for job creation. And like the gentleman said, it will be all automation. It will probably be out of Toronto or New York for all we know.

875 And another comment too I have is everybody here is bringing up environmental effects and bringing up millions of dollars in benefits. What about we native, we think in terms of seven generations. What about seven generations from now, who is going to want this project and who is going to need it? Are they going to benefit from millions of dollars? What about these agencies, all the development agencies, are they going to be around seven generations from now? I doubt it.

880

**THE PRESIDENT:**

As you know, I cannot answer you because I will answer in my report. But I have a question for you, Mr. Thivierge, concerning the employment, the jobs.

885

You raise the fact that at the existing dam, the jobs might be lost. With regard to the new jobs created by the new power plant, the Commission has addressed a question to Public Works Canada with regard to their intentions concerning the existing jobs on the existing dam.

890

And you will find the answer by Public Works Canada in the documents that have been submitted, which confirm that, indeed, in the context where there will be a new automated power plant, they would certainly review the whole issue concerning the existing jobs right now. So in that perspective, I am asking you the following question.

895

Since you seem to be concerned by this aspect and in this second hearing, it is time to express opinions, so I would like to know what is your opinion. What would you suggest?

It is time at this hearing to suggest solutions or alternatives or to propose new ways of doing things that we don't find in the impact study but that have to do with your knowledge of the environment and that would allow the Commission to evaluate suggestions made by citizens. So, do you have any propositions?

900

**Mr. ERIC THIVIERGE:**

905

Yes. My suggestion would be if this project was not put forth, then the jobs will remain. However, if the job is, but who, maybe in twenty years, thirty years, these jobs will be gone. There is no guarantee. Just because some kind of a, what was it you said, the government agency? Public Works? Those jobs, they'll save but for how long, for how long?

910

And what about, like I said, seven generations? What if the developer, a man who is there only to make money, then what? It will be sitting there rotting away and for what? For a short-term gain. That is all it is, a short-term gain. Are we going to destroy the environment for short-term gain?

915

**THE PRESIDENT:**



That will be part of the reflection of the Commission, Mr. Thivierge. That will be part of our thinking. Any other aspects that you would like to share with the Commission?

920 **Mr. ERIC THIVIERGE:**

Well, there is one point I wanted to raise. If the dam is built on the Western side, that's where most of the current is going to be and the dam present right now, the current is going to fall down and then the silt will settle where the present spawning ground is. The fish are not going to go settle, spawn in a dirty spawning ground.

925

If the current is lessened, lowered, they may well build a new spawning ground but the old one, it is going to get covered with silt and in time probably enough to come out of the water.

930 **THE PRESIDENT:**

In the propositions that were made by both the promoter following the recommendations of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and different departments, they have proposed a minimum flow of ten cubic metres that would allow to ensure the survival of the existing spawning grounds. This is one of the aspects that the Commission will try to assess, to see if it is sufficient or not to allow the survival.

935

Because the proposition to create a new spawning ground will reinforce, according to what is being proposed and required by the department, will reinforce the possibility for the species to have larger spawning areas. It doesn't mean that the existing spawning areas should disappear.

940

**Mr. ERIC THIVIERGE:**

Mr. Polson earlier brought up the point that the water level changes now and then. That too will affect the deposit of silt and pretty soon, you'll have silt coming out of the water and create trees that will grow on it and everything. So kiss your spawning ground goodbye, even if you build a new one. What good is that going to do?

945

**THE PRESIDENT:**

As I said, I am welcoming your concerns and opinions and suggestions and questions, Mr. Thivierge.

950

**Mr. ERIC THIVIERGE:**

955

Thank you very much.

**Mr. RANDY POLSON:**

960 This concludes for the Timiskaming First Nation. I think we had another spot on the agenda but this will conclude our presentations as far as the Timiskaming First Nation is concerned.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

965 It's completely finished?

**Mr. RANDY POLSON:**

970 Yes, thank you.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

975 Thank you for your participation.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

980 Now I would like to invite the next speaker or presenter. I think I will take a short break of maybe ten minutes to allow us to stretch out a little bit and there will be two more presenters to come. Thank you.

(SHORT RECESS)

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(RESUMING THE HEARING)

985

**THE PRESIDENT:**

I would like to invite you back to your seats. We will resume the hearing. Now I will ask the next presenters to come at the front table. For COMAXTEM, Mr. Jocelyn Gingras, Luc Bergeron and Raymond Gagnon, please.

990

Welcome, Sirs. You must be happy to be here. We heard a lot about you today! So welcome to the hearing of the Commission. We are listening to you.

995

**Mr. LUC BERGERON:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Allow us to greet you, Madam Chair, Mr. Commissioner. It is our pleasure to be with you tonight. Indeed, I arrived only this evening. This afternoon, I was not available. And it is true that people have heard about COMAXTEM.

1000

So we will give you a brief presentation on COMAXTEM and you will be able to ask us question after if you want to.

1005

The two people before us, Société de développement du Témiscamingue, they told you where we come from. We were borne from two fathers: the Timiskaming MRC and the SDT, who set up a committee to maximize the economic spin-off. That is our role and it is from this perspective that we will make our presentation and then answer your questions.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1010

I will interrupt you first. For the recordings, please mention your name.

