



MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL

IMPACT AND REVIEW BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

NICO PROJECT - EA 0809-004

FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED

Mackenzie Valley Review Board:

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HELD AT:

Behchoko, NT

October 11, 2012

Day 6 of 6

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1 --- Upon commencing at 9:23 a.m.

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: If everybody could
4 come in, we'll sit down, we could start. Before we
5 start, I want to do the opening prayer. So I'm going
6 to ask the former Tlicho Grand Chief, Joe Rabesca, to
7 come up to do the opening prayer for us.

8 MR. JOE RABESCA: Thank you, Mr.
9 Chairman. Good morning to everyone. I'm going to say
10 a few things in my language, and then we'll go on from
11 there.

12 One (1) of my sister, whose name is
13 Michele (phonetic), whose name -- last name was Rabesca
14 in Edmonton to -- and I got a call yesterday, very,
15 very sick. It could go any time, so I'm just expecting
16 a call like every minute. So we're going to keep that
17 in the back of our mind and pray for my sister.

18

19 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO TO ENGLISH)

20

21 MR. JOE RABESCA: Yesterday we got a
22 phone call, and we know this woman that's very sick in
23 Edmonton. And in our prayer, remember her in our
24 prayer. And for many years she's working the prayers
25 church for us. And -- and with the phone calls that

1 I'm getting, we have Dora (phonetic) calling and also
2 James. And also my sister was -- so we are people --
3 we're all related.

4 And because the got a last name, so --
5 and within the four (4) communities we're all related.
6 And we have to support one another, and that's how we
7 are united. We can't change that. Just to remind you
8 of this. And for the Chiefs, and we want our Creator
9 to help us as we gather in this building.

10 Let's -- let's be united in this matter
11 now. Help one another. And we're talking for our
12 future generations and what's going to be taking place
13 that's in the future. And as myself, when I go home,
14 although we speak -- it's all up to our Creator. Our
15 Creator is the one (1) that create the earth, and how
16 we're going to live on this earth, and how it's going
17 to be in the future. And He knows all this.

18 But if it's going to be a decision-
19 making time, then it's up to our Creator. If it's --
20 and it's up to our Creator the way things are going to
21 be taking place. And that's how I think and I pray at
22 home. And everybody probably do that. And our -- our
23 Creator is the only one that takes care of these
24 things, so we pray like that.

25

1 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

2

3 (OPENING PRAYER)

4

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Joe Rabesca,
6 for doing the opening prayer this morning. Good
7 morning to everybody, ladies and gentlemen, Elders,
8 community members.

9 Before we broke yesterday, I read out
10 the agenda for yesterday. The agenda for today, we --
11 we had the opening prayer. But prior to breaking
12 yesterday, we talked about reserving our comments this
13 morning. So we're going to go into that based on the
14 presentation made by the Tlicho government yesterday.

15 And -- and their -- part of their
16 presentation, some of the information we didn't have
17 for our records as well, so we had that sent to us
18 yesterday. So we -- we just now are looking at that
19 this morning. So we're going to go through that first
20 thing this morning. Then after that, we're going to go
21 into community and public statements from -- from that
22 until noon. And then at one o'clock to 3:00, we still
23 have statements from women and youth from the
24 community. And we'll continue on after 3:15 to
25 community and public statements.

1 Then later on after that, we'll go into
2 closing statements: closing statements by the Tlicho
3 government, closing statements from Fortune Minerals
4 Limited, and finally, closing statements from the
5 Chairman of the Review Board. And then we'll adjourn.
6 So that's -- that's the agenda for today.

7 What we'll do is before I go into these
8 reserved comments, before going into public statements,
9 I'll explain the Review Board process so that the --
10 everybody in the room has an opportunity to understand
11 what we -- why we're here and -- and what is the
12 process, in terms of the public hearing for the Nico
13 project. And then -- then I have some comments
14 afterwards, as well, about -- that we're going to look
15 at maybe one (1) for -- five (5) minutes for comments
16 from the community.

17 If we could be direct and -- and also --
18 and to the point, but at the same time I'm going to ask
19 that, you know, we got to be respectful, in terms of
20 how we come up and speak. And we're here to listen.
21 And -- and the moment we -- if I hear that there's
22 going to be some comments that are not respectful and
23 is -- is disrespectful, then I'm going to interject and
24 I'm going to stop that person from speaking so that we
25 continue to make sure there's -- there's fairness. And

1 also we need to conduct ourself in a respectful manner
2 for all -- everybody in the room. And then -- so I
3 want to just let you know that -- that I'll be doing
4 that.

5 So this morning before I start, I want
6 to continue to encourage members from the community to
7 go up in the back to put your name down if you want to
8 make a comment or a statement. Again, just be -- just
9 understand that I'm going to ask you to be very direct
10 and to your point when you make your -- come up and
11 speak. You -- you'll have to say your name, and I want
12 to make sure we do that.

13 So I just want to let people know that I
14 have a list here. There's lots of people on the list
15 that want to speak. And so I'll go to the list and
16 we'll stay until everybody has an opportunity to make
17 their point. Again, we want -- I want to make sure
18 that people understand that we're going to allow you up
19 to about five (5) minutes to speak, because there's a
20 lot of speakers.

21 With that, I'm going to continue on with
22 the -- the agenda of the day. Yesterday, before we
23 broke, we went to reserve comments. And this morning
24 we've received copies of the -- the measure --
25 mitigation measures from the traditional knowledge

1 study. We -- we now have it.

2 So what I'm going to do is I'm going to
3 go into my speaking order and for everybody to -- to --
4 if they have issues or concerns, they can put it on
5 record. As long as we have it on the record, then --
6 then it's there. So I'm going to move forward now.

7 I'm going to go to Fortune Minerals
8 Limited to -- if you have any questions -- first of
9 all, for -- does everybody have a copy of the
10 mitigation measures from the traditional knowledge
11 study -- study? Fortune Minerals? Yes. North Slave
12 Metis? None? Can we make sure that we get a copy to
13 the North Slave Metis? And I believe the Review Board
14 staff and Board members do have a copy.

15

16 TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE STUDY

17 QUESTION PERIOD:

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. So we've --
19 it's -- it's only two (2) pages, and -- and I'm not
20 sure if -- if the public needs to see a copy of this.
21 We will also make a copy available for the back. Maybe
22 we could -- Chuck, we could maybe get some put in the
23 back maybe for the -- for the general public.

24 So my speaking order this morning I'm
25 going to go is Fortune Minerals Limited. Do you have

1 any comments or questions in regards to the mitigation
2 measures from -- from the Tlicho government on the
3 traditional knowledge study?

4 I'm going to turn it over to Fortune
5 Minerals.

6 DR. RICK SCHRYER: Rick Schryer,
7 Fortune Minerals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good
8 morning, everyone. Yesterday, Fortune stated that we
9 felt the inclusion of additional recommendations in the
10 TK study presentation were contrary to our
11 understanding of the Review Board's process.

12 By failing to submit these complete rec
13 -- present -- to submit their complete presentation,
14 including recommendations, within the deadline set by
15 the Board at the hearing in August, the Tlicho
16 government ignored the Board's instructions. The tea -
17 - the Tlicho government failed to respect not only the
18 Board, but all parties to this process, providing a
19 number of new recommendations to the presentation on
20 the Tlic -- on traditional knowledge studies.

21 Many of the new recommendations appear
22 to have no relation to the TK study, lack clarity in
23 their wording, and are ambiguous as to the specific
24 mitigation measure that is being requested. Many have
25 implications that Fortune will need to consider

1 carefully. Consequently, Fortune is not in a position
2 to make a comment or pose questions to these added
3 recommendations at this time.

4 Despite our objections as to how these
5 additional recommendations were presented, Fortune is
6 still willing to consider these recommendations in
7 future discussions with the Tlicho.

8 With respect to the recommendations that
9 were properly made by the Tlicho in their written
10 presentation yesterday, Fortune Minerals is of the view
11 that they are within the bounds of what Fortune has
12 already committed to. And again, Fortune Minerals is
13 prepared to discuss them with the Tlicho and have --
14 and come to any agreement that -- that is beneficial to
15 both parties. Thank you very much.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. I want to go
21 back to -- to Fortune Minerals. Based on your -- your
22 statement then, my question to you -- or the Review
23 Board is -- is going to ask you: Do you want us to
24 accept your -- these mitigation measures from the
25 traditional knowledge studies from the Tlicho

1 government for public record or not?

2 DR. RICK SCHRYER: Rick Schryer,
3 Fortune Minerals. I think that's kind of a moot point,
4 since they're already there. They're already on the
5 public record, so I don't think that's -- I don't think
6 that there's -- we can change that now.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Then so
8 it's noted and it's on public record, so we'll continue
9 on. Thank you.

10 I'm going to go to the Yellowknives Dene
11 First Nation. Do you have any comments or questions in
12 regards to the Tlicho government mitigation measures
13 from the traditional knowledge study presentation
14 yesterday afternoon?

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: And, no, I don't see
19 anybody there. North Slave Metis Alliance, the same
20 question to you.

21 MS. SUSAN ENGE: Susan Enge, North
22 Slave Metis Alliance. Yes, I think the Tlicho
23 government explained their position in summary
24 yesterday. And for the record, the North Slave Metis
25 Alliance supports their additional mitigation --

1 mitigative measures that they're proposing. We know
2 it's outside the deadline, as mentioned by Fortune
3 Minerals, and we respect that concern.

4 I just do have one (1) question whether
5 or not the Tlicho government considers TK to include
6 other elements, such as the smell, and whether that's
7 one (1) sensory aspect that they would include in their
8 set of recommendations.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
10 to go to the Tlicho government.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 MR. JOHN B. ZOE: John B. Zoe for
15 Tlicho government. There's no real way to explain it,
16 except maybe through a little story.

17 When -- back in the -- in the '60s, when
18 Edzo was built to have the people from the community
19 relocate to there, because at that time the community
20 water got contaminated and there was some serious
21 health risks. But in the end, a lot of people didn't
22 move because it would put them inland, and the only way
23 that people survived in those days, because there was
24 no employment, was to continue to fish, and they needed
25 to be close to the water.

1 And one of the biggest complaint was
2 that the smell of the water in Edzo wasn't very good.
3 And it damaged the tea pot, and it made the -- the tea
4 taste bad. And tea was the only thing that people
5 drank in those days, so a lot of people didn't move to
6 Edzo. Masi.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for
8 answering that question. I'm going to go back to the
9 North Slave Metis Alliance.

10 Do you have any further comments or
11 questions to the Tlicho government in regards to their
12 mitigation measures from their traditional knowledge
13 studies?

14 MS. SUSAN ENGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Susan Enge, North Slave Metis Alliance. We have a
16 question regarding the ongoing TK research, as well as
17 the independent monitoring aspect.

18 We are, as you know, very concerned and
19 -- and care about the land, as the Tlicho do. So we
20 would question the Tlicho people whether they see a
21 role for Metis being involved in the monitoring aspect
22 of this project. It's something that we are pursing,
23 and I think you've heard us state publically that that
24 is something that we will continue to strive for, in
25 terms of having a direct involvement in monitoring, as

1 is Fortune Minerals, if and when it does start up and
2 operate through the life of the mine. Thank you.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you for
4 your question. And I'm just trying to think about your
5 -- your comments on that, and -- but I'm going to go to
6 the Tlicho government if -- if they want to respond to
7 that.

8 MR. JOHN B. ZOE: I think the -- the
9 proposals that we've been working on was just a TK
10 study for the Tlicho people, and we haven't included
11 anything to date. Masi.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Is there
13 any further questions from the North Slave Metis on
14 their presentation?

15 MS. SUSAN ENGE: No, no further
16 questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
18 to go to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, if there's any
19 comments or questions to the two-pager, mitigation
20 measures from the traditional knowledge study, made
21 available to us yesterday.

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: There's nobody here.

1 Government of Northwest Territories...?

2 MR. RUSS TEED: Russ Teed, GNWT. No
3 questions.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
5 to go to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
6 Canada, AANDC...?

7

8 (BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: None. Nobody here.
11 Environment Canada...?

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Nobody here. And
16 Transport Canada and Natural Resources Canada...?
17 There's nobody here for them.

18 So I want to go to the Review Board, and
19 Review Board staff and legal counsel, then Board
20 members last. Then we'll go into community comments.

21 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman. John Donihee, Board counsel. I do have
23 several questions primarily intended just to clarify
24 the wording in the document that we received last
25 night.

1 And so the -- the first question is in
2 relation to measure number 1. And I note that
3 paragraph A and paragraph C of that measure both refer
4 to the project footprint.

5 And I'm wondering what the Tlicho
6 government includes in the project footprint.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr.
8 Donihee. I'm going to go to the Tlicho government.

9
10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11
12 MR. JOHN B. ZOE: Yes, we can look at
13 maybe changing the project footprint to a regional
14 study area if that will cover that. I can elaborate a
15 little bit more if you want.

16 One of the things about doing a -- a TK
17 is trying to make some comparison between the impact
18 and what was there before and -- and the differences on
19 scope. Not to say that it's going to go through a big,
20 big area, but in that area, where on -- on the -- on
21 the project footprint that's there for the mine
22 development.

23 We know that the air migrates, and so do
24 the animals, and so does the water. And the migration
25 of equipment in and out, so there's constant movement

1 beyond the -- the project footprint itself.

2 And it's very similar to, in a -- in a
3 roundabout way, the mi -- the migration of the
4 information and the stories that we have is that
5 between the 1921 and -- and today, where the lands were
6 opened up for development, a lot of it has happened
7 without the consultation or information sharing with
8 the Tlicho in that period.

9 But, nevertheless, it was a reality of
10 life and people have built new place names. And
11 there's very many of them that was developed during
12 that period. And those names are constantly used by
13 hunters and trappers as points of being caution,
14 shelter, and -- and a place to gather things or trade,
15 if necessary.

16 So it's very important that, in this
17 process, the -- the process that we're on now, it's
18 very important that the -- the process gets recorded
19 and it's very accurate, like we're doing now. We're
20 being very accurate about what's being recorded and
21 what should be followed up on.

22 And that same psychology is very
23 important for us to ensure that the impacts of our
24 story and our way of life, language, culture and way of
25 life, is also recorded in that way, so that there's

1 some equal footing. Masi cho.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'll go
3 back to Mr. Donihee.

4 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.
5 Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Zoe, for that answer. But
6 1(a) says that:

7 "There should be ongoing TK research
8 studies run by and for the Tlicho
9 government for the critical wildlife
10 and vegetation habitat in the project
11 footprint."

