

Archie Wetrade

My comment on the public hearing regarding Fortune Minerals. I didn't have opportunity to speak because I didn't hear my name called out. The reason why I came to this meeting was I had three concerns over the Fortune Minerals. The first of all is they are talking about crossing the bridge, but on south mainland they have five rivers that flow from Whati to Behchoko. Are they going to cross all these rivers? There are many animals that are living in the area, in the river, and on the land. My other concern is that a lot of scientists they do a lot of work, but in this meeting no one mentioned about earthquakes. It happened six years ago in Gameti. What would happen if there were one at Hislop Lake- it would be a disaster for the people of Hislop Lake. Last year a lot of people saw an object never saw a house shaking, and a lot of meteorites break off and come off toward the earth. That was my concern.

It is scary if they are going to go ahead with the mine, we are surrounded with one island. We would destroy that island, the people, the animals, the fish, and we will destroy a big island that we live on. We are a cup sitting in the middle of the Tlicho region. We want to keep the cup clean for the Tlicho citizen for the young generation that is coming right behind us. We want them to have a healthy life.

Alexis Arrowmaker said, that is the centre of our nation, why can't they just leave that land alone. There will be a lot of problems, from the high chemicals, from the different kind of product being used at the mine. They should just leave it they way that it is for a number of years. This is not the right time to talk about this. In Behchoko alone they have 400, Edzo 500, Gameti 40, Wekweeti 20, Whati 200 students, and I am talking on behalf of all the students. They have a long way to go and we don't need another barricade right across our yard.

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ARCHIE WETRADER
GAMETI

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