**Mr. LUC BERGERON:**

1015

I am Luc Bergeron, President of COMAXTEM.

**Mr. RAYMOND GAGNON:**

Raymond Gagnon, Consultant, COMAXTEM.

1020

**Mr. JOCELYN GINGRAS:**

Jocelyn Gingras, Consultant and construction site agent for COMAXTEM.

**Mr. LUC BERGERON:**

1025

So we will share the reading so that it will be more pleasant for you to hear different voices.

(READING OF THE BRIEF)

1030

We appended different documents. You have those appendices. If you don't, we will make sure that you have all the required appendices that show with regard to the issue you discussed with the President of the SDT, the evidence of economic benefits with the projects that are under way with Hydro-Québec at Rapides-des-Quinze.

1035

(READING OF THE BRIEF)

1040

And by the way, an information that does not appear in the document, not here but except in a document that I will refer to later on, with regard to Aboriginal people, the efforts made by COMAXTEM to insure that Aboriginal people will have their competency card, and it requires French and English courses, and it was done for Timiskaming First Nation, Notre-Dame-du-Nord, and they will do that training also in Winneway, Long Point.

(READING OF THE BRIEF, PAGE 4 last paragraph)

1045

And, of course, you perhaps already have this number 159; that is the Environmental Impact Assessment Report that was done in Saint-Eugène-de-Gigues with your colleague Madam Claudette Journault and I would like to refer you to pages 17 to 21 of this report.

1050

And I found it would be interesting to mention that to you because with Madam Journault, we had spent more time and used more documents to promote the role of COMAXTEM and the work that we were ready to do previously to the project, both before and after the project with Hydro-Québec.

1055

So this document can contribute to shed some light, more light to what we are presenting tonight. All the commissions are independent but of course, we cede upon the past experience of our institution and of our colleagues. So, if you want, you can refer to this. So our recommendations.

1060

(READING OF THE BRIEF, Page 5).

And I refer you to Appendices 7b) and 7c), which are the reports of the financial benefits of the past two years with Rapides-des-Quinze, which provide answers to your previous questions. Thank you, Madam Chair, thank you, Mr. Bouchard.

1065

**THE PRESIDENT:**

You also said that you added two more appendices?

1070 **Mr. LUC BERGERON:**

In fact, there was one newsletter missing in the appendix. It was not possible to fax it, so I have a copy of this newsletter. We mentioned it but it was not appended to our paper. But we will give you a copy later.

1075

**THE PRESIDENT:**

Anyway, we will read all the documents that have been filed today and later on.

1080

I would like to know who is part of COMAXTEM? What kind of people, what kind of businesses? What is the membership of COMAXTEM?

**Mr. LUC BERGERON:**

1085

The Board members, there are seventeen of them. As we said earlier, one seat has been reserved for the Aboriginal Committee. We understand that it is not easy for them to fill that seat.

1090

And the members come from all over Timiskaming, from all sectors in terms of, you know, business people, people from the community, social sectors, presidents of different organizations.

Mr. Gagnon, as said earlier, is an official member of COMAXTEM. So many of them, we have sixteen people coming from all areas of Timiskaming.

1095

**THE PRESIDENT:**

Is it possible to submit to the Commission a list of your membership, Board membership?

1100

**Mr. LUC BERGERON:**

Yes, certainly.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1105           And this was created basically, from what I could understand from the documents that have been filed, it is a pilot experience that was undertaken at the time of the barrage des Quinze Project?

**Mr. LUC BERGERON:**

1110           With your permission, there was a hearing in Béarn in the Céd'Or dossier. At the time, the Chair and the commissioners suggested to the Timiskaming people, the MRC and SDT, to implement a committee with the main responsibility to welcome the businesses in our region.

1115           Of course, the contracts are not all obtained by people from here but to welcome those from the outside and to be ready to work with them, to offer them the services we can offer in Timiskaming.

1120           A tangible example given by the President of SDT earlier concerning the chemical toilets, we could mention many more examples, and offer these businesses those services. Instead of having those people asking: "Where can I access this service?", we should inform them. So, we have a directory of businesses that is well designed on computer. We also have the list of all other services in terms of purchases and the businesses can readily be accessed and they can use our own services. And they can choose among three baskets, like purchases, jobs and sub-  
1125           contracts.

              So based on that recommendation that had been made by the BAPE commissioners, at that time the SDT and MRC, have implemented this maximization committee.

1130           **THE PRESIDENT:**

              Are you telling us that we made a good suggestion at that time?

**Mr. LUC BERGERON:**

1135           Yes, very good. And it was very timely.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1140           I would like to ask you, how does it work on a daily basis? You have a mandate given by the MRC and the Timiskaming Development Corporation. So you have a Board, you meet, you do a certain kind of job, work. But how does it work with the promoter?

1145           Does the promoter submit to you, okay: "I am now at this stage in the construction. I need this type of material, these types of employees or workers and I need to hire some sub-

contractors"? So, how does it work with the promoter in terms of assessing the contractor's needs or the promoter's needs, in order for you to maximize the benefits?

1150 The best example is the one that we experienced with Hydro-Québec. First, there was the signing of an agreement, of which you have a copy. In this agreement, it was agreed that COMAXTEM would be the single door of services. I know there was something similar in Sainte-Marguerite.