12 What do you mean by "project footprint"?

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'll go
14 to the Tlicho government.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 MR. JOHN B. ZOE: Okay. Well, in the
19 project footprint -- in -- in the project footprint,
20 where it talks about the (a), there's -- in the TK
21 studies that we're -- we're talking about the area of
22 Kwianti (phonetic), which is the Lou Lake, I believe.
23 Kwianti, the traditional name, there's a hill next to
24 it that the Elders talked about where they would go up
25 to -- to listen for moose, and it's like an area that -

1 - that they would spend some time on top.

2 And those areas traditionally are
3 referred to as Didyedah (phonetic), place where the
4 moose comes. And they were attracted by mineral --
5 minerals in the -- in the soil itself. And it's
6 guaranteed that they will come because we want to
7 ensure that those information is gathered within the
8 claim block that exists there.

9 And we want to also ensure that we
10 collect all the information related to that activity so
11 that there -- so that when that place is -- it may be
12 destroyed, at least we would have something that we
13 could refer to in the future. Masi.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'll go
15 back to the -- Mr. Donihee...?

16 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman. John Donihee. Mr. Zoe, do you have the --
18 you have that document right there with you? So you
19 notice it in -- here -- here's what's troubling me.

20 In paragraph A, 1(a) and 1(c), the
21 Tlicho government refers to the project footprint. In
22 paragraph B, 1(b), it talks about other zones. And
23 then if you look down a bit, you'll see in paragraph
24 2(b) it talks about wildlife man -- monitoring in the
25 particular area by the community.

1 And, you know, from the standpoint of
2 the Board, if these are to be measures as has been
3 requested by the Tlicho government, there needs to be a
4 little bit of precision provided in order that specific
5 instructions can be provided to the regulators and
6 ultimately to the Developer.

7 And we have at least three (3) different
8 sort of areas being talked about here. And all I'm
9 really trying to do is to understand where it is the
10 Tlicho government wants this work to be done so that
11 the Board can consider that and attempt to respond
12 properly to these recommendations.

13 So is there anything that you can offer
14 -- I -- I respect the -- the information you provided
15 me; but is there any further assistance you can provide
16 to the Board about how to distinguish between these
17 areas for -- for purposes of the Board's consideration
18 of the recommendations?

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr.
20 Donihee. I'm going to go to the Tlicho government.

21 MR. PAUL BACHAND: Good morning, Mr.
22 Chair. Paul Bachand, legal counsel for the Tlicho
23 government. What we're going to try to do in the -- in
24 the next few moments is fire up a map in the -- for the
25 project area and get -- try and give you some more

1 precision in the -- in the descriptors that were
2 provided to you.

3 We can say with -- with certainty in
4 relation to 1(c), is when we -- when we said, "project
5 footprint," we're talking there about the actual claim
6 block itself, that area, in terms of the place names
7 and stories that could be destroyed. And, hopefully,
8 soon we'll be able to put up that map and -- and John
9 and Ginger will be able to -- and Georgina will be able
10 to point out the 1(a) and 2(b).

11 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you very much.
12 While the map is coming up, I can ask you my other
13 question, because it's -- doesn't require pointing at
14 any places.

15 If you look at paragraph 2(h) on the
16 document, there are some words missing at the end of
17 the second sentence, or it appears that there are words
18 missing.

19 I wonder if you're in a position simply
20 to finish off that sentence for us?

21 MR. PAUL BACHAND: Paul Bachand for
22 Tlicho government legal counsel. If you take the last
23 three (3) words out, we could stop at the -- put a
24 period at the end of "government".

25 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you.

1 DR. GINGER GIBSON: Ginger Gibson for
2 the Tlicho government. It's not clear here. You can't
3 clearly see the numbers, but what was documented in the
4 traditional knowledge study was that all of these site-
5 specific values have been documented. And John B. just
6 spoke about one (1) particular site-specific value,
7 which is the critical habitat where har -- where Elders
8 go and spend time, stay overnight often. And it's
9 within the claim block.

10 And there's also sensitive soils, soils
11 in that area where moose travel and -- and actually go
12 and use -- it's a critical habitation or -- or
13 environmental site value.

14 So the effort would be, then, to spend
15 more time documenting these sites so that they are not
16 -- when they are actually removed by the mine project
17 footprint and in the claim block or impacted by it,
18 that that information is kept. And Georgina Chocolate
19 from the lands department is going to show us on the
20 map where, in par -- in fact, one of these particular
21 areas is.

22 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: It's John Donihee.
23 If you would, just before you show the specific areas,
24 could you show us what you mean by the claim block, as
25 well?

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MS. GEORGINA CHOCOLATE: The claim
4 block is about the whole mine of the claim block around
5 that whole -- that area around that mine, that leased -
6 - the lease that com -- that mine company are hold.
7 And that area of Didyedah is on the hill. It's right
8 behind the site of the mine. And it's just right
9 behind it.

10 It's right on the site where the Lou
11 Lake. Kwianti is where they have a moose place to
12 watch out. That's where they go for hunting moose.
13 And what John B. just said, Didyedah, that's just
14 behind that site.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 DR. GINGER GIBSON: Ginger Gibson,
19 Tlicho government. While Georgina's getting help from
20 Chuck, we mean the claim block where the mine -- mining
21 company has the leases. And so the area is surrounded
22 by Tlicho lands. And we're referring specifically to
23 the claim block held by Fortune Minerals.

24 MS. GEORGINA CHOCOLATE: This is the
25 lease claim block. And right around the site is

1 there's a hill here. This is the Lou Lake with all the
2 mark in there. We can hardly see. But around here
3 site is where there's a hill there. And on that hill
4 is where the ancestors have walked with snowshoes.

5 Until today, they still used to hunt
6 that moose. So that hill is going to be gone after all
7 the cleanup and the mine closure. And right now, we
8 can see it, but all these will be cleared out. So
9 that's the one we have work on, Elders have talked
10 about that a moose hunt area. Masi.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Mr.
12 Donihee...?

13 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.
14 Chairman. I think just -- just one (1) more question
15 then about recommendation number 2. There's a cou -- a
16 couple about recommendation number 2.

17 And the first one, again, is that,
18 although I -- I think we explored this briefly
19 yesterday, I under -- I understood the answer to
20 yesterday's question, when I asked about which project
21 components that you are wanting to address in
22 recommendation number 2, and the answer was, Well, you
23 know, we've got this more detailed list.

24 Well, I've -- I've looked at the list
25 now. And, you know, paragraphs A to 'H' don't refer to

1 project components. They -- they talk about other
2 things.

3 And so I'm still wondering, you know,
4 what is it -- which components of the project do you
5 want the monitoring and expert peer review to -- to
6 address?

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
8 to go back to the Tlicho government.

9 DR. GINGER GIBSON: Masi cho. Ginger
10 Gibson, Tlicho government. The two (2) project
11 components that we want expert peer review on are the
12 co-disposal facility and the wetlands design and
13 construction and monitoring of the -- the wetlands
14 design system. Masi.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Mr.
16 Donihee...?

17 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Mr.
18 Chairman. Thank you for that answer. And -- and just
19 -- and in one -- I'd like to give you the opportunity
20 to look at paragraph 2(c). And it just -- all it says
21 is, "Active monitoring of the snow." And I -- I guess
22 I'm just wondering: What is it about snow that you're
23 interested in? Is it depth? Is it contamination in
24 the snow?

25 You know, what -- what aspects of -- of

1 snow studies, I guess, are -- are being referred to
2 here?

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Tlicho
4 government...?

5 MS. GEORGINA CHOCOLATE: Georgina here.
6 That snow that we talk about, people drink snow water
7 and people drink snow tea, so it has to be monitored.
8 And when the snow melt, it melts into the stream,
9 creek, and river. So that's what it was. Masi.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Mr.
11 Donihee...?

12 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you very much
13 for your answers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are
14 my questions.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Is there
16 any questions from the staff? Okay, none. Thank you.
17 I'm going to go to my far right, Mr. Danny Bayha, Board
18 member.

19 MR. DANNY BAYHA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 I -- I just had more of a clarification questions on --
21 on the -- on the -- the mitigation measures that was
22 proposed. Excuse me. Earlier, this seemed to be very
23 specific to the -- the project footprint, per se.

24 Is there anything in there that you
25 would think that it might apply to the access road, as

1 well?

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
3 to go to the Tlicho government.

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 MR. JOHN B. ZOE: Yes, because one of
8 the places identified was the burial sites on the
9 access road, near the access road.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Mr. Danny
11 Bayha, Board member...?

12 MR. DANNY BAYHA: Thank you. So I --
13 I'm just wondering, you know, in some of the
14 independent monitoring expert peer review, I guess,
15 would -- I guess, all the components underneath, you
16 have different points.

17 For example, you have wildlife
18 monitoring and then response testing as well. Active
19 monitoring of snow, I guess that would include -- I
20 guess I was -- just wanted to get more of an idea where
21 you're coming from.

22 So is that correct?

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Bayha.
24 I'm going to go to the Tlicho government.

25 MR. JOHN B. ZOE: Sorry, I didn't hear

1 the question. Masi.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Mr.

3 Bayha...?

4 MR. DANNY BAYHA: Earlier, I guess
5 independent monitoring and expert peer review, Ginger
6 referred to -- Dr. Ginger, sorry, Gibson referred to
7 the project components will be specific to the co-
8 disposal wetlands and not the access road.

9 So I just wanted to get a clarification
10 if that is the case or if that was just something that
11 is expected. You were -- this would include as well as
12 the access road as well.

13 So I'm -- I just wanted to get a little
14 bit of comment on that. Thank you.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Bayha.
16 Tlicho government...?

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 DR. GINGER GIBSON: Masi cho. Ginger
21 Gibson, Tlicho government. I think that these are the
22 recommendations based on traditional knowledge, and --
23 and they flow out from that -- those concerns that were
24 identified.

25 I think they need to be usefully

1 articulated with and brought together with the co --
2 the recommendations that -- that Kerri Garner presented
3 yesterday for lands department on the access road
4 presentation.

5 We do think that mitigation measures
6 should apply to the access road and would extend some
7 of these to that area, in particular, the one that John
8 B. just referred to about avoidance of burial sites in
9 particular.

10 But Kerri certainly pointed to --
11 yesterday, Kerri Garner pointed to the need to have
12 water monitoring that's coming -- you know, flowing
13 from -- from the full area, sites that are along the --
14 and -- and co -- going away from the project footprint
15 and extending towards -- through Deto Tia down into the
16 Golo Ti Dee and -- and further south.

17 Masi. I hope that answers your
18 question.

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Danny
20 Bayha, Board member...?

21 MR. DANNY BAYHA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Thank you for that answer. Just one (1) final
23 question, some of this under 2(a), monitoring and long-
24 term wildlife monitoring and active monitoring -- and
25 some of this may involve other parties - for example,

1 the government.

2 So I was just curious if you'll be -- be
3 able to help us understand which monitoring might be --
4 other parties might be involved, just not the Company
5 and maybe yourselves as well, the Tlicho government.

6 So I just wanted to get an idea of what
7 your thoughts are on there, when you're talking about
8 that section. Thank you.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. We'll go
10 back to the Tlicho government.

11 DR. GINGER GIBSON: Masi cho. We see a
12 strong role for the Tlicho government in the -- in the
13 engagement in this monitoring, but we also see a strong
14 role in the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board having
15 elements of this.

16 And we're aware that the Wek'eezhii Land
17 and Water Board is actually hosting dialogues on the
18 question of a Marian River watershed monitoring
19 program. So there's -- there's some legs in other
20 institutions that we believe would need to be supported
21 in order for this to -- to come to pass. Masi.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Any
23 further co -- questions from Danny Bayha?

24 MR. DANNY BAYHA: No further questions,
25 thank you. Thank you for the answers.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Baya.

2 I want to go to Board member Rachel Crapeau.

3 MS. RACHEL CRAPEAU: Masi cho. No
4 questions at the moment.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
6 to go to Board member Richard Mercredi.

7 MR. RICHARD MERCREDI: Thank you, Mr.
8 Chair. No questions.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
10 to go to Board member James Wah-shee.

11 MR. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr.
12 Chair. I have a question related to the first
13 paragraph of your paper. It's in reference to that --
14 you say that continuous use and -- and so forth, and
15 also to have a confidence in the use of that area, this
16 will require active and ongoing funding, engagement,
17 and monitoring, and so forth.

18 Now, I guess the question is, is that I
19 assume the Tlicho government is going to request
20 funding. I'm not sure whether the Tlicho government
21 will be requesting ongoing funding from the Developer,
22 the Government of the Northwest Territories, or -- or
23 Canada.

24 I just want some clarification. Thank
25 you.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
2 to go to the Tlicho government.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. JOHN B. ZOE: I guess one of the
7 reasons for putting it up front was it's -- it's a huge
8 message for our own people, because we have a long
9 history of avoiding sites that were developed in its
10 own time, in a time when there was not much regulation
11 -- regulation or monitoring.

12 So any time there is a -- we -- we don't
13 want people to stay away from the area, so we're going
14 to eventually spend monies on it, either through our
15 own programming or programs that might be available
16 through other agencies, including governments and maybe
17 harvesting, to ensure that we promote people that they
18 should continue that area as it -- as they have before,
19 provided they don't interfere with the work that's been
20 going on over there. Is that we need to promote that
21 continuous use and even more, the more information that
22 we collect from it. Masi.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
24 to go to Board member James Wah-shee.

25 MR. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr.

1 Chair. I guess my question primarily is that the
2 Tlicho government is requesting funding -- funding from
3 other agencies, it would appear. But we all know that
4 the Tlicho government has their own sources of revenue
5 as a government.

6 And I suppose my question was, the -- I
7 wanted to know whether the Tlicho government was going
8 to put money in there, instead of going to the
9 Government of the Northwest Territories or Canada, or
10 other agencies, because, obviously, the Tlicho
11 government must have a responsibility in regards to
12 supporting and promoting the way of life of the Tlicho
13 on the land.

14 And I guess the concern I have -- not so
15 much a concern, but a clarification as to whether the
16 Tlicho government has -- is sharing the res -- that
17 particular responsibility with the Government of
18 Northwest Territories and Canada.

19 In other words, so I'm talking about the
20 Tlicho citizens living off the land; also associated
21 with that, your culture, your tradition, your language,
22 your stories.

23 And I'm -- I -- I guess I want
24 clarification as to who has ownership of that.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going

1 to go to the Tlicho government.

2

3 (BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 MR. JOHN B. ZOE: It's -- it's a good
6 question. One of the things that we know is that there
7 -- there has been continuous use. But what's more
8 critical in developing our language, culture, and way
9 of life is to derive the old information that's there
10 so that it promotes people to have a better connection
11 to that area.

12 And because the mine is developing in
13 the -- in the area, there's -- it might create a fear
14 of people not going to that area, or even in -- not
15 discouraging not using that area because of possible
16 fears of contamination to fish, water, and even caribou
17 and some of the migratory animals in that area.