1155 But it was a first experience here in Abitibi-Timiskaming to have incentive provisions in the bids or call for tenders that allowed the contractors. It was beneficial for Hydro-Québec, also for the promoters if they demonstrated that they would proceed to purchases in the region, as you can see at the end of the document, then automatically Hydro-Québec would remit a certain percentage of these amounts.

1160 So it was beneficial for the contractor, for the promoter. And us too, it allows us to have an immediate contact. So the different potential contractors, because there are different visits of work sites, when work must be done, we always had the authorization from Hydro-Québec to make a presentation by COMAXTEM and the services that we were able to offer.

1165 And then the businesses that are there, they say: "If I do have the contract, well immediately, I have an open door to access the services" that I mentioned earlier. So in a nutshell, that is how we operate.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1170 So I guess that this way of working, doing this, you're also submitted to the rules of bidding procedures and contract rules and so on.

1175 So, what you have been discussing so far with La Régionale for the Angliers Project, is the agreement signed yet or is it being developed? Will it be similar or different than what you have done with Hydro-Québec in Angliers?

**Mr. LUC BERGERON:**

1180 We had a meeting, if memory serves me well, it was in April 2002 with Mr. Coolican and Mr. Jean Roch. We explained to them who we were, what we could do and immediately, spontaneously, these people... we also had presented the agreement that we had concluded with Hydro-Québec and Mr. Coolican said: "We want to do something similar". But we have not signed anything yet. It is a will to do it.

1185

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1190 In this situation with among other things, not to talk about Béarn because that was after, but after Rapides-des-Quinze and Hydro-Québec, at that time, did you sign before the beginning of the construction? Did you sign the agreement before the government order or after?

**Mr. LUC BERGERON:**

1195 Before the work started on February the 8th, the agreement was agreed upon. After this agreement with Hydro-Québec, we signed another agreement that you don't have, because for us, it was not relevant, although it could have been useful. We have an agreement with five CLDs in the region, local development committees.

1200 Because in region 08, there are five CLDs. So we had an agreement with these five CLDs to make sure that their businesses are well-informed, whenever contracts would be subject to bids or to call for tenders.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1205 Yes, go ahead.

**Mr. RAYMOND GAGNON:**

1210 I just want to add this. As part of situations like these, we know that our businesses cannot offer the whole variety of services that could be required by a contract. That is why regional research was a primary concern. And the agreement mentioned by Mr. Bergeron was very helpful in that sense, to be able to consolidate.

1215 There were partnerships that were possible. Businesses from the outside were welcome, were well received. So these were very positive elements. Something else I wanted to add.

1220 In the different dossiers on which we have worked, there was something regarding the workers for obtaining the worker's card. What happened is the people here had to go and obtain their card in Val-d'Or, whether from Timiskaming South or Ville-Marie. The central office is in Val-d'Or and you know, we made different representations. We prepared a whole file on this.

1225 And for about a year now, the department comes here in Ville-Marie for one day of hearing per month to deliver information to the workers and also those who wish to obtain their card, they can pass the test right here instead of travelling three hours to Val-d'Or. So, that's one of the main points that was obtained.



**M. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, commissioner:**

I'd like some clarifications. Page 2 of your Mémoire, you said that:

1230

**"A project such as the Régionale will allow the community to enjoy wealth of the territory, sources of a territory in as well as we can keep the labour in our region and put an end to the financing of structuring actions".**

1235

What are the structuring actions you are talking about?

**Mr. JOCELYN GINGRAS:**

1240

We talk about sustainable and multiple development. We think that these projects respect the person, respect the environment, have an economic impact and it should generate new contracts, new expertise.

1245

When people need new competence cards, expertise cards, our engineers, these people go study on the outside and they don't come back. But for us, it is a way to stop the youth from going away from our region and keep them around.

We have seen that last year with the Rapides-des-Quinze power house, people, our youth, were given the opportunity to come back to the region.

1250

**Mr. RAYMOND GAGNON:**

1255

So, this is a concrete example with Tembec and Timiskaming, for example. This is a strong venture there, something solid. When a youth from the North or from Timiskaming goes studying, becomes an engineer and stays at Tembec and he has had the opportunity to have summer jobs with Tembec, they stay in the region. So we remain, we keep our potential, our youth potential. We keep our brains around as well.

1260

If we had more of that, Mr. Bouchard, it would help us because when we talk about brains, you know, the more brains we can... You know, our brains are running away from the region and we have to do something about it. It is not a bad thing that they go help somewhere else, but we need this help, we need these brains at home. They are well-trained, we are the ones who have trained them to begin with.

1265

**THE PRESIDENT:**

In the appendix, we can see the data until now of the spin-offs. But you are talking about less than 60%, which was the goal, even for Rapides-des-Quinze. I would like to now, I will add to my question.

1270 In the context where there are many projects that are emerging on the table, is the fact  
that the more projects, the more saturation, alienation, saturation with availability of people and  
businesses or possibilities, or if we take into consideration these two contexts, the results of  
Rapides-des-Quinze and the cumulating effect of all these projects, do you think that the 60%  
target is possible of local spin-offs?