18 The Tlicho government has its programs.
19 Like we have -- in the earlier years, you might be
20 aware we had the Trails of our Ancestors program that
21 continuously goes through that area using that lake as
22 -- for -- for fishing and hunting moose while we're in
23 that area, including making dry fish and walking on the
24 land.

25 But in the earlier years, to get these -

1 - that program up and running -- now it's being totally
2 financed by the Tlicho government. But when it -- when
3 we had to start at it before the claim, before we had
4 those kind of monies, we had to go to a funding agency
5 that -- in the South, very, very South, to an agency
6 that was helping third-world develop -- development
7 countries to get that source of fund to get that
8 programming up and running.

9 But now that it's successful, the Tlicho
10 government continues to fund that. But there are other
11 people that sometimes are interested in accompanying,
12 in -- in coming along on those trips. Then those new
13 sources of funds help to enhance that program not only
14 within ourselves, but to share that information with
15 people that come into that area.

16 So, yes, the Tlicho government is
17 actively promoting -- not only promoting, but
18 financially injecting monies into that area on a
19 continual -- continuous basis. But because there's an
20 impact that there's always a lookout for bringing in
21 partners to enhance it a bit more. Masi.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
23 to go back to Board member James Wah-shee.

24 MR. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Mr. --
25 Mr. Chair. I -- I appreciate the -- the concern of the

1 Tlicho government in regards to traditional lifestyle
2 related to culture and language, and so forth.

3 So that's on one hand. The other one is
4 related to the wage economy and the economy of -- of
5 this area here. So I guess when you make reference to
6 lifestyle, you -- you look at it in terms of living off
7 the land in a traditional sense. And then the other
8 contemporary lifestyle is where you have a wage economy
9 of the -- this particular generation is getting more
10 educated. They're getting into various professions,
11 trades, business administration, and so forth.

12 So I -- I suppose the lifestyle that
13 you're making reference to is that you would like to
14 see a happy balance. In other words, one should not
15 over -- overpower the other that -- from your
16 presentation on the TK yesterday and the comments that
17 you have made.

18 So I guess the -- the next point, I
19 guess, I -- I would be interested is -- is that the --
20 the TK presentation that has been made thus far is
21 essentially re -- related to the traditional lifestyle
22 of the land and not necessarily to the contemporary
23 lifestyle of this generation that may not make a living
24 full-time living off the land, if you understand what
25 I'm getting at; is that there is also a new lifestyle

1 here.

2 And I kind of wonder, you know, your TK
3 study, I wonder if it's -- it could be used also to
4 suggest that perhaps if development is going to take
5 place, that there -- there may be a way of doing it,
6 still protecting the lifestyle -- the traditional
7 lifestyle, but still promoting the opportunity for the
8 -- the next generation.

9 I -- I guess I would like some
10 clarification on that.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
12 to go back to the Tlicho government.

13 MR. JOHN B. ZOE: Okay, one of the
14 things about the modern wage economy is the stability
15 of the workforce, that the -- what TK also promotes is
16 making information available to everybody so that
17 whatever strength that the people have had to survive
18 the environment and the harshness of the old way of
19 life, I think that spirit is something that needs to be
20 captured.

21 And if that -- if that can be in some
22 way transformed into the -- into the workforce, I think
23 Fortune Minerals will be very successful if they had
24 that type of workforce. And I think this type of work
25 contributes to that area. Masi.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. For the
2 record, that was John B. Zoe. Board member James Wah-
3 shee...?

4 MR. JAMES WAH-SHEE: I -- I'd like to
5 thank the Tlicho government for the clarification on
6 the questions that I've raised and -- and also the --
7 the presentation that has been made on the traditional
8 study. So thank you very much for your clarification.
9 Masi.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
11 to go to Board member Percy Hardisty.

12 MR. PERCY HARDISTY: Masi, Mr. Chair.
13 No questions.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
15 to go to Board member John Curran.

16 MR. JOHN CURRAN: Thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman. I just have a couple of quick questions
18 here. With regards to point 1(b), where it talks about
19 medicines and plants that may not be available in other
20 zones, I'm just wondering, I don't see within the
21 presentation, are there specific plants and medicines
22 that you suspect are not available in other zones at
23 this time?

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
25 to go to the Tlicho government.

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2
3 MR. JOHN B. ZOE: Well, I can give an -
4 - an example just from personal experience. Back about
5 twenty (20) years ago, while we were travelling through
6 that area, one of the Elders went into the water and --
7 and gathered some plants. I don't know the English
8 word for it, and I don't also recall the names that he
9 used. I've got it written down somewhere. But he said
10 that was the -- that he's been waiting for a long time
11 to come to this area to get this plant.

12 And -- and so he had a whole bunch of
13 them, all wrapped up together. And he was going to
14 take it home. So those are the kind of surprising
15 things that we find. And we probably wouldn't have
16 known about that unless that person was there, seeing
17 an opportunity at the right season to pick that and
18 saying that it was something that he looked forward to.

19 So there are very many little things
20 that are surprisingly -- that needs to be, sort of,
21 drawn from the Elders in that area, because it's one of
22 the -- I guess it's not unusual that, aside from the --
23 from the zones, like the -- the zones in -- in a
24 scientific way is it -- it talks about different areas.

25 And we have these areas that we -- that

1 we have in the language that talk about these larger
2 zones, other than the place names. The place names are
3 just layers of information. But then you have these
4 zone names, something like Nodee Inda Inkwe Taka
5 (phonetic).

6 And some of the plants, there's
7 differences between the -- the zones, because the
8 landscape is totally different from one area to
9 another. So those zones or ecological areas are
10 captured in these larger names that we have.

11 So those are the kind of information I
12 think that would take time to get out of the Elders to
13 ensure that we capture those information that can be
14 built into monitoring later on. Masi.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
16 to go to Board member John Curran.

17 MR. JOHN CURRAN: Thank you, Mr.
18 Chairman. I guess the reason I bring this one up, I --
19 I just wonder if you've considered taking a page out of
20 the Western science book on this one and thought about
21 maybe establishing a seed bank or something along those
22 lines as -- as part of that preservation for plants and
23 medicines?

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
25 to go back to the Tlicho government.

1 MR. JOHN B. ZOE: Yeah, it's a good
2 suggestion. I think we can probably look into that.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: John Curran...?

4 MR. JOHN CURRAN: Thank you, Mr.
5 Chairman. I'll try to -- try to be brief here. I just
6 have a couple of other follow-up questions related to
7 other points. On 2(b), when -- when you spoke, I think
8 it was Ms. Chocolate, talking about the wildlife
9 monitoring.

10 Rather than looking at it in terms of
11 the chart, are we really talking about every icon that
12 is on the map on the page before that within the
13 presentation?

14 I'm just trying to understand exactly
15 what it is that you're indicating there. Thank you.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
17 to go to the Tlicho government.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 MR. JOHN B. ZOE: I'm not sure if I
22 understood the question, but there are a lot of areas
23 in -- in, like, let's say K'ia Goti, like the -- the
24 area that the project is in where some specific
25 monitoring has to be done. One of them is the many

1 areas of -- where -- Didyedah, where the moose come.

2 And so that -- those areas are not --
3 don't get lower than where they are now. And there's
4 other places like some specific fish -- fishing areas.
5 And like this planting that I was talking about, that
6 some -- once they're identified and they're unique,
7 they need to be monitored in that way. Masi.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'm going
9 to go back to John Curran, Board member.

10 MR. JOHN CURRAN: And just one (1) more
11 question, Mr. Chairman. Sorry. Oh, I'll throw my
12 drink around first. I'll clean that up when I'm done.
13 Sorry about that.

14 Number -- point number 4 says:

15 "Build a culture camp at the
16 significant sites."

17 And I'm just wondering how many culture
18 camps it is that you're looking to have built. When I
19 -- when I look at the chart, there are certainly a
20 number of sites that have been identified in the
21 subsistence category within the lease boundary, and
22 then more again within the LSA, and then more again
23 within the RSA.

24 And -- and so it -- the first half of
25 point 4 reads like one (1) culture camp, but then the

1 second half reads like multiple, and I'm just wondering
2 if you could clarify how many culture camps you're
3 talking about. Thank you.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr.
5 Curran. I'm going to go to the Tlicho government.

6

7 (BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9 (INTERPRETED FROM Tlicho INTO ENGLISH)

10

11 CHIEF CHARLIE FOOTBALL: Thank you. My
12 name is Charlie Football from the community of Wekweti.
13 We did live in that area. The area that we -- we had
14 used, we're not saying we do want to do away with that
15 area. If my kids like that area, they may -- they may
16 go back there. My daughters said they like that area.
17 They may go back to that area.

18 As Dene people, we do not live in one
19 (1) area. We can hunt, fish, and trap anywhere we
20 want. That's why we say that we are in the steps of
21 our ancestors. Look in Fort Smith, in Fort Fitzgerald.
22 There were some empty buildings in Fort -- Fort
23 Fitzgerald and Fort Smith. Now that -- that community
24 has been reestablished.

25 Yes, we look at the trails of our

1 ancestors. We will use that area. We will use maybe
2 fifty (50) years from now, yeah. And my friends that
3 are -- fifty (50) years from now, maybe that area, you
4 may see a lot of buildings in that area that you had
5 one -- once used at one point in time. Thank you.

6

7 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

8

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: I'll go back to Grand
10 Chief Eddie Erasmus.

11 GRAND CHIEF EDWARD ERASMUS: Masi, Mr.
12 Chair. What we intend is when we were discussing it
13 within the leadership and for a long time is to have
14 one (1) culture camp.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'll go
16 to John Curran. Any further questions?

17 MR. JOHN CURRAN: No, Mr. Chairman. I
18 -- I'd like to thank Chief Football and -- and Grand
19 Chief Erasmus, though, for their clarification of that
20 point. Thank you very much.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. That
22 concludes the -- this portion of the agenda from this
23 morning. And I also want to thank the Tlicho
24 government for providing that information to us to help
25 clarify and also to make us understand where you guys

1 were coming from on your presentation yesterday.

2 But before we -- I'm going to -- before
3 I take a break, I want to gear up for the next part of
4 the agenda, which is comments and statements from the
5 community. But prior to that, I want to maybe just
6 take a couple minutes to explain where we're at and --
7 and how we're here, how we got here.

8 And I just want to maybe just give a
9 little bit of history lesson. Maybe -- a lot of you
10 guys already may know this already, but I want to maybe
11 just come back to that.

12 As you all know, back in the early days,
13 when the Dene-Metis claim fell apart in Dettah, the --
14 that led the way to regional land claims in the north.
15 So after 1990, the -- in 1992, the Gwich'in set -- or,
16 land claim, and 1993 was the Sahtu region.

17 But because of the Gwich'in claim, there
18 was no way for them to manage lands in their -- in
19 their settled area, so they came up with co-management
20 Boards, which basically included the representation
21 from the Government of Canada, Government of Northwest
22 Territories, and members from the Gwich'in area. So
23 they have that Gwich'in Land and Water Board. And the
24 same thing in the Sahtu region.

25 And also -- also in the Tlicho region we

1 have settled a claim here. And they also have the
2 Gwich'in -- sorry, the Tlicho Land and Water Board.
3 And I believe Violet Camsell is the Chairman for that
4 Board.

5 But what happened is that this Nico
6 project, environment assessment file 0809-004 -- that's
7 the file number. And when that application came in, it
8 goes to the -- to Tlicho Land and Water Board, which
9 later looked at the file. And there's things that they
10 look at before it's sent to the Mackenzie Valley
11 Environmental Impact Review Board.

12 And the things they look for are
13 significant adverse impacts on the biophysical, social,
14 economic, and cultural. Or it could also look for
15 significant public concern. And normally, when an
16 application like this comes into the Tlicho Land and
17 Water Board, they're not funded to have public
18 assessments, public hearings.

19 So what happens, they refer these
20 application to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental
21 Impact Review Board. But back in 1998, after the
22 claims were settled, they created the Mackenzie Valley
23 Resource Management Act. And under that Act, they
24 created part 4 of the Act that created Mackenzie Valley
25 Land and Water Board. And they go up and down the

1 Valley, the Mackenzie Valley. And their role is more
2 or less to issue permits and licence.

3 And so, also, part 5 of the same Act
4 they created the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact
5 Review Board, which deals with environment assessments
6 and environment impact reviews. So when -- and we
7 cover the whole Northwest Territories up and down the
8 Valley.

9 And on our Board, as you could see,
10 we've got representation as well from all jurisdictions
11 in the Northwest Territories. The only one we don't
12 have on the Board here today is the Gwich'in, and we've
13 been waiting for that appointment to come through for
14 some time. And we just also recently got appointed
15 Sunny Munroe, who is a federal nominee who was
16 appointed to our Board.

17 So now what happens is that when we get
18 referral such as the Nico project, it comes to the
19 Review Board and there's a process in place. And --
20 and sometimes these public hearings like this one here,
21 because it's a -- it's a big file, it takes up anywhere
22 from a year and a half to two (2) years to complete a
23 file like this.

24 And it's really -- sometimes it's a
25 cumbersome process, sometimes slow; but, you know, we

1 do get to the end. As on this file here, we're coming
2 to the end. And so what happens is like -- as you
3 people know that this is a quasi-judicial system.

4 So basically what means -- what that
5 means is it's like a court-like setting. So exactly
6 what you see here today that's -- it's a court-like
7 setting. And the Board will hear evidence in regards
8 to the three (3) things that I mentioned: biophysical,
9 socioeconomic, cultural, or significant public concern.

10 So we've been -- as you know, we've --
11 normal public hearings usually take three (3) days.
12 And because this project is a -- is -- is a big project
13 in the Tlicho region, so we had public hearings in
14 Whati and one (1) day in Yellowknife and two (2) days
15 in Behchoko.

16 And -- and because we didn't finish the
17 agenda, we -- I allowed two (2) more days to hear the
18 traditional knowledge reports from the Tlicho region
19 and -- or, sorry, the Tlicho government, and also we
20 want to hear from the people in the community. So that
21 goes on the evidence and public registry.

22 After this public hearing is done,
23 there's a -- there's undertakings that has to be
24 submitted. There's closure of the public registry, and
25 then there's the decision phase. And then it goes to

1 the Minister of Indian Northern Affairs. After the
2 decision is made, it goes back to the Mackenzie -- or,
3 sorry, the We -- the Wek -- I guess the Wek'eezhii Land
4 and Water Board, who will either -- if it's approved or
5 not, they -- it goes to them. And say if it's
6 approved, they will issue the permits and licence.

7 That's -- that's the process that --
8 that we're in. And so this morning in my opening
9 comments, I mentioned that we're going to listen to the
10 members in the community. And -- and again, we want to
11 make sure and remind everybody that, you know, we're
12 allowed to go five (5) minutes per person.