1275

**Mr. JOCELYN GINGRAS:**

I believe that it is doable. I believe that last year, when we verified the level of employment  
in November, out of 99 workers on this work site at peak time, there were 60 people from  
1280 Timiskaming. We know these people make about \$1,000 a week for fifty hours. This data is not in  
the appendix. We only have \$2 millions of local spin-offs from April to November on the  
Timiskaming territory. So we forget about \$240,000 a month over eight months.

For us, it should have been taken into consideration to say: "Yes, there are people from  
1285 the region who can work in Timiskaming" and I think that all the people with a competence card  
had a chance to work there.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1290 I would like to hear what you have to say on the subject that was discussed today on the  
whole of the spin-offs and the place occupied by the Aboriginal community. I'm talking about  
aboriginal businesses, aboriginal individuals. Is it identifiable? Are the goals not being met on this  
aspect of your mandate?

1295 **Mr. JOCELYN GINGRAS:**

There were some steps, some steps were taken with Mr. Marc-André Alain. There were  
meetings with the Aboriginal community, the First Nations, and we know that Mr. Léon Carrière  
from Timiskaming attended several meetings on the mitigation measures. There was the problem  
1300 of competence cards, construction cards that makes us find out that there are less Aboriginal  
people than in the white community.

But as far as it is possible for us, we ask services from the Aboriginal community. There  
was archaeological research that were assisted by Aboriginals, entrepreneurs from the Band  
1305 Council, and the territory. When it is regulated by Québec, it is harder.

**Mr. LUC BERGERON:**

1310 The difficulty is not with the nation. It is with the functioning. It is to make sure that our people, and I include everyone from here, that our people could get the necessary cards. So a native or non-native who needs employment, if he does not have a card, he cannot get in. We have a difficulty here.

1315 So what Raymond was mentioning, we should have someone offering the test in Ville-Marie. But it is not enough to give access to our people who wants to be trained. Like the main problem is, the main issue is over training and the little reservoir, it is larger in Timiskaming. People who are outside Timiskaming, far and from Timiskaming, have more seniority and they come and get the jobs.

1320 So at some point at 66 over 99, we have more people who want to work but they were not trained and they couldn't obtain their cards.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1325 Do you think that an addition of projects will create more openings regarding experience and cards?

**Mr. LUC BERGERON:**

1330 In Madam Journault's report, it is recommended that the Labour Department, Minister of Labour send someone in Timiskaming to help solve this problem. I don't know what you are going to propose but it will be nice to be supported.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1335 So far, you didn't get any results?

**Mr. LUC BERGERON:**

1340 No.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1345 So since the Rapides-des-Quinze report, there hasn't been any improvement?

**Mr. LUC BERGERON:**

No.

1350 **THE PRESIDENT:**

You still are dealing with this problematic of maximizing spin-offs with training and employment?

1355 **Mr. JOCELYN GINGRAS:**

We think that we could bring back our people who work in construction, who are working around Toronto right now and don't have a card. When the reservoirs are empty, then they can come and get some information on how to get their cards and that is when they come back. We would like them to come back in the region, even if it is to work on other projects.

**Mr. RAYMOND GAGNON:**

And in the context of additional demands, job offers, if we consider Eastmain in the Great North, region 10 is lacking workers to open reservoirs. They don't have a possibility to do it until they have sufficient proofs.

So the CCQ feels strongly on that. There are steps that are being taken. A committee has been formed to come up with strategies to make openings at this level because if it is decided, it is decided and we are always bringing up the same points. Do you have jobs to offer?

Until you have earned it, you don't have it. You have to start and when you begin, it is too late. So there is lots of negotiations to occur.

1375 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Have you started negotiations with the CCQ on this aspect?

**Mr. RAYMOND GAGNON:**

At the regional level, there is COMAXAT that gathers five regional MRCs, as well as over representatives, stakeholders. COMAXTEM sits on the COMAXAT. So we are linked but there is a committee that is set up currently to try to come up with strategies with the CCQ to open reservoirs.

1385 **THE PRESIDENT:**

So, what was offered by the promoter, what was done in Rapides-des-Quinze, what has to be improved? Although that is one of the points that has to be improved, it is the working cards, competence cards and the possibility for people of the region to have better access to these jobs.

**Mr. RAYMOND GAGNON:**

1395 As long as there is incertitude, it is hard to lobby various organizations. So when we come up with work contracts, it is easier to move forward.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1400 I don't know how it works, to get back to what you said, when the pool of employees who have the competence and the cards require cards for a project, when you have exhausted this pool.

1405 For example in Québec, people from Ontario or elsewhere will have priority over people who still did not gather a number of hours of a necessary training?

**Mr. JOCELYN GINGRAS:**

1410 People from Timiskaming who are on the outside and left the region could come back here.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1415 I thought you were saying everywhere else, they had the possibility, once the reservoir is filled, if all new workers require minimum required of hours.

**M. JOCELYN GINGRAS:**

1420 No. The goal is to get people back.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

Very well. I thank you very much for your contribution and participation.

**Mr. LUC BERGERON:**

1425 Thank you.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1430 I will call Mr. Michel Belhumeur. Good evening, Mr. Belhumeur.