13 I do have a lot of people on my list in
14 front of me. And I ask that when you come up, we want
15 to hear what are your issues or concerns, or if you
16 have statements regarding the Nico project.

17 And I also mentioned this morning that
18 we need to be very respectful of each and other in the
19 room. And if we're -- if I see that we're getting off
20 subject, then I'm going to stop. I'm going to go to
21 the next person, because the Board wants to hear what
22 you have to say about this project, and it's going to
23 go on evidence.

24 So again, I'm going to ask that when I
25 call you up, I'd like you to introduce yourself. And

1 if you could be direct and to -- to your point about
2 this project, then that's what we want to hear.

3 And so as long as we're clear on that
4 and -- and then if I miss the -- if people on this list
5 are not here in this room, I'll just put them on the
6 bottom of the list and I'll come back to them again
7 just so that -- and we'll stay until we've heard
8 everybody on the -- on the list that I have.

9 And there's still people in the back
10 that probably want to sign up. Again, I encourage you
11 to do that, because once we're done, we're going to
12 close the meeting. We'll do a closing prayer, and then
13 the Board will meet, and then we'll make our decision.
14 And then we'll give direction to the staff to write the
15 decision. After that's said and done, again, it goes
16 to the Minister, and it's up to him to decide. And
17 then it'll come back down to the Wek'eezhii Land and
18 Water Board after that. So as long as we're clear on
19 that.

20 And -- and I want to just remind the
21 public that when you come up, state your name. And I
22 want to encourage you to also be respectful to
23 everybody, but be very clear and to your point.

24 So with that, I'm going to ask that we
25 will take a ten (10) minute break. We'll come back,

1 and then we're going to go to the first person on the
2 list. Thank you.

3

4 --- Upon recessing at 10:42 a.m.

5 --- Upon resuming at 11:04 a.m.

6

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good morning. Okay,
8 good morning. We're going to start now. And we're
9 going to -- this morning that we -- we're off our
10 agenda a bit here, so whatever we lost in time this
11 morning from the time we started, we're going to add to
12 the end of the day. So that way here we're fair.
13 We'll give everybody an opportunity to speak.

14 Also this morning, when I was just doing
15 my brief presentation prior to the coffee break, I just
16 want to clarify that I had mentioned that it was the
17 Tlicho Land and Water Board. For the record, it's --
18 it's the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board. Just so that
19 we're clear. It's on record, so I just want to make
20 sure there's no confusion there.

21 And we've got a lot of speakers that's
22 going to come up and speak. Again, this morning, I --
23 I ask you to be -- we're going to allow you five (5)
24 minutes. And if you could come up and be direct and --
25 and to the point of your -- your comments toward -- in

1 regarding the Nico project public hearing that's here
2 today.

3 And we're also have -- I want to have my
4 staff just keep track of time. And then we're going to
5 hold up a time and say you've got five (5) minutes.
6 And the other one too, is that we've got -- in case
7 there's Elders out there that -- that don't want to
8 come to the mics, we can -- we have a roving mic. So
9 just put up your hand, and we'll have staff come to you
10 with the -- the mic. And we also have three (3) mics
11 here. And what I'll do is I'll call up the first three
12 (3) names, and then you could go to those mics.

13 So, again, I want to remind everybody
14 that we need to be very respectful of each other. And
15 so that we hear -- we can hear what you have to say.
16 First, three (3) people I have on the list is that -- I
17 have is, Leon Lafferty, Joe Mantla, Isadore Charlo.
18 Then the next three (3) people after that I have is
19 Francis Mackenzie, Barbara Zoe, Joe P. Mantla.

20 So we're going to go to the first three
21 (3) on the list. And, again, you've got five (5)
22 minutes, so if you could be direct and to your point.
23 And also to -- and be respectful. I'm going to go to
24 Leon Lafferty, if you'd come to the mic. And then the
25 other -- Joe Mantla and Isadore Charlo could come to

1 the other mics. If you can't, if you're an Elder, just
2 put your hand and we'll bring a mic to you.

3 Okay, so, Leon Lafferty, you've got five
4 (5) minutes.

5

6 COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS:

7 MR. LEON LAFFERTY: Masi, Mr. Chairman.

8

9 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

10

11 MR. LEON LAFFERTY: For a short while,
12 I'll do this in my language. Thank you. For -- and
13 for a little while, I will do this in my language, then
14 I'll do it in English.

15 I am -- I am from the community of
16 Behchoko. My name is Leon Lafferty. The Tlicho
17 government are here. The Fortune Minerals are here.
18 The Tli -- I'm not here on behalf of anybody. I'm here
19 on behalf of myself. I'm here for my kids and their
20 kids and also for the future of our kids, I'm standing
21 here. And I'm also here for -- for the -- and on
22 behalf of people from the Behchoko.

23 The reason why I'm saying this is -- the
24 people of Behchoko -- people from Behcho -- we've only
25 been given about four (4) hours to speak. Today we'll

1 be given only four (4). And also the -- the -- nobody
2 had ever -- we weren't ever consult -- the river flows
3 from the -- we weren't ever consult. They're going to
4 have a road built in your area.

5 If the mine -- if the mine is built in
6 your area, people are going -- you're not -- no -- no.
7 And we have heard there will be no hunting. We haven't
8 ever been informed that there will be no hunting. The
9 Wek -- Wek'eezhii Review Board -- and it's gone -- it's
10 gone to the Wek'eezhii Review Board. And now it -- the
11 Mackenzie Valley Board, that issue is in front of you
12 now. There will be no hunting.

13 And also our leaders should have came to
14 us. We live in Behchoko, over two thousand (2,000)
15 people, a population of two thousand (2,000) people.
16 Whenever someone, speaks they usually say, This is the
17 way it was. That's the way it was. Those kind of
18 stories are good. But today -- today -- no, I have to
19 think about what it will be like.

20 We know there are a lot of traditional
21 stories, and we -- we have a lot of things that --
22 traditional knowledge, and a lot of it has been
23 recorded. So the -- we still haven't heard anything
24 from -- and also we seem -- we seem to be going ahead
25 from what we heard previously.

1 The mine is about to -- to come up. If
2 they want to open -- if they're going to restrict me
3 from something to -- I do not want it to open if
4 they're going to restrict me from -- to hunt in that
5 area. If that -- if that mine is -- is going to
6 contain -- contaminate the water, I do not want it to
7 open.

8 But still, if things are not going to be
9 contaminated, if the people -- if people are going to
10 benefit from work, from jobs, and also that you have to
11 -- that I can -- I can help -- I can help if people are
12 going to benefit, in terms of employment.

13 The Tlicho government -- and the Tlicho
14 government, it seems like -- it -- it seems to be okay.
15 But our -- but our -- our -- they -- their staff seems
16 to be pulling. We know that water is a really good,
17 important natural resources. And people from Behchoko,
18 there is three (3) river flows to the community of
19 Behchoko.

20 People that live in Behchoko, we have a
21 community government. They're the ones that treat the
22 water for us, and they're the ones that -- because of
23 the water -- it -- it was five (5) years ago it was one
24 (1) of the best water. We don't -- that water treated
25 as -- by the community government. We still haven't

1 been informed about -- I do -- so -- so the paper that
2 I have in front me, I was -- I -- that would have been
3 given a few days, but I be given about fifteen (15)
4 minutes to speak.

5 If the mine is going to open, they have
6 to have a road. If -- and -- and also in the future,
7 they may -- that the -- the -- that now the -- the --
8 we have global warming, it's warming out there, and we
9 should not have -- we rely on the winter -- rely on the
10 winter road. If the water -- and also we may have to
11 move from this community if a gra -- or -- or heavy
12 equipment ever fall through the ice, it will
13 contaminate.

14 They're also talking about the IBA. We
15 should have our own table. We should -- we should have
16 -- be given our own table to speak to you for the
17 people of Behchoko.

18 But now that we had ran out of time,
19 there are a number of things I wanted to -- I have to -
20 - I will have to -- I will have to write my name --
21 name out again to speak, because I want to speak for
22 fifteen (15) minutes. But I will rewrite my name to
23 speak again, because my time is up.

24

25 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,
2 Leon Lafferty, for your comments and statements.
3 Actually, that's interesting comments you raised there.
4 I might have to go sign up myself. I think it's good.
5 Masi again. I appreciate that.

6 Joe Mantla, I'm not sure if you're here.

7

8 (BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Again, just come up
11 and introduce yourself for the record.

12

13 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

14

15 MR. JOE MANTLA: Yes, thank you. My
16 name is Joe Mantla. They were talking about the -- the
17 mine that we're talking about, they want to open the
18 mine that we're -- that river -- river flows around to
19 the mouth of Marian Lake. There is still some
20 buildings. That's where I was born and raised, in the
21 Marian village.

22 But today -- today I work at the school
23 with the little ones, those young ones at the school.
24 And -- and, also, some of these little ones talk about
25 the previous mine, the old uranium mine, the Rayrock.

1 If the mine ever opens it always has the impact on a
2 lot of things, if that mine ever opens.

3 Down the road, in the future, whoever --
4 whoever opens that mine will -- will really benefit,
5 will probably become rich. Maybe in terms of money,
6 they will -- their family will be well off. And -- and
7 als -- and also, they'll probably have a nice swimming
8 pool, because they will live really well.

9 And also, because of that, we will have
10 to live with the contaminants later. And also,
11 sometime I go to -- with the students, I go to Whati
12 area on that river. Whenever you go somewhere,
13 sometimes they say, Is there any water bottle? Look at
14 the old Rayrock Mine because that's always in the back
15 of their mind.

16 People that live in that Marian village
17 at the end of Ma -- I still have -- I ha -- I myself
18 have a cabin. Even my kids, my brothers go to Marian
19 village at the end of this lake when -- when we go to
20 riding and, also, up the -- up the Marian River, even
21 to this day, that area's still being used.

22 The -- and now at -- at the end of the
23 other side of the Ray -- Rayrock, we go to Labrash Lake
24 (phonetic) from Marian -- Marian Lake, Francis
25 (phonetic) and Edwa (phonetic). I have pictures of

1 that area that we had used around it.

2 My old -- my older brother had died of a
3 kidney failure. Now Francis Hoosy (phonetic), this
4 Elder, have already used that area around that -- all
5 that fish. So whenever they do the fish sampling --
6 fish sampling, are they do -- do they ever have the
7 results of that test study that they have done?

8 And -- and, also, so the -- and, also,
9 we should have money to put aside to do further study.
10 And now people will be given the five (5) minutes to
11 speak. So we should give -- should -- people should
12 really express their -- their concern.

13 And -- and, also, we know that Carl
14 Clouter had used that area. He used to fly to that Lou
15 Lake area, like I know. And -- and, also, there are
16 other -- and, also, look where he -- where he had his
17 float base. There are some empty drums. And here, the
18 water, he used to live on -- he can't even clean up
19 after himself. Now there are some old barrels on this
20 old dock. How can he clean up after himself?

21 And, also, we should really -- so that's
22 all I'm going to say for now. Thank you very much.

23

24 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

25

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Joe Mantla, for
2 your comments and statements. Thank you very much.
3 I'm going to go to Isadore Charlo, Elder. And I also
4 have next on the list is Francis Mackenzie, Barbara
5 Zoe, and Joel -- John (sic) P. Mantla.

6

7 (BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

10

11 ELDER ISADORE CHARLO: Yes, thank you.
12 I will -- my name is Isadore Charlo. I have game board
13 -- for twenty-seven (27) years, I have worked with
14 Richard, the -- the Review Board member, I worked with
15 his dad.

16 I -- I, myself, had worked in that area,
17 the Marian River. My friend is here now and also Willy
18 (phonetic), his brother. We had fish in that -- we had
19 fish in that area. There were a lot of fish.

20 In one (1) -- one (1) week we had caught
21 over one thousand (1,000) fish around the Marian River,
22 not too far from Hislop Lake. I used to work -- I used
23 to work at the Rayrock Mine. I had a -- I had a -- a
24 week off at that time. We had used a boat for Marian
25 River. There was three portage -- people that used to

1 live that area, and people went up, and we follow them.
2 And -- and then there was about three (3) different
3 places of -- where people had -- had lived in that
4 area.

5 There was a -- the size of this lake,
6 there were three (3) gill net that we have set, three
7 (3) of us had set, and also our people. There were a
8 lot of fish there. In one (1) week, we had caught over
9 one thousand (1,000) fish, five (5) of us.

10 While we were there, the -- the lake
11 froze. From there we walked -- we walk to -- from
12 Rayrock Mine. There was -- there was a nice -- there
13 were a lot of -- over twenty (20) people had to work.
14 And even Phillip Huskey, the only one (1), and -- and
15 Eddie Wazo (phonetic), the only people from -- Edward
16 Wazo, Phillip Huskey, myself are the only ones alive
17 today.

18 At that time there were no job. But
19 then that's how -- that's what we had work. I worked
20 over a year. My friend was still working there when I
21 left. The Elder Philip Husky was still working there
22 while I left.

23 That mine, they had really taken care of
24 the people pretty well. Today we can -- we can drink
25 water. With this mine that's coming up, I don't see

1 we'll be able to do that. We're able -- at that time -
2 - and also the -- they used to give -- that Hislop Lake
3 area. Will that -- will that fish will ever be the
4 same? Well, the fish will never be the same. I know
5 that.

6 I -- I work with the game warden all
7 over the place. I've been to a lot of different
8 places. I know and I -- I've seen. So when I used to
9 work at the Rayrock, the -- the White people that were
10 there used to have their own shower. But we didn't eve
11 -- we didn't even -- we didn't even know that we were
12 working in a contaminant area.

13 If that mine is going to open, they
14 should really, really watch their people, really watch
15 and take care. And -- and also I know that water may
16 not never be the same.

17 And if that road ever opens and -- and
18 also that the -- and -- and also will come the social
19 problem we have due to drinking. And if the road ever
20 opens, and also people should be pretty well watched
21 over while they are -- they are employed.

22 And also there -- there were no -- there
23 were no showers where we were -- where we were work --
24 where we were working. And also even when -- when we
25 were -- when we used to work at the Rayrock Mine, some

1 of the plywoods were given to us to build our own
2 little -- little tent frame. But the people had worked
3 pretty well.

4 All the people that have -- that have
5 worked there, none of them are alive today. Each and
6 every one of them have passed on, maybe because of the
7 old uranium mined at Rayrock. But now only young
8 people are alive.

9 If -- look at some of those old -- old
10 other mines. There aren't some other -- we have three
11 (3) mines -- three (3) mines in Yellowknife. Those
12 three (3) big mines in Yellowknife, none of our people
13 had to work -- work there.

14 If the mine is going to open so be -- it
15 -- it -- we have heard there is going to be a mine.
16 But what are we going to do with all the work, with all
17 job? Now people do not go to the land -- out in the
18 land like we once did.