**Mr. MICHEL BELHUMEUR:**

1435 Good evening. I just want to say that I live right in the basin. There's a cottage there. There are three houses that are going to be flooded and I'm one of these houses.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

What house are you talking about?

**Mr. MICHEL BELHUMEUR:**

1440

I'm right down the Lac Talé between "dam à Joannie" and dam ici à Lac Talé .

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1445

At Lac Talé?

**Mr. MICHEL BELHUMEUR:**

1450

I built there, it was sixty feet there but.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

How long ago?

1455

**Mr. MICHEL BELHUMEUR:**

It was built in 1944 by my father. So we have been there for a long time and since 1944, well, the water has kept rising, fifteen feet maybe. It goes on.

1460

I have red pine. It is not just the pines that I have there. It is all the fish come to spawn in the Lac Talé. We have white fish, sturgeon, bass, pike, everything you can dream of. They all come and spawn in this reservoir. So if they do that, it is going to be like the dam there, there is going to be a river right in front of a house.

1465

I applied to buy the land from the Minister and they said that they were going to sell it to me with the option that if it is flooded, I am not going to be protected.

1470

So my question is what are they going to do with me? What are they going to do with my neighbours? There are two other people. Someone who just spent \$50,000, she is going to be flooded too.

1475

Right, right down from the big curve, the big first big curve outside the village between here and Saint-Eugène before Rapides-des-Quinze. Between Saint-Eugène and Rapides-des-Quinze, it is Lac Talé. They built the dikes there thirty, forty feet broad. If it breaks, I am going to be flooded and the water won't go to Saint-Eugène.

It's on the other side. Go into Saint-Eugène. See the island that you see on these two curves there? Lac Talé is right there. Look at the dam.

1480

**THE PRESIDENT:**

There's Lac Pigeon.

**Mr. MICHEL BELHUMEUR:**

1485

No, it's on the other side of the dam.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1490

I'm going to take a few minutes to look it up so we know what you are talking about.

**Mr. MICHEL BELHUMEUR:**

1495

It's just a reservoir for them. I'm going to be flooded if the water level increases.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

Did it change a lot since the construction in Rapides-des-Quinze?

1500

**Mr. MICHEL BELHUMEUR:**

We would be at maybe a hundred feet from the lake in 1944 when my dad built it. Now there is a cement wall to hold the water, otherwise the water will be up to our ceiling. So I'm about ten feet from the water now. I can't back up any more.

1505

So my concern is what are they going to do with me? I'm going to be flooded.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

And the changes that occurred since 1944, were there recent changes?

1510

**Mr. MICHEL BELHUMEUR:**

1515 The past four or five years, the water level decreased. So you can see the dead fish once in a while. It is full of fish there. It is really nice, there is lots of nice fish and they are going to turn it into a river. I won't have a home any more. Why? Because seventeen people are going to make a couple of thousand dollars?

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1520 So you're talking about Hydro-Québec?

**Mr. MICHEL BELHUMEUR:**

1525 Regional project.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

With the Régionale, Angliers or Hydro-Québec and Rapides-des-Quinze?

1530 **Mr. MICHEL BELHUMEUR:**

It goes together, doesn't it? For me, Hydro is Hydro, it is all the same thing. I am just a resident here. It is going to be flooded.

1535 **THE PRESIDENT:**

So the Angliers Project will change water levels. What you are saying that even if this project does not change the Rapides-des-Quinze Project, other previous projects are problematic.

1540 **Mr. MICHEL BELHUMEUR:**

1545 I don't have any guarantee on my land. It cost me \$15,000 to buy it, I applied and I have no guarantee. If I am flooded, well, it is just a write-off. It is just too bad. Are they going to give me money? If they make a couple of millions, am I going to get money? I am just a resident. That's all. It is my life, it is my home. I didn't ask for anything.

They didn't consult me. They didn't say anything, you know. They just built a big road around the lake. There was not even a road before. Now there are people walking around. We lost our privacy. It used to be very private.

1550



**THE PRESIDENT:**

You're talking about the municipal road?

1555 **Mr. MICHEL BELHUMEUR:**

The 101.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1560

Road 101.

**Mr. MICHEL BELHUMEUR:**

1565 I am about four hundred metres from the road. There is no traffic there. It is heaven on earth. Come see it yourself. They are just about to flood it.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1570 I am trying to assess the location where you reside. Maybe I can give it to the coordinator so we can evaluate what location we are talking about to really be able to see if the studied project will have an impact on the level of water where you are located and in the end, what you are telling me is the current levels are causing problems.

1575 **Mr. MICHEL BELHUMEUR:**

1580 It was two feet higher before and that is why they built that cement wall and it goes down in spring. But this wall was built by my father in 1955, right after they constructed this school. The man that built this school is the one that built the cement wall at my place. So that has been some time. Monsieur Jean was his name.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1585 And currently, the problems you are experiencing, have you made any representations before Hydro-Québec or La Régionale?

**Mr. MICHEL BELHUMEUR:**

1590 Well, Régionale are assuming this project. How come I wasn't consulted? And I can be flooded at any time. Nobody tells me anything. The department says: "If you buy, we are not responsible if there's a flood." So this is kind of scary.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1595 Well listen, Mr. Belhumeur, what I will do is, it is difficult for us to specify in the context is  
it directly linked to the project, are there impacts or not? So maybe you can give your information  
to the coordinator, so we will be able to locate where you are situated and following that, we will  
be able to see in which way the Commission can cater to your concerns. Thank you, Mr.  
Belhumeur.