19 Yes. Since I stop -- since I retired
20 from my job, I have a cabin alongside of the highway.
21 You can eat the wild meat, the muskrat, beavers, ducks,
22 you name it. You can do that. It's nice to live out
23 in the land. I live in the cabin along the highway.

24 So we can -- we can stru -- we were not
25 restructed -- we were not restricted to -- to hunt,

1 fish, or trap. Now people -- anyway, people do not go
2 out in the land like they once did. But the cost of
3 the fur bearing, trapping, fur, the price had gone up.
4 But now there seem to be more students in the school.

5 But I'm not here to -- to talk a little
6 too long. So anyways that's all, I'm going to share
7 with you at this time. Masi cho.

8

9 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

10

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Isadore Charlo,
12 for your comments. Masi. Next I have on the list is
13 Francis Mackenzie, Barbara Zoe, John P. Mantla. So I'm
14 going to go to Francis Mackenzie.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: If he's not here,
19 I'll get him to probably come back up a little bit
20 later. I'll put him on the list, and he'll come back
21 up.

22 Next I have is Barbara Zoe.

23 MS. BARBARA ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 My name is Barb Zoe, and I'm from Behchoko. I just
25 have a question for our leaders and Fortune Minerals in

1 -- in regards to employment.

2 There's already three (3) mines in the
3 area. And everybody says, Yes, mine is good in a way
4 for employment, for Tlicho government, like, you know,
5 they will be getting funds.

6 However, in the -- in the social area in
7 our community, will there be work done? Will there be
8 something in place for social programs to help -- like
9 there'll be a lot -- there's a lot of drinking.
10 There's a lot of social issues we have right now, and
11 it's -- it's still going on.

12 I don't see like any -- any improvement
13 with these three (3) mines in place, and then we're
14 going to have a fourth one right in the Tlicho lands.
15 Is there going to be anything done for programs in all
16 four (4) communities? That's the social issue I have
17 within our community, with -- within Behchoko.

18 I don't know how they handle it in the
19 other areas, but here we have a major issue with
20 alcohol and drug use. And I would -- I would like to
21 see something put in there. I've heard it, but I'd
22 like to see something that will show that our leaders
23 will act on it with the people.

24 The other area I -- the other issue I
25 had was employment. Aboriginal-- you -- it's stated --

1 I've heard it on the radio, and I've -- and I've heard
2 it in -- in the meetings that there'll be hiring of
3 Aborigines. The mine sits right in the middle of
4 Tlicho -- Tlicho lands.

5 Tlicho people, do you guys -- you know,
6 will there be -- Tlicho will be pri -- priority? Will
7 they be the first ones to be working? Also if -- if
8 you say like, Oh maybe there's some -- some of our
9 people don't have the educational background or
10 training skills, is there programs put in place where
11 they can train these people?

12 You know, because we have a lot of
13 graduates every year. We have grade 12s right now,
14 most of them don't have a job. I think that, you know,
15 stuff in that area should be looked at if -- if the --
16 in the hiring process, that it should be looked at in
17 our community -- in the four (4) communities actually,
18 the -- the Tlicho region.

19 And then worse comes to worse, if they
20 have to hire our -- outside people, maybe then they
21 should start training the Tlicho people to work in
22 these mines, because I'm pretty sure this is not the
23 only mine that's going to be open. There's going to be
24 more mines later on, you know. And then at -- at least
25 then they have people with the training, skills, and --

1 and knowledge to work at these mines, instead of hiring
2 outside people.

3 Those -- those are the two (2) main
4 issues I had. Thank you. Thank you for listening.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Barbara Zoe, thank
6 you for your comments and statements. And I know you
7 asked a question to the Tlicho government and also to
8 Fortune Minerals. I believe through the presentations
9 and over the last, probably, five (5) days of public
10 hearings and on public record, we do have that
11 information that raised on the record.

12 And also, I believe Fortune Minerals
13 also is -- has that information on public record as to
14 how they're going to deal with some of these issues.
15 And so -- but we want to, again, just listen to what
16 you have to say. And again, it's recorded. It's on
17 the public registry and on the transcript. So whatever
18 you hear from the public is going to be -- that's
19 exactly what we want to hear. It's going to be part of
20 the evidence.

21 So I want to just assure Barbara that
22 your concerns are heard and noted. And it's going to
23 be part of the -- part of our decision, as well, when
24 we look at everything.

25 Okay, I'm going to continue on. I'm

1 going to go to -- I don't know if Francis Mackenzie
2 came back in the room. If not, I'll come back to him a
3 little bit later. Next I have is John P. Mantla. And
4 then after that, Pierre Tlokka and Joe-Boss Nedlin.
5 Those are the people I have next.

6 So if I can ask John P. Mantla to come
7 up, please. If he's not here, I'll come back to --
8 I'll call his name up -- name again a little bit later.
9 I have is Pierre Tlokka. If Pierre could come up.
10 Tlokka, Pierre Tlokka.

11

12 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

13

14 MR. PIERRE TLOKKA: Thank you. My name
15 is Pierre Tlokka. And I live in this community. That
16 river flows -- river flows from that area to our area.
17 That's one of -- now we know that the mine will go
18 ahead. Even though we say no, they will continue to go
19 ahead with it.

20 But still, it flows -- that river flows
21 to us. We have -- and -- and, also, from Rayrock, in
22 the past, it wasn't like that. But it flows -- it
23 flows to us. Even my -- my granny had lived to be over
24 a hundred years old. This lake, we used to -- we had
25 set gill nets right out -- right in front of this lake

1 here. Nobody had -- had ever died of cancer. People
2 only died of illness, from old age. That's how people
3 have passed on.

4 Today it's not like that. Today it's
5 not like that. Why is that? And -- and, also, maybe
6 we know that they will be using heavy chemicals and
7 cyanide and so forth. What is it that we can do that -
8 - about the cancer?

9 And, also, because really don't know
10 what causes cancer, but -- but then since the old ura -
11 - uranium Rayrock Mine, people -- people had -- had
12 passed on. All of the people that have worked at the
13 old Rayrock Mine, every one of them have passed on.
14 They should -- they should have used less chemicals,
15 less chemical with this mine.

16 We can't watch them every day. We can't
17 keep an eye on them every day. So what kind of mine do
18 we have to watch over them? So as -- and, also, we
19 have -- they have to go through the water licence.
20 Without -- without water, they may not -- the mine may
21 -- may not operate.

22 We know it's going to have a huge impact
23 and can pollute our -- our land. We know that. People
24 that live in the four (4) communities, we all have to
25 support each other, each and every one of us. And,

1 also, we have to -- and, also, our -- our leaders will
2 keep an eye on it for us. The Elders that sit in the
3 back, we want to have no impact on them.

4 But once they go ahead -- they go ahead,
5 it may not be monitored or watched over the way it
6 should. And we -- we know that -- look at these old --
7 old abandoned mines. We have learned. What Barbara
8 had stated earlier, she is right. She is right. So
9 when we went to -- the only ones that will probably --
10 they're old. The people will not be able to -- may not
11 be able to work in the mines without -- without any
12 training. They have to have a heavy equipment. And
13 also they have to have their papers prior to having
14 employment.

15 But this is our area, our land. It's
16 just like they don't seem -- they seem -- they don't
17 seem to respect us. No, we also respect -- respect
18 each other while we're here. This has never occurred
19 before. This kind of hearing never occurred. We
20 should respect each other. I'm very thankful. I
21 didn't think we were going to speak on behalf of our
22 land, but now I'm very pleased, and I'd like to say
23 masi for your people to giving the opportunity for to -
24 - for people to speak and raise their concern.

25 Us Elders will be happy if these things

1 occur all the time, even though we are not educated.
2 We don't even know what's going on. That's why we talk
3 a lot, raise a lot of concern. So the -- whenever we
4 gather like this, things -- we will be aware of things
5 that we're un -- unaware of.

6 If you raise a lot of concerns, people
7 will not be -- will not -- and also there -- there will
8 be a lot of pos -- positive things we continue to this.
9 If we have a meeting like this, and also we will not
10 lay back and talk about anybody if we continue to do
11 this. That's why we meet without people involvement.
12 That's why we talk about each other. When we talk
13 about each other, that's a -- that's a bad word.

14 And also the -- so even though we talk
15 against each other, sometimes we can straighten things
16 out. And also -- and also keep in mind that we are
17 here for the future of our little ones. We are --
18 today, that area is -- the -- the area for wildlife,
19 the caribou area, the Elders had to have their home,
20 Whati, Jimmy LaCourt (phonetic), he know that it was a
21 -- he had built a cabin there because it's a good fish
22 area.

23 So will that wildlife will ever be the
24 same? That fish in that area, people had really
25 survived by fish. And that's where our -- we have our

1 old traditional trails go to that area. We did not
2 build -- we will not build a traditional trail. Our
3 ancestors, the old timers, have built a traditional
4 trail. Every good fish lake, we have a traditional
5 trail out on the land.

6 They're -- our ancestors and our
7 forefathers, they're the ones spending some time out on
8 the land without any food, a lot of good fish and a lot
9 of good -- they had the old traditional name, place
10 names, lake names. Whoever finds a good fish lake,
11 that man's name is known even in my area. Gochachna
12 ochi (phonetic) the name have the -- Gochachna ochi,
13 that's where the -- all these individuals name in the
14 Gochachna ochi, these names for the people have -- the
15 Elder where they had found fish. These -- these lakes
16 are named after them.

17 That's the way and this is how our
18 ancestor and our forefathers, sometimes they really
19 respected each other. Anybody that find a good fish
20 lake, that lake is named after each individual. We
21 know that that area is a good fish. If it wasn't only
22 -- if it wasn't for us, we will not be able to find.
23 But we know a lot of good fish lake. We know where
24 there are a lot of good fish, any -- anywhere we go,
25 this -- and it was something that they have did very

1 well for us.

2 If that mine go over -- over -- before
3 it opens, they should -- so just put it on the radio
4 prior to the opening of the mine. Who is going to be
5 working with you and whoever will be -- you will be
6 working with, consult with us. Because we -- we rely
7 on the interpreters. If it wasn't for the
8 interpreters, we will not be informed.

9 And also, if I go up to you, you may not
10 understand. And if I try to speak English, you may not
11 be able to understand me. Without the interpreter, we
12 will not be able to communicate. So when we say it's
13 awi (phonetic), always do something very cautious and
14 careful way. We want you people to do a good job for
15 the future of our little ones and our young ones who
16 will try to do something positive.

17 Whoever are following us, the -- the
18 more educated, we will be replaced by our little ones.
19 We will not be living among -- living among you
20 forever. We may not be able to speak all day, so
21 that's it. Masi.

22

23 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Pierre Tlokka.

1 Masi. Masi. I don't know if Francis Mackenzie is --
2 is here yet, or Joe P. Mantla. If not, I'm going to
3 move on to Joe-Boss Nedlin. And I -- I have Catesia
4 (phonetic) and then George Mackenzie.

5

6 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

7

8 MR. JOE-BOSS NEDLIN: My name is Joe
9 Nedlin, and these people are correct in saying that our
10 forefathers travel out on the land with us. And
11 they're correct in saying that.

12 And as for now, while we're standing
13 here, there's a lot of young people that are sitting
14 behind us. And this -- and this -- we used to travel
15 on the land with a canoe, and that's what our -- the
16 younger generations -- and I teach their -- when they
17 travel on our trails of our ancestors they're doing
18 good things.

19 So -- so they're -- they're -- we grew
20 up in a poor condition in Wekweti, Whati. I used to
21 travel out on the land with a canoe. I used to go
22 caribou hunting out into the tundra. And as Pierre was
23 speaking, our Elders had taught us and we used to
24 travel out on the waters.

25 I used to travel with many places with

1 the people to talk about Rayrock. In the past there
2 was -- we used to haul stuff with a boat. And since
3 they made the winter road, it's been many years.

4 At that time we were young people. It's
5 been -- I used to work there. And it's a very bad
6 contaminated area now. And -- and that's how --
7 there's two (2) young people I used to work with. But
8 now I just wanted you to hear that and the mine's been
9 in operation for many years and -- and we worked there.

10 After Christmas, it's very cold so --
11 and we used to -- the mine has been open for many
12 years. So I just want to say that for now. Thank you.

13

14 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Joe-Boss
17 Nedlin. Masi. The next one I have on the list is --
18 didn't have a last name, but I -- I assume that a lot
19 of people may know this person as Goteza (phonetic).

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Gotzea (phonetic).

24

25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

2

3 ELDER PHILLIP HUSKEY: My name is
4 Philip Husky.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 ELDER PHILLIP HUSKEY: I'm an Elder,
9 and I've got a little bit of cold, but I will speak to
10 you. I'm eighty (80) -- eighty-seven (87). My name is
11 Phillip Huskey. I'm an old-timer. When I was young,
12 growing up with my family, Charlie Apples and all of
13 them that were -- though they never spoke in front of
14 me, they're probably right in what they had to say.

15 That mine that they want to start, and
16 it's not on -- it's called Kwianti in -- in our
17 language. And there's -- that's where they go moose
18 hunting, and that's where they go fishing. That's
19 where our parents brought us up, so it was very
20 important.

21 And -- and today, I have a cabin within
22 that area now, so within -- my friend, Johnny Chocolate
23 (phonetic), used to have -- and Clifford (phonetic)
24 goes there annually. You can -- you can make me stop
25 talking, because I'll be talking for a long time.

1 Akaitcho was the one that slaughtered the people. And
2 he would scalp the people and sell the scalping. But -
3 - but my grandfather, Edsie (phonetic), was the one
4 that made the peace.

5 While -- while we're living on this land
6 we can't slaughter each other. And if there's young
7 people that are growing up and all the people that live
8 on the land, they go live -- hunting all the animals
9 and on the land. And if we kill one another, continue
10 to kill one another, and only the animals will roam on
11 the land, and it's not good.

12 But from this day forward we have to
13 love ourselves and love one another and have a good
14 night's sleep. And that's how we have to continue to
15 work. And that's how we -- with that in mind, they --
16 they made peace. Eds -- Edsie was the one that made
17 the peace.

18 My -- my parents told me this story.
19 Once the peace was made, they had a big feast and a tea
20 dance. And all the Tlicho, we have a drum dance and
21 that -- our tea dances. And our -- our hand games
22 create energy of happiness. And that's how we live --
23 continue to live.

24 And if the mine is going to open up, I
25 know I'm old-timer. Port -- Port Radium out of all the

1 mine -- on -- at the mine for uranium. And they used
2 to use the waste rock to make a port. And in Port --
3 in Deline this day, there's people that get sick.

4 And also in Rayrock, I worked there, a
5 similar situation took place. And they took out
6 uranium. And there was no water board or no
7 regulations to be followed through. And -- and one (1)
8 hour would pay us a dollar thirty cents (\$1.30). And I
9 worked there until closure of the mine. And the land
10 is contaminated. The water's contaminated. All the
11 animals, the fur-bearing animals, the beaver, the
12 muskrat, we used to -- I never seen that personally
13 because...

14 And when we used to -- and -- and when
15 we go hunting in that area, we would see these dead
16 animals and floating in the river. And that's how we
17 travel in that area. And using that contaminants --
18 and there was a winter road going to the end of -- at
19 the end of Marian Lake. And Francis Williah was one of
20 the workers there. And he knows about these things.

21 And they used to use these contaminants.
22 And -- and we would see dead animals out on the land.
23 And it's not right to do that. How can we love one
24 another? And we're supposed to be loving one another
25 and working together, but it's not -- I can -- I can

1 tell -- I'm going to tell you many stories.

2 And Monfwi came along, the -- the treaty
3 -- that treaty money. And so -- so they had a meeting
4 for three (3) days because they -- he didn't agree with
5 the things -- to the things that they were proposing,
6 and -- and so the Bishop was there.

7 And so the -- with the treaty money, I
8 think it would be easier to -- and it's a peaceful
9 agreement. So -- so that's the only -- that's the only
10 time that the Bishop convinced them, and that's how --
11 but only if they agree with what they say.

12 So the federal agent -- I'm going to --
13 in the agreement -- as long as the sun rises and the
14 great river flows, and the -- and no one will turn
15 around and make the agreement differently. And so with
16 that, the treaty -- treaty was signed. And that's how
17 we're living today -- continue to thrive today, but
18 with re -- respect with one another. That's how we
19 have to work together.

20 As for the -- there was a strong -- a
21 radium mine at the other end of that -- so the river
22 flows from that area, and also in Yellowknife, Fort
23 Resolution, and also Hay River. How is it -- the water
24 is flowing in that area. If the contaminants hit that
25 area, and all the un -- unborn children, how -- how can

1 -- how will they live? And if this contaminants hit
2 the area and the water system, it's not good.

3 And we can't eat money. When -- when --
4 we won't be able to eat money. But during the treaty
5 times, in the Monfwi days, there's -- so there's -- you
6 got the treaty, so we going to -- we got to live off
7 the land with the animals, and also the fishing areas
8 and -- and with the fam -- with your families continue
9 to live on the land.

10 And -- and because you live off the
11 land, and you got to continue to go out on the land.
12 That's how people used to -- but today, we're in a
13 different situation. It's very different. And even
14 though the mine is going to -- and where they going to
15 have the mineral crush and mineral processing plant,
16 and we have to talk about these kind of information and
17 work -- continue to work on this project, and make sure
18 there's -- how -- are we going to be compensated for --
19 for people who get sick off the mine?

20 And are they going to be com -- and if
21 there's -- there's 1 million, or if there's 100 million
22 made -- that's been made from the mine, then we should
23 be compensated for ten (10) -- 10 million. And we have
24 to put that into agreement, and that's the only time
25 the mine will be open.

1 So we have to think about these things,
2 and make an agreement upon these terms. And it's not
3 like that -- if we -- it's not right for me if -- I'm
4 an old timer. I'm an Elder. I used to work in Port
5 Radium and Eld -- Eldorado.

6 And also in -- even in Great Bear Lake,
7 when people get sick with cancer, they pass away. In
8 the past, people used to live off the wildlife and to -
9 - in one (1) year it would be three (3) or four (4)
10 people pass away. And we didn't have any cigarettes.
11 We would -- we would have -- we didn't have tea. We
12 would live off the animals, the wildlife.

13 And the people used to love one another
14 and support one another and work together. And those
15 kind of things are not being taken into consideration.
16 And with the future generation, we have to take them
17 into consideration. We can't only look at the money
18 and it's not right to only look at the money.

19 If the project is going to go ahead,
20 what's going to happen with the road that's going to be
21 mined and the mineral processing plant that's going to
22 be created in Saskatchewan. You know that -- that
23 smell from the -- what's going to happen if the
24 contaminates takes place in? And also if the
25 contaminates goes into the water system, we might get

1 negative impact from that. Those kind of issues. So
2 we have to investigate and do our studies properly,
3 diligently and also all the mineral processing plant
4 people and all the experts that have -- and also, you
5 know what took place in Rayrock in the past.

6 Are you -- do you understand these
7 things? And make sure that when you erect a processing
8 plant in Saskatchewan and make sure that these things
9 took place to make sure they understand these things.

10 But for myself I don't want that project
11 to go ahead. But -- and our ancestors, our
12 forefathers, and Charlie Football, he lives in a -- in
13 a Wekweti. He's a healthy man but the ones who live in
14 this community, there's many cases of cancers in this
15 community with individuals. So, it's not right so I
16 want you to think about that.

17 And so -- so I guess told us not to talk
18 too long so I'll finish off right now, thank you very
19 much.

20

21 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

22

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi Phillip Huskey.
24 Masi, Masi.

25 Next, I got to go to another Elder, is

1 Melanie Wayallon. If she is here, she could come up.
2 And just -- just for the younger people, if you also
3 have written statements you can also come up and say it
4 and it would be on record as well but at the same time
5 -- but if you also want us to put it on record, you
6 could make that available to us as well, that'd be
7 good. Thank you. I want to go to the Elder Melanie
8 Wayallon.

9

10 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

11

12 ELDER MELANIE WAYALLON: I was
13 Chocolate, my maiden -- my maiden name is Chocolate. I
14 marry into Wayallon. The Fortune metal mine that we
15 are talking about, at that time when we can remember
16 back, when they say use that area, they were way far
17 apart from each other. Even we had to go out for
18 muskrat, we used to have to get a lot of caribou and
19 muskrat, that's what we have been taught.

20 We used to stay way at another end of
21 that -- the camp from people. There's a lot of potash
22 where we had stayed but things were okay with us at
23 that time, even with a little bit of hardship.

24 Must be beautiful place, that's why
25 every season my grandpa, my parents, they would go back

1 to the same place. Some other family had stayed among
2 us, even Philip had stayed with us for one season.
3 There was a lot of people around us in winter time,
4 staying close by. They would leave but we would stay
5 all year around. There was a lot of potash -- a lot of
6 -- it was hard for people to get to where we are.
7 Hislop Lake we're talking about, there's a lot of good
8 fish in the area.

9 We have to express our concern about
10 that place. It was a good harvest area. And we feed
11 our dogs as much as we want. It was plentiful things
12 on the land to use. At that time, I remem -- I
13 remember there was about six (6) -- six (6) houses.

14 And we went back over there again.
15 That's when my dad's house was still up and still in
16 good condition, the wi -- window wasn't broken. And --
17 and my uncle and some other people and Nick's parents
18 and Enzi (phonetic) and the lady named Beh. There's
19 about six (6) houses that were still up when we had to
20 go back over there.

21 Down in Fairbrook Lake (phonetic), we
22 remember there's houses up there too. Sometimes it
23 gets so cold that they had to camp at one place. And
24 some places it's really hard to get over those lands.
25 But a lot of trails at that area right now that people

1 went on.

2 And I remember my parents, they went
3 hunting. And they shot some moose. So with that hide,
4 they make some things for a sled. And they had shot a
5 lot of other games. Right in the hill there used to be
6 a place where they -- they shoot a lot of moose. You
7 always had -- you -- you always will shoot something
8 when you get to that place.

9 And Charlie had grew -- was raised over
10 there. A week later, when he was born, his dad died.
11 And over at Hislop Lake, that's where he was born,
12 Charlie Apples. And when he was able to walk, and
13 we're going to go out trapping. And they know the
14 place where it's good trapping area, so they -- they
15 were going.

16 And we'll go back to our camping area
17 again. Then we will stay there. And that area, Hislop
18 Lake, in the fall time it's good for harvest berries.
19 And they would collect moss for the -- for the babies
20 to use for -- as a pamper. And they would get all the
21 moss for a year, for the winters. A lot of people will
22 come and camp with us for the -- for that winter.

23 There was no way of anything. We never
24 talk about any sickness. We never thought today people
25 working with rocks, blasting. Once they open the

1 blast, you open something up, there's a disease comes
2 out of it. Before, there was no sickness. There was
3 not much people that get sick. When they were here,
4 there was no sickness. When they had -- today, there's
5 all kinds. There's a lot of mining in our area.
6 There's one (1) disease that people -- is killing
7 people.

8 Last year I lost my husband. He used to
9 work under mine, he had said. And half his lung was
10 gone and lung -- lung cancer he had. He -- he had
11 work. The first time he got a trap was when he was
12 sixteen (16) years old. Then he goes trapping every
13 season. And every day, he goes out. He never say, I'm
14 lazy.

15 After he died -- and maybe he have a
16 cheque over a thousand -- over a thousand. And after
17 that -- after -- and after that he was -- keep getting
18 money after they bury him. And the fur price was good.
19 That's why he was getting money even after his death.
20 Maybe this fall time I will get this -- some cheque
21 from behalf of him again. And my son -- my son had --
22 they had went out trapping. Now I get their -- their
23 money coming to me too.

24 There's a lot of work you can do on the
25 land. There's a lot of things you can do. It's so why

1 that -- a lot of people had -- had stayed in that. And
2 there's a lot of camps. Sometime they stay there for
3 one (1) season. And there's some other places that
4 people had stayed. And there's a Chief that had stayed
5 in that area too, and people used to camp around that.
6 And they used to -- when they want fish, they put net
7 in the lake. There's a lot of fish to catch. They
8 catch a lot of fishes.

9 And they shot caribou. So there's lots
10 of meat. There's a lot of meat that's left over that
11 we give to the dogs. And then we don't set net until
12 we have to leave again.

13 It wasn't that -- fur price, they
14 weren't -- they weren't that high -- high with the
15 prices. But people that used to go out, but they still
16 go out every year. Not today. The fur price are good.

17 You can just ask the mine company to go
18 ahead. There's a lot of things people can do in the
19 community yet. Even young people, they used to follow
20 us to the camp and do some work. There's a lot of
21 things that you can do out there.

22 I never went in other place, other area.
23 Otherwise I would have had said. But I just know that
24 area, so I'm discussing it. And there's a lot of
25 portage. How you can go with the motor boat, because -

1 - because there's a lot of portage. But we have
2 everything, all equipment ready to go.

3 And after that, once you reach that --
4 the shore, you had to do a portage. And some of the
5 things we had to carry is real heavy. It was really
6 hard work. We were pretty young at that time, so we
7 don't know about laziness at that time. We help each
8 other.

9 There was twelve (12) of my siblings.
10 There's only me alive today. I'm eight-one (81) years
11 old. I still don't feel lazy. I'm not lazy. So if I
12 -- my boys, they go out, I go with them. And I still
13 go out with them to do the tanning of the fur. And you
14 have to have the strong mind. You can live a good,
15 healthy life.

16 If you listen to your grandparents and
17 your parents, that's what our -- my dad used to tell
18 me. Even though I'm not educated, I know the knowledge
19 on the things that have been taught on the land.

20 We talk about the mine. It's right what
21 people had to say. A lot of people had stayed in that
22 area, even old-timers, way -- long -- way before we
23 knew it -- before the 1900s. Because of my dad, we
24 used to go to that place. And after that, my dad
25 passed on. So there's only me and my brother who had

1 stayed in that place. And after some of my siblings
2 they got married, so they had to move to other places.
3 And my brother got sick with cancer. After six (6)
4 months of diagnosed with cancer, she -- he died.

5 A lot of people have spoke about that
6 area, and it's so true. About this -- about this time
7 when it's time to freeze up, it's cold, warm, you still
8 go where you're going to have to go before the freeze-
9 up. You go to that place and you go and stay for all
10 the winter.

11 People know each other and the history
12 of the places. And we stayed at Hislop Lake. And some
13 of my relatives that had buried to the -- to the north
14 of the barren land. And some of my relatives are
15 buried -- my uncles and his hus -- his wife, they had -
16 - they buried up there, and so is my mom.

17 We can ask development to go ahead.
18 Today we have to sew, and we can -- we can make a lot
19 of money with that, so is trapping fur. It's got --
20 it's good prices. But young commu -- the young people
21 in the community, they have addiction, that -- that's
22 what worries me. And today they have a handout. The
23 social workers, they help people. They're killing
24 people. And just like they're teaching them to drink
25 and some other things, that's what the social worker

1 are doing. Then some of them, they're in jail. They -
2 - they're suffering. They go to court.

3 Today, they have a child tax benefit and
4 they have old pensioners. Before they didn't have
5 those things, but there's no job. But the only way
6 we'd get money was to have to go out and trap. At that
7 time, there's nothing -- for the money-wise, there's
8 nothing in the community.

9 There was store -- trading stores, but
10 there is no money. But we used to trade. But there
11 was really happiness. People were healthy. I thought
12 about this a long time ago. It was me -- it was my --
13 if it was up to me, there wouldn't be no social worker
14 in the community.

15 And people had travel in this area.
16 It's the truth. Our -- our ancestors, Elders, our
17 parents, and they raised us kids on this land. And
18 that -- that land will be important for you. And
19 that's what they used to say about Hislop Lake and
20 Fairbrook Lake and Lake Whatì. Now they have a
21 community in that area. Even here the -- the
22 discussing things here. Your grandpa's and your
23 grandpa's parents.

24 We have a beautiful area, water, land,
25 we would like to have our kids -- their kids to live

1 well in the community and send them all to school. We
2 have everything place, we have money coming in, they
3 have salary coming in to them. Just what your ancestor
4 -- Elders had done for you guys today. Today Monfwi's
5 dad, they had going to the shore and he made a house
6 here and that's when the priest came in and some other
7 people coming in from Fort Rae. So, they came in from
8 Great Slave Lake to this area. So there was a hardship
9 -- even hardship at that time.

10 I know that -- that the river that flows
11 down is -- all that chemical that is going to go into
12 that lake, in the river, who will get sick from it?
13 Maybe people will get sick, who's going to get sick?

14 We're talking about Hislop Lake, and
15 they talk about the mining that's going to be open up,
16 would not really know the whole story of it. After all
17 the good people -- all the knowledgeable people that
18 had died, they're talking about those kind of issues.
19 And people that have concern, we were raised by good
20 people, good tradition and knowledge. We've been
21 taught good by our parents and they had talked about
22 what's going to happen in the future. This is not the
23 only day that -- that the meeting, maybe we will have
24 further discussion but they won't say those things at
25 that time.

1 A lot of things that our Elders and
2 parents had done for us, they did just throw this away.
3 They had taught us good value.

4 Here in Rae, Monfwi's dad didn't just
5 wanted kids in the future just go after going around
6 site. They wanted people to live well in the community
7 so that's why Monfwi had done a lot of work for the
8 people. And today all the community, that people are
9 staying, that's what Monfwi did for the people. Our
10 parents had done a lot too.