1600 I will call upon the last speaker registered, Mr. Jean-Louis Yelle, please.

Good day, Mr. Yelle. So we received a copy of your paper. We will listen to you.

1605 **Mr. JEAN-LOUIS YELLE:**

Well first of all, I would like to specify. Without questioning the process and the reason for  
being of this hydroelectric project in Angliers, my concern is located all in an environmental level.

1610 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Could you speak closer to the microphone, please? Thank you.

**Mr. JEAN-LOUIS YELLE:**

1615 It deals with the problem of the hydroelectric management of Rivière des Quinze. Today in  
a perspective of sustainable development, we recognize the need of protection and conversation  
of environment and conservation of the socio-economic elements of an environment.

1620 My intervention is in line with this approach. It takes all the sense in the need to intervene  
to protect an altered place. Consequently, reflection is required on the Outaouais waterway and  
the effects on Rivière des Quinze. This reflection articulates around one... things we noticed.

1625 I wish to underline elements absent from the study. In fact, this zone studied and  
presented is limited to the immediate dam area of Angliers. I would like to draw your attention to  
the fluctuation of water levels that has impacts on floods and drying of the shoreline of Reservoir  
des Quinze.

1630 This entails deterioration of ecosystems and can destroy environment for wildlife and fauna  
and flooding of the lands contributes an erosion of the shorelines, which decreases agriculture,  
tourism potential and wildlife.

1635 We should have environment study downstream from Angliers, which would be used to  
determine the negative effects of the water, varying water levels on the living organisms and this  
before authorizing the construction and the operations of a hydroelectric project, among others the  
one of La Régionale.

1640 Another particular concern, the variation of water levels, freeze, mercury contained in the rocks and vegetation, so strong concentrations can spill into the water, infiltrate the water and affect many wildlife species. Fish are impacted by this in Reservoir des Quinze.

1645 Plus proof of human contamination, humans contaminated by eating these fish have been recorded. So the high risk groups are Aboriginals and sports fishermen. And all animal species are affected by the variation in levels of water.

I could specify, among others, that Reservoir des Quinze being a clay plain, the phenomenon of erosion is even more accelerated.

1650 Our intervention is founded on the need to inform the population on the impacts of the Angliers Project, among others upstream of Rivière des Quinze and downstream and important to conduct an environment study.

1655 This could determine the problems that may arise through this project. First of all, we have to complete the biophysics inventory and the inventory of values and concerns of the environment, and analyze the data and draw a map of sensitive zones. So this will provide us information to inform users on delicate areas.

1660 So this will be more than just an environmental study. And this evaluation can help to establish acceptability limits but also find solutions to implement correction measures in order to reach sustainable development and an environmental assessment.

1665 For example, what was done elsewhere will show elimination of ligneous floating matter, stabilizing the shores, restoring the affected areas, easing access to the water. There are commemorative sites, burial sites and the broadcasting of information on the question of mercury poisoning and a study of the shorelines of Rivière des Quinze is of a concern to many communities.

1670 The BAPE has formation to inform and consult the people on questions related to the quality of environment submitted by the Minister of Environment to shed light on decision-making issues. So therefore BAPE is a sustainable development tool for Québec.

1675 In this context, the issue confronted by the Commissioners to allocate this project, they must balance their mandate with their mission. So management of resources to maintain biodiversity, ecological, economical, social components and not create prejudice to any other ecosystems.

1680 Even if the promoter claims that the plant will be operated as if it was, it won't do much, it won't have much impact. It is demonstrated that the whole watershed of Rivière des Quinze will be impacted by this project.

And a class action was initiated by people living on the shorelines and they often voiced their concerns in terms of the management of reservoir. It is important to mention that.

1685 In this context, even if the promoter claims there'll be no impact on the hydrology and management of the reservoir water, this presents an additional difficulty for citizens that are worried about the negative impact of the current management of the water levels.

1690 Following the agreement Canada, Québec, Ontario on the management of water levels, rules are determined by the committee made up of representatives of various institutions, Hydro-Québec, Hydro-Ontario, the Ministry of Environment of Québec as well as the Ministry of Public Works Canada. And you see this large number of participants in a very complex file.

1695 My concern facing the Angliers Project is the following. I consider that the authorization of BAPE for the construction of a dam in Angliers will statute on the current management of waters of Rivière des Quinze.

Moreover, the regulating committee, made up of public organizations, the para-public organizations in which Band Councils, municipalities and people living on the shores can hope for compromises in the management of the water levels, which helps balance out the forces.

1700 I find the information insufficient in the inventory in terms of all the elements. The current study accomplished in the Hydro/Angliers Hydroelectric Project is only conducted in a very specific area.

1705 My recommendation to enlighten the decision-making process of the BAPE in the sustainable development perspective is the following.

I suggest a moratorium in order to grab the required time to conduct studies up-shore and down-shore of this area concerned and make this information accessible to the public.