11 So some people expressing their view
12 that they don't want the mine to go ahead but the
13 leader -- it's up to the leaders but today everything
14 for a price are good and all that women -- even women
15 can sew and make money. Now today, it's not like that,
16 today people can also work and make money.

17 Those are some things that -- that
18 concerns me. I am sure that today is not the only day
19 that we are going to meet. Our parents that had passed
20 on, they had lived a long life and had worked hard and
21 they taught us that -- we're just speaking from
22 experience about our parents. That's all I want to
23 say, Thank you.

24

25 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi cho. Thank you
2 very much. Thank you, Melanie Wayallon, for your --
3 sharing some of your thoughts and stories regarding the
4 file in front of the Review Board. It's now twenty
5 (20) after 12:00. We'll take a lunch break.

6 But right after lunch I have George
7 Mackenzie, Joe Mantla, Rick Winsen (phonetic), Richard
8 Wayallon. So we'll do those people right after lunch.
9 And we'll come back at 1:00. Lunch is provided.

10

11 --- Upon recessing at 12:18 p.m.

12 --- Upon resuming at 1:08 p.m.

13

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. I'm going to
15 ask that we could all sit down and we could start. I'm
16 going to -- next on the list again I got -- is -- I'm
17 going to go with Joe Mantla. But before we continue
18 on, I just want to just again remind our speakers to
19 continue to try to be cautious about the time, and also
20 be -- if you could be direct on your comments as you --
21 as you make your presentation. Again, I'm just
22 reminding everybody we've got only certain time, so we
23 want to utilize that time as best as possible, so we
24 said we are going to have about five (5) minutes.

25 So I'm going to go to -- the next one --

1 speaker on the list I've got Joe Mantla. George
2 Mackenzie stepped out so I'll come back to him as he
3 comes back. And after I have Joe Mantla I'm going to
4 go to Mary Zoe-Chocolate, because I believe she's got
5 to be -- she's only got some time off so she asked to
6 be moved up, so I'm going to do that, so she'll be the
7 next on the list. Then I'll go back down to -- the
8 next one is Rick -- Richard Wed -- Winsen, so that she
9 -- that person will be number 3.

10 So I'm going to ask the Elder from
11 Gameti to come up, Joe Mantla.

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. He may not be
16 in the room, so maybe I'll continue on and if he comes
17 back I'll -- I'll just put him back on the list. And
18 if the Elders are not able to come up to speak to the
19 mic, again, just wave your hand and we'll -- we'll
20 bring a mic to you.

21 So the next one on the list I have is
22 Richard Winsen, if he's here.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: He's not here? Okay.
2 I want to continue on and if he shows up we'll -- we'll
3 continue on with him.

4 The next one on the list I have is
5 Richard Weyallon. I'm not sure if he's in the room.

6

7 (BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Nope. Okay. I'm
10 going to move on. I want to ask Mary Zoe-Chocolate to
11 -- if she's here, she could come up to speak.

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: This is like the
16 request show. Somebody else wants to talk. Nobody
17 wants to come and talk.

18 Okay. I'm going to continue on. I'll
19 come back to her as she -- she has probably just
20 stepped out.

21 Melanie Lafferty...? I'm not sure if
22 she's in the room.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Moving on,
2 Leon Nasken (phonetic)...?

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: None, okay. The next
7 one I have is Jimmy John.

8

9 (BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: No.

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, the next one I
16 have is Madelaine Pasqueyak. I hope I got that last
17 name right. Is she here? Okay.

18 MS. MADELAINE CHOCOLATE-PASQUEYAK:

19 Masi. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk
20 to you today. My name is Madelaine Chocolate-
21 Pasqueyak. I'm originally from Gameti but presently
22 residing in Yellowknife. I'm going to school there,
23 looking for sponsors. That's okay.

24 I -- I just want to say -- I just want
25 to confirm what my Auntie Melanie said this morning.

1 Her late dad was Jeremy (phonetic) Zoe-Chocolate. And
2 Jeremy Zoe-Chocolate had a lot of sons and daughters,
3 and they were Marie Blackdack (phonetic), my auntie, my
4 late auntie; Josephine Rabasca (phonetic); Adelle
5 Widiwin (phonetic); Elizabeth Mackenzie (phonetic); my
6 late dad, David Chocolate, my late uncle, Johnny Zoe-
7 Chocolate; and my auntie, Melanie Wel -- Wayallon, who
8 is still residing with us.

9 And like it's been said, Charlie Apples,
10 Harry Apples, and, also, Pierre -- the late Pierre
11 Carseen (phonetic) and his mother, Gua Carseen
12 (phonetic), were Elders that I recall living in K'ia
13 Goti when I was just yet a little girl.

14 And at the time that I -- that we were
15 living in K'ia Goti as a little girl, there were other
16 families that lived there. There was also Jeremy
17 LaCourt, who lived there with his wife and -- and
18 granddaughter, Mary Jane (phonetic). And there was
19 also another Elder whose name was called Jimmy Woodseh
20 Rabesca (phonetic). He also lived in K'ia Goti with
21 his family. And there was also the late David Critee
22 (phonetic) who lived in K'ia Goti with his family.

23 And so the -- you know, just -- just
24 looking at the list here, you know, tells me that there
25 were people, you know, that resided and lived in that

1 area for a century, like for -- for years, you know,
2 because there's so much history about that -- that
3 area.

4 Before I say any more about the -- about
5 what I want to say, I want to ask the question: Who --
6 who staked the claim to -- to that gold that was found
7 in K'ia Goti? Who was that individual? I don't want
8 that question asked now, because I'm going to get back
9 to it. But I want to share a story with you about
10 something that my mom shared with me years back.

11 There was a time when, like I said, my
12 dad, after they -- after mom married my dad, we lived
13 in K'ia Goti. And all the years that my dad lived out
14 in K'ia Goti, you know, he was always out on the land,
15 you know, hunting, fishing, trapping. So, you know, he
16 was always busy.

17 And one day, when I was -- you know,
18 we're living in Rae, I was walking home and I saw a
19 vehicle parked outside our house. And I wondered -- I
20 thought, Hm, what is Carl Clouter doing at our house?
21 And so -- and I saw my dad get into the truck with Carl
22 Clouter.

23 And so when I got home, I said to mom --
24 I said, Mom, you know, what's dad doing, you know,
25 driving off with Carl Clouter? And my mom looked at

1 me. And she said, Well, he's finally going to -- going
2 to show him the location. And I thought, Oh, okay.

3 So I said: Well, is he going to go
4 alone? Who else is going to go with him?

5 I said, We can't send dad off alone with
6 Carl. Well, she said, Well, back at the time, the late
7 Char -- Chief Charlie Charlo was still alive. And she
8 said that Chief Charlie Charlo was going to go with
9 your dad. And so I thought, Okay.

10 And then I got thinking, you know, how
11 long, you know, did it take, you know, my dad for --
12 you know, to decide, you know, to make that decision
13 that day, you know, because, you know, my dad, you
14 know, years back, you know, before this time, when I --
15 when I saw him drive off with Carl, I remember a time
16 when, eve -- even as a little girl, you know, my dad
17 would take out this canvass wrap, you know, thing to
18 us.

19 And he would un -- unwrap it. And he
20 would unfold it. And he would make us look at it. And
21 I thought, What is this about this about this rock?
22 This rock, I recall, was about this big, and it was
23 heavy, and it was black. And dad had it wrapped up in
24 -- in a canvass.

25 And -- and I remember dad -- my mom

1 saying that, Your dad wanted -- wanted to get some
2 expert advice on what this rock might be. So, finally,
3 I guess Carl got wind of it, and so Carl managed to
4 talk dad into giving him the rock. And so dad did
5 that. He gave him the rock. Carl took it to wherever,
6 and he found out that this rock had value.

7 And so when -- when he found this out,
8 all of a sudden Carl was after dad: Where'd you get
9 this rock from? Tell me, where'd you get this rock
10 from? You know, I need to know. You know, we got to
11 go and find -- you know, scour this area. Tell us
12 where you found this rock.

13 And he kept harassing dad for many
14 years, and dad kept holding back the information
15 saying, No, I'm not going to tell you. No, no, no.
16 But there's only one (1) in -- other individual that
17 knew about this rock, and that was the late Pierre
18 Widiwin (phonetic). He and dad had gone hunting that
19 day, and -- over in K'ia Goti, you know, where they
20 found -- where the -- they stake a claim for gold, they
21 went hunting in that area.

22 And dad saw this unusual rock and he
23 said to the Elder, What do you suppose this might be?
24 And he said, Gee, who knows, he said, You know, but why
25 don't we take it with us and, you know, find out or see

1 if there's anybody could tell us what this rock is. So
2 that's what they did.

3 And so -- and so you -- dad -- when dad
4 finally made up his mind to tell Carl where he got this
5 rock from, I just thought about that and I thought, you
6 know, my dad made up his mind finally. He finally
7 decided that he was going -- he wasn't going to keep
8 the secret anymore, but that he was disclose, you know,
9 the secret of where he found this rock to this man.

10 He trusted that man. He lived among us.
11 He -- he flew people to trap sites and, you know,
12 camping grounds, and wherever they wanted to go. Carl
13 would fly them out there. Even, you know, if his plane
14 was faulty. A lot of people have reported how his --
15 you know, his -- his -- the -- the plane would
16 malfunction, but yet they would -- they trusted him
17 enough that they would go out there on the land with
18 Carl.

19 And that got me thinking. I thought,
20 you know, Carl did -- you know, is trustworthy surely.
21 But, you know, that brings me back to the question, you
22 know: Like who made the claim? Why didn't Carl give
23 dad -- my dad the credit for having found the rock and
24 for showing him the location of where he found that
25 rock?

1 You know, that I found, you know, so
2 unfair, you know, that my dad, my -- the late David
3 Chocolate, was given no credit, you know, for having
4 found this rock. And -- and having said that, you
5 know, I got thinking, okay, if we're going to open the
6 mine, the people that -- that should be rightly
7 questioned whether they're for -- for the mine or
8 against the -- the mine, they're the ones that ought to
9 be questioned.

10 All the people that have been named,
11 they're the ones that should be asked: Do you think
12 the mine should -- should we -- should we open the mine
13 or should we not? And so, you know, like the -- you
14 know, give -- and then having heard what -- what their
15 opinion is, then -- then we, as a people, ought to get
16 together and say, Okay, we have a self-government now.
17 Why do we need Mackenzie Valley, you know, Water Board
18 -- Water Board to make a decision yes or no on our
19 behalf?

20 It should be my Chiefs, you know, who
21 make that decision on my behalf, you know, come --
22 talking with the mining company, making that decision
23 so that they can say well, Madelaine, you know, this is
24 the decision that we've arrived at.

25 Now that, to me, is self-government, you

1 know. And if we're going to say yes to -- to this
2 mining operation, and because my dad played such a
3 significant role in this, the -- the one thing that I
4 would request is that -- is that rather than ship the
5 gold down south into Saskatchewan to -- down to
6 Saskatoon, where they're going to process the -- the
7 gold, I -- I -- that gold is ours.

8 It belongs to me, my family, my auntie,
9 my uncles, my cousins. That's ours. It belongs to the
10 Tlicho people. Why should they take the -- the gold
11 from out of the ground, steal it from us, and take it
12 down south and process it down there, and God knows
13 what else they're going to do with it? You know, the
14 mine will be gone from us. We will have gained nothing
15 from it.

16 You know, so I really and truly believe
17 that if we're going to support this gold mine and say
18 yes to -- to the operation, that gold should be
19 processed here in the Northwest Territories. And I've
20 talked with one (1) other -- one (1) other Dene Nation,
21 and that's Roy -- Chief Roy Fabian. And his -- his
22 Dene Nation is willing to have it processed -- the --
23 the gold processed in their land.

24 And so I think that, you know, if we
25 were to say yes to that and that support idea, we would

1 be beni -- they would be benefiting from the -- from
2 the gold mine project, and so would the Tlicho people.
3 And I think that's what we should seriously look at
4 before we say yes to the project. Masi.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Madelaine
6 Pas -- Pasqueyak. I hope I got that right. I'm going
7 to go to the list that I have again. I was going to
8 speak with some of the people who might have returned.
9 I'm not sure if the Elder Joe Mantla, if he's here? If
10 you could come up.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

15

16 ELDER JOE MANTLA: Thank you -- thank
17 you for calling my name. My name has been called.
18 Thank you. Talking about the Fortune Mineral mine
19 site, people that live in the community -- people that
20 -- it's in the doorstep of the people from the
21 community of Gameti.

22 When we think about it, we really don't
23 like it when we think about it. The -- the Hislop Lake
24 area, not only that -- not only that area. But also
25 around -- Maze -- Mazenod Lake area, there are some

1 rivers and so forth. And the -- for a number of years,
2 they've been doing mineral -- mineral exploration
3 around Mazenod Lake. But then they're hiding it.
4 There's an exploration that's going on in that area, on
5 the other side of Hislop Lake.

6 And -- and also, if -- if there's a all-
7 weather road to that Fortune Mineral mine site, then
8 they might continue on to Gameti. There's -- there is
9 -- they're going to be asking to use -- for the usage
10 of the water. And also the Fortune Mineral mine site
11 and there's another explorations going out around the
12 Mazenod Lake area. The mine -- there is good rock,
13 good minerals close to each other. There's about five
14 (5) different types of minerals around that they have -
15 - Fortune Minerals.

16 In Yellowknife, it's a big city, so that
17 Yellowknife had became a sudy -- became a city, I meant
18 to say -- a city because of the two (2) sma -- fairly
19 small mines. Now there's a major city around that they
20 have Fortune Mineral.

21 Fortune Mineral mine area, the
22 communities may grown be -- could become a city-type
23 area. Now that it will -- that area will be very
24 unusable. That -- us Dene people, that is the -- the
25 trails of our ancestors, the trails of our forefathers.

1 The trails are over there from our previous fathers.

2 Sometime down the road, maybe
3 approximate ten (10) years after the mine is opened,
4 what it will -- it be like? We don't even know of --
5 in terms of the con -- the contaminants. If that area
6 becomes a community or a city, there could have some --
7 have some taverns. We'll have more -- the more money
8 we have, that means more money to drug and alcohol.

9 But today, things with the social
10 problem is not so huge. But now with all that money
11 means more money to drug and alcohol. We have a lot
12 kids -- a lot of boys, a lot of girls. So someday we
13 may hear an unnecessary news, in terms of incidents.

14 And the -- and the -- whenever --
15 whenever the White people come to our area, we don't
16 ask them: Why are you in our area? If they want to do
17 the staking of the claim, they go -- they go ahead and
18 do it. If they are out on the land, they can spend --
19 they can make a campfire. They want to -- to cut the
20 timber. They can hunt, fish, trap.