1710 And the mission of the BAPE goes much over its mandate on the question relating to the construction of a dam in Angliers. It should consider principles of sustainable development and ask, require that a study on the impacts of water management up-shore and downstream from where this project will be taking place.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1715

I'd like to remind you, don't give opinions on other people's opinions. It'll be your own opinion.

**Mr. JEAN-LOUIS YELLE:**

1720

Very well. The hydroelectric project of the Régionale is to exploit a natural resource, which represents a major change in the current situation. Currently, I think that the down-spill here in Angliers was used to regulate waters and it was built in relation to flooded zones.

1725

In the Montreal area, so the arrival of a plant changes the whole aspect. Before, it was like a water highway. I think Chief Steve Mathias explained very well that the life of Algonquins was concentrated along these waterways and it is as if we put along this highway a toll, it becomes a toll highway with no compensation for the ancestral rights of First Nations and no compensation for people living on the shores close to this project.

1730

Resource is water. The product is electricity. Therefore the resource is also its reservoir because... and the environmental impact that is presented to us is limited in the close area, in the closest area of the project. So they separate the resource from the product.

1735

And the supplying contracts here for the Régionale, they only have a supplying contract and they don't, aren't bound to manage the resource. So the only management for them is just building an infrastructure. I think a business dealing in natural resources should show an appropriate management plan respecting all the elements I mentioned.

1740

The dam projected replaces the current spillway and this represents a major change. Even if Public Works Canada remains the manager of the reservoir, during the hearings, we heard that they consulted Hydro-Québec and I learned that the Régionale will have a seat on this committee.

1745

And already the information on the management, hydric management is difficult to obtain and despite the efforts, modifications should be made to correct this situation. Many people are trying to exercise pressure to change modifications, to have better access to information on Rivière des Quinze, which brings me to the question of the future management.

1750

The company La Régionale must report to their shareholders and investors and doesn't have to report to people living here. And there is no compensation clauses.

1755

In terms of, for the suppliers, access to the natural resource is a privilege. The exploitation of a public resource requires in-depth impact studies. The companies have access and use the resource without being constrained to an environmental impact study that is required for any other type of hydroelectric project.

1760 Without limiting myself, it doesn't have to show correct measures that would help improve the situation. La Régionale in fact wants the money, access to the resource with no consideration for the environment or the people living here.

1765 To conclude, the issue for the Commission is to sanction this project through a process that seems to me incomplete.

**Mr. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, commissioner:**

1770 I have a specific question concerning the mercury contamination of fish. Do you have any data to this effect?

**Mr. JEAN-LOUIS YELLE:**

Yes, I have documents.

1775 **Mr. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, commissioner:**

Currently in Lac des Quinze?

**Mr. JEAN-LOUIS YELLE:**

1780 Well, the Lac Simard basin and Lac des Quinze, yes, I have data.

**Mr. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, commissioner:**

1785 Could you transmit this information?

**Mr. JEAN-LOUIS YELLE:**

No problem.

1790 **Mr. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, commissioner:**

1795 Maybe another question, a more general question. The erosion phenomena that originates from the current dam which was constructed at the beginning of the 1920's, so this is a problem that was exposed a little in the impact study and First Nations alluded to and explained pretty well the phenomena.

1800 Don't you think such a study, if it was to be accomplished, should be under the responsibility of the current proprietor of the dam, rather than La Régionale, who is incorporating a hydroelectric plant?

**Mr. JEAN-LOUIS YELLE:**

1805 Well, the Régionale, as I mentioned, has access to the resource, the resource being water, water being in the reservoir. It's sure that there are implications on the promoter. But what I would prefer is that an independent study be conducted on the state of the shoreline of the reservoir des Québec.

**Mr. BERTRAND BOUCHARD, commissioner:**

1810 What do you mean about an independent study?

**Mr. JEAN-LOUIS YELLE:**

1815 Well, it could be tripartite if the regional government, the First Nation, also should be involved and the shoreline municipalities.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1820 You are stating in your Mémoire a class action by people living on the shorelines in Timiskaming. What step, where are they in the process?

**Mr. JEAN-LOUIS YELLE:**

1825 It was heard in court and it was, for technical reasons, it wasn't heard. They decided not to proceed.

1830 The Reservoir of Timiskaming has undergone negative impacts of erosion and the effects are even worse up near Lac Simard. It was previously, well clay shoreline, I can still provide you with an image, it is a giant with clay feet.

There are a lot of sections of the lake that erode year after year due to this variation in water levels and this management which, in my mind, is not appropriate.

1835 **THE PRESIDENT:**

Thank you for your participation.

1840 I would like to invite Mr. Gilles Bourgeois to be able to rectify some of the facts, give him a possibility to correct some facts. And Mr. Coolican. Good evening!

**Mr. COLIN COOLICAN:**

1845 Good evening! I will try to be short and only go for the important points for the project for us. First, I'd like to address the question of Chief Mathias and Interim Chief Chevrier-Polson.

We recognize there is a problem. I think it's not a problem originating from us but it is a problem that has been there for a while.

1850 Chief Mathias talked about two meetings. We even had three. There was a first one with myself and my partner David Carter in Notre-Dame-du-Nord, where we spoke with Notre-Dame-du-Nord and the community of Winneway and we tried to consult people on the economic spin-offs, possible economic spin-offs of the project.

1855 There was the Chief of Notre-Dame-du-Nord, two, three counsellors, I think, other members and Mr. Mathias from Winneway. We were talking about jobs and they mentioned the card problem and what we said, if it would be possible that jobs where cards wouldn't be required and we will try to favour, reserve jobs that didn't require jobs for them on a project.

1860 Mr. Mathias said it is not a question of not being interested but it is far from Winneway to Angliers. And he was seeking other benefits or other types of spin-offs and we mentioned that there was maybe another project closer to them on the Sturgeon Rapids. And my partner David Carter went there with one of the members of Winneway to see if something could be done there, where they do the same thing as we are doing in Angliers.

1865 At the end, the PQ government put a moratorium on these projects. But now the new government mentioned that they will be lifting the moratorium and there is a possibility. And we are always there to talk with them and see if there are possibilities of benefits.

1870 Also there is a company in Winneway that received funding from SDT, well, they asked, well he said it will be impossible. We will need, we will have to draft a proposal to conduct this work.

1875 This was to try to promote cooperation and make sure there were economic spin-offs for First Nations. We have done the projects, other projects in which First Nations are interested in and were able to have them benefit from it. Not always what they want but there are benefits.

1880 For the contract question, it is the same thing. Well, it is a question of confidentiality and we speak to them as we speak with you and that is the heart of the matter that is confidential.

1885 In Mr. Anthony Peluso's presentation, he spoke of automation, no permanent employee would be required. Well, as long as Régionale has the obligation of supplying water to Hydro-Québec. Machines, when you have a problem, they don't have solutions. Only people have solutions and the people will be there.

1890 It is not a question of fact but I think that on the dam itself, the safety is what is most important. Even if the project is going to improve some safety measures on the dam, it will always be necessary to have people there that are able to pick up floating matter in the dam and we will always need these federal employees for safety measures.

**Mr. GILLES BOURGEOIS:**



1895 As we were talking about Mr. Peluso's presentation, I could clarify for the Commission's benefit because we are talking about Miller Bay and the variation of the levels and we had the intervention of Mr. Belhumeur concerning... and you have to understand on hydraulic level, the level of waters on Miller Bay and Lac Talé are controlled by the Dam of Lac des Quinze.

1900 So at the plant of Rivière des Quinze, if there is a variation of a few feet in the level of water, and this phenomenon will impact Miller Bay and Lac Talé.

This plant of Angliers has no influence. Whether the flow goes through the current dam or will go through a plant, it has no influence and I wanted to clarify this for the benefit of the Commission.

1905 Another point. In one of the presentations of the second speaker of REVE, they mentioned in their paper on page 6 erosion problems related to the project, whereas us in the impact study, the impacts we have quantified related directly to the project and we are not talking about all the past work, of all the works done on the Outaouais River but this specific project, there is no erosion problem.

1910 And this is also an issue raised by a few other speakers that we wanted to correct for the benefit of the Commission.

**Mr. COLIN COOLICAN:**

1915 The last thing. Well, tonight is the first time you heard or saw Mr. Saladius' presentation. And generally what I'd like to say is that for the Régionale, we conducted studies. We think that our project respects and is in agreement with all obligations of the program. I think the intent of the program was to incorporate Doyon Commission ideas.

1920 But we respect them for the question of Angliers and MRC, they spoke a lot. We talked once or twice about our project and as you know, it has the support of the MRC, of the Municipality of Angliers also.

1925 And on the question of economic return on the project, I don't know where they find their figures but for us, it is a return we estimate at 12 to 13%.

**THE PRESIDENT:**

1930 So thank you for rectifying certain facts.

1935 So this will put an end to the public portion of the work of the Commission. We have, in this second part of public hearings, received fourteen papers, among them twelve have been presented and five verbal presentations.

I would like to thank all of the participants for contributing to the respectful, courteous ongoing procedures. I would like to thank the promoter and his team, as well as the resource people for their collaboration. And in particular, I would like to thank citizens, groups or businesses for their participation and testimonies.

1940 I ensure you that all these interventions will feed the reflection of the Commission.

I would like to also remind you that all today's interventions and non-presented Mémoires will be, can be accessed by the public at our Documentation Centre or on our website. Those that wish to add additional information will be able to do so in the upcoming days.

1945

Thank you to all the team of the BAPE and I would also like to remind you that the other part of our mandate, which is the Inquiry Commission and the drafting of our report on our inquiry and our public hearings, well this inquiry will continue for the upcoming weeks.

1950

There probably will be other new questions that the Commission will address to the resource people or to the promoters. They will be submitted in the Documentation Centres and on the site, questions and answers.

1955

So now, it will be in the upcoming days and in the upcoming weeks because in fact, we must have as rapidly as possible the required information to be able to feed our reflection process and have time to draft also our report.

So I now declare the public component of the public hearings dealing with the Hydroelectric Project in Angliers terminated. So thank you very much for your participation.

1960

**END OF THE HEARING**

1965

I, the undersigned, **NICOLE RAYMOND**, Official Bilingual Court Reporter, being duly authorized to practice using the stenomask method, hereby certify under my oath of office the foregoing to be a true and faithful transcript of the evidence, in accordance with the law.

1970

AND I HAVE SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**NICOLE RAYMOND, O.C.R.**