21 Like -- like -- so the -- the -- so if
22 you go to in Alberta, around the Lac Ste. Anne area,
23 you can't even cut one (1) timber, one (1) tree.
24 Before you leave, you'll probably be given a -- a fine.
25 So you'll probably be given -- you'll probably be given

1 to court to illegally cutting the tree in -- in
2 Alberta.

3 But in this area, this -- this country
4 is open for any White people for -- for anything that
5 they want to do and for people that live in the four
6 (4) communities of the region. So that area -- that
7 area will be unusable for the people in the four (4) --
8 our communities will not use that area.

9 And it will affect us here, and also the
10 people in Yellowknife, where the Kwe -- the Rayrock --
11 Rayrock -- people in Rayrock had lived there only two
12 (2) years. And also even after two (2) years. And
13 look at -- look at the Colomac mine. They -- they did
14 -- they did the -- the remediation and reclamation now
15 that the water is back restoration. Are -- are they
16 sure -- are -- are they sure it's clean water now?

17 If you look around Rayrock, there are
18 some dead fish that are floating every now and then.
19 We've been to that area a few times just in the
20 summertime. We -- in the summer we'll go there, by
21 boats in the winter to -- day or night. We used -- we
22 go back and forth around that area.

23 If that mine is open -- if the community
24 ever grows and the White people start living in that
25 area, where are we going to -- where are we going to --

1 are we going to make our own traditional trails in that
2 area, that area that we have used over the years?

3 But thank you. So -- so people in Fort
4 Providence, Wrigley, Tulita, Deleh (phonetic). The
5 river that flows down -- the Mackenzie River. It will
6 for -- because of that mine, it will flow to here to
7 Marian Lake to Great Slave Lake up -- up the Mackenzie
8 River, will have a huge impact on the fish. But thank
9 you very much.

10

11 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

12

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Elder Joe
14 Mantla, from Gameti. Masi. I'm not sure, Richard
15 Winsen, if he's here back in the room again. I don't
16 see anybody. I'm going to move on to Richard Weyallon,
17 if he's here. No, I don't see anybody here.

18 I'm just going to continue on. I'm not
19 sure if Mary Zoe-Chocolate is back in the room. I
20 don't see anybody. I'm going to continue on to Melanie
21 Lafferty. Okay, I don't see anybody. Leon Nasken...?
22 Okay, I'm going to continue on. Jimmy John...? I
23 don't see anybody. I'm going to go on to Melanie
24 Weyallon.

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, next is Lucy
4 Lafferty. Is she here? Okay.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Let her come up. And
9 then I'll go to you, Lucy. We could bring a mic to her
10 if she doesn't want to stand up, if she's...

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 MS. MARY ZOE-CHOCOLATE: Hello.

15

16 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

17

18 MS. MARY ZOE-CHOCOLATE: This is my lan
19 -- my name is Mary Zoe-Chocolate. I put my name in to
20 speak. I -- I written -- I wanted to prepare my
21 speech, but my sister didn't help, so I'm going to do
22 from my heart.

23 That mine that's going to be opening, I
24 thought about it. When -- my parents are not with us.
25 There's nine (9) of us. There used to be eleven (11)

1 of us. And I lost my brother. No, there's eight (8)
2 of us. My parents and my grandparents, they're --
3 they're here, whether -- whether had said.

4 Well, there's more girls. There's seven
5 (7) of us -- us girls. And there's one (1) boy, nobody
6 to speak on behalf of us. My brother -- there's nobody
7 to speak for us as a family, so they told me to speak.

8 The Fortune -- Fortune Mineral Mine,
9 K'ia Goti, Hislop Lake, we were raised in that area by
10 our parents. There were small girls in our family. So
11 they sent us out to school. And my sisters -- and they
12 -- they taught us how to work on the land. And then --
13 so my parents, they sent us to school. So I kind of
14 having struggling with my language.

15 Sometimes you're sent to school this is
16 how you come back, you -- you kind of lose your
17 language. But every year my sisters -- my older
18 sisters will go back to Hislop Lake. And we don't have
19 parents. We have to share our knowledge with other
20 people. So our oldest sister teach us on the land,
21 make dry meat -- to make dry meat and to -- to know our
22 traditional way of life.

23 So we, as the Dene people, we need to be
24 strong and work on the -- on the land -- on our land.
25 If we lose our traditional, we will lose our culture.

1 I went to school in Hay River and Ft. Chipewyan area.
2 So my friends out there and McMurray, they're all
3 saying they can't hunt in that area, as we know the
4 story. And the water is going down, and that water is
5 being polluted.

6 Sometime I send some meat. If I have to
7 travel down there, bring some meat around, and my
8 friends are so happy. And I don't want to happen those
9 kinds of things to us, that we can no longer hunt for
10 our traditional food.

11 Wherever downstream that they're going
12 to be monitoring the water, it seems like what they're
13 saying is not -- is not true, because what happened
14 that -- down in Alberta with the oil sand that we
15 witness today. My sisters -- my sibling sisters can't,
16 speak so I thought I'd just say something.

17

18 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

19

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,
21 Mary Zoe-Chocolate, for your comments and statements.
22 Next I just recognized that George Mackenzie just
23 walked back into the room. So if I could get George to
24 come up and I'm going to continue to call Richard
25 Winsen and Richard Weyallon, if they're back in the

1 room, to come after George.

2 If not, I'll continue on the list.

3 George Mackenzie...?

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

8

9 MR. GEORGE MACKENZIE: Yes, thank you,
10 Mr. Chair. It's good to share information and speak to
11 the issue and also to the leaders. It will be good
12 when they face us. And it's like I'm talking on --
13 behind them, but it's okay.

14 The five (5) minutes that we are given
15 to talk, people are worried about this five (5) minutes
16 that's given. I'm worried about the water. For the
17 five (5) minutes that we're given, it's very difficult
18 to speak to the water.

19 We, the Tlicho citizens that live in the
20 four (4) communities, we have to be united. We, the
21 Tlicho people, as of today everyone is -- wants to hear
22 what the peop -- Tlicho have to say. And this land
23 claim that we have and the self-government, that's what
24 we're working towards.

25 We, as a Tlicho in -- within the four

1 (4) communities, and one of these days Wekweti will
2 probably go through the same process, even with Gameti,
3 Whati, will see a similar situation. But today,
4 Behchoko is the first one that's -- because the water
5 is flowing in our direction.

6 If one day, like other Tlicho
7 communities we will support your communities. And
8 today you, the three (3) communities, you -- you have
9 to support the Tlicho citizens of Behchoko and unite as
10 one and move forward with one -- one thing in mind.
11 And this never happened in the past. Are we going to
12 take a direction? And it's -- we don't know the
13 answer.

14 As we are talking about the water, as
15 I'm going to be talking about the -- that's the only
16 thing I'm more worried about, is the water. I'm
17 concerned about it. The water is going to be treated.
18 They're going to say -- they said that the water until
19 they -- they going to have to treat the water forever.

20 If it's -- if they're going to treat the
21 water forever, what -- what is in the water that they
22 have to treat it? The -- the reason they are saying
23 the -- they are saying that is there's contaminants in
24 the water, and that's why -- that's the reason why
25 they're going to have to treat the water forever. And

1 who's going to be fund -- who's going to fund that
2 forever? Who's going -- who's going to have funding
3 for -- for forever, to have funding for the treatment
4 of the water? Who's going to pay for that? We, the
5 Tlicho? Fortune Minerals?

6 We have to be united. Our friends -- we
7 consider each other friends. And friends, you know, as
8 -- if we consider friends, then we cooperate with one
9 another. And we don't mean to be working towards in a
10 bad faith. And this -- with this water, we have to
11 respect one another and work and cooperate together.

12 And this woman have two (2) minutes, she
13 reminded me. So if there's one (1) minute, remind me
14 for one (1) minute. And as the last thing I'm going to
15 touch upon is -- is not my words. And he said this on
16 many, many occasions. I'm talking about my dad. I was
17 -- my name is George Mackenzie. And I'm still George
18 Mackenzie. My -- my dad often said this:

19 "One of these days, on Tlicho lands,
20 if there's a mining opening up and
21 the water flowing into Behchoko,
22 what's going to take place?"

23 Right now we should start making a water
24 -- water plan from Stagg Lake. You should do that in
25 preparation of these things that are coming and we're

1 facing this. One of these days in -- our Tlicho
2 citizens in Behchoko, if we live along a polluted
3 water, what will we think? How are we going to feel?
4 And that's what I'm very worried about.

5 And, you know, the contracts we get, the
6 money we make from these contracts, I'm not worried
7 about. Those kinds of things takes place within these
8 things. But the water, how is it going to -- is it the
9 For -- Fortune Minerals at this time, are they going to
10 -- can they make a water treatment plant in Stagg Lake?
11 Are they -- can they pay for it? And for -- and who's
12 going to treat the water forever? And it's probably a
13 long time. Who has that kind of money, and who's going
14 to monitor it?

15 And that's all the time -- time that's
16 been allotted, so that's all I'm going to say. So
17 that's the time I was given. So it -- it doesn't seem
18 like we have any time. The time is ticking fast, so I
19 don't think I made a good statement. Thank you.

20

21 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, George

1 Mackenzie, former Grand Chief of the Tlicho government.
2 Masi.

3 Just to continue on, I was just -- been
4 reminded of the agenda. Continue on with community
5 public statements after lunch. At 1:00 we were going
6 to mention that there was room in there for statements
7 from women and youth of the community.

8 But I have a list here, and its kind of
9 mixed up with a little bit of everybody. But I want to
10 give this opportunity maybe of the youth that want to
11 come up and make a statement about this Nico/Fortune
12 Minerals mine.

13 If there's any youth here?

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, we have a young
18 man up here, coming up. If you could just introduce
19 yourself, and speak from your heart. Thank you.

20 MR. MARVIS MIGWHI: Hi. My name's
21 Marvis -- my name is Marvis Migwhi. And I'm qualified.
22 I -- I live in the mine -- I am qualified for the
23 mines. And I'd like to avoid this opportunity because
24 the -- there's fish -- the -- the location it's built
25 is -- is right in the middle of the Tlicho region. And

1 the territorial government, federal government, they
2 don't respect the agreements, or they don't abide each
3 agreements.

4 They just want to -- well, we -- we --
5 there's no money pouring into the Tlicho government.
6 No devolution signed. There will be no money going
7 into the Tlicho government. Governments, they don't
8 respect. There's a lot of things happening, stuff, a
9 lot of stuff is happening in our region. And the
10 territorial government, federal government, they just
11 want us to have the opportunity to -- to go ahead with
12 this plan, and they just want to hear our concerns.

13 And -- and they divided our -- our
14 agreements. What will happen -- I don't know what will
15 happen, but -- but nothing -- we will earn nothing if
16 we make this agreement. An opportunable, that's --
17 nothing -- nothing will happen for us. The money will
18 go to the rich peoples. And if -- if the opportunity
19 is there for us and they say yes, the money will go to
20 the government; 50 percent will go to the government.

21 And they use the money to -- to help
22 people. The money will travel to outside of our
23 region. And it's very dangerous for -- for this
24 opportunity, because the ranch -- the trails is near
25 the -- the mines, and they will be unusable. We are

1 going to have to avoid the trails, have to find extra
2 portage. And the agreements this -- this summer, it's
3 just to pass laws. That's all I wanted to say.

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: If you -- so that was
8 Marvis Migwhi, just for the record. I want to say
9 thank you to the young fellow for coming up and
10 expressing his views and concerns.

11 Is there any other youth from the
12 community that want to come up and make a statement
13 regarding the Nico project? Okay. I don't see anybody
14 else.

15 I'm just going to continue on. Sorry,
16 please come up. And then introduce yourself.

17 MR. ZIMI DANIELS: Good afternoon. My
18 name is Zimi Daniels. Water, a wonderful most
19 beautiful word, a life-giving word for all living
20 beings. Water provides life. Our very existence is
21 due to water. Our needs are -- as planned is that not
22 only for us as humans, but all the creations on this
23 planet.

24 We care for all the waters, especially
25 here within our Tlicho lands. We are def -- definitely

1 impacted as we are downstream from the ma -- from the
2 mine project. The North -- our North, with all the
3 lands, water and rivers and shared with the animals
4 which we have coexisted with since the beginning of
5 time.

6 Our lands and water are beautiful and
7 pure, some might say virgin lands. We always known it
8 to be normal as we travel from one place to another.
9 We could drink directly from many lakes for
10 refreshments. It was Chief Monfwi wish -- wishes to
11 live in the area due to good fishing, good water and
12 was in the middle of various routes to other important
13 areas for the Tlicho.

14 These areas include the barren lands,
15 too, as it flows towards the community of Behchoko.
16 But ever since the Canadian government created this
17 community of Behchoko, things have changed. Since
18 settling, our drinking water also changed. And we
19 started to use water plants to protect the people from
20 disease due to contam -- contaminations in the water.
21 And today, people still get sick from the water.

22 Water quality and quantity that has been
23 discussed is a southern standard. And I have grave
24 concerns as this is the one (1) of the last places
25 around the world that has water that is pure as it can

1 be.

2 Our normal -- our normal drinking water
3 from the various lakes should remain as that, normal,
4 not polluted or contaminated as many southern lakes
5 that are no longer drinkable, swimable nor fishable for
6 consumption. I want the lakes and rivers to remain
7 normal. Masi.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Just so I understand,
9 what was your -- if you don't mind, your first name
10 again? Zimi...?

11 MR. ZIMI DANIELS: Yes.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Masi, Zimi
13 Daniels. Thank you for that presentation.

14 Is there any other young people here
15 that want to come up to the mic? Please come up. And
16 then also introduce yourself, please.

17 MS. JULIA MACKENZIE: Hi. Julia
18 Mackenzie, saia (phonetic). I just wanted to talk
19 about the water. We all know that water is very
20 important. There's countries all ov -- there's
21 countries who do not have water who would love to have
22 our clean, fresh water.

23 Ten (10) years, fifteen (15) years from
24 now, what is our water going to look like? If we
25 pollute our water where are we going to get our water

1 from? I don't agree with this mine. We have a lot of
2 mines that we can look onto.

3 Without this mine, Tlicho government
4 will still prevail. We will still succeed if we do not
5 open this mine. We should think about that. We should
6 think about all the kids that are in this school right
7 now learning. It's about them. I work in the schools,
8 so every -- I always think about kids first. What
9 would our kids do when they're sick? I don't know
10 about you but I can't see a kid sick. It really gets
11 to your heart when you see a kid with a runny nose, or
12 the kid's eyes are low. It just really gets to your
13 heart.

14 So if our water is polluted, how are we
15 going to make them better? Right now there's a lot of
16 sores in our community in the Tlicho region, and its
17 our water that has to clean it and fix it and heal it.
18 Water...

19

20 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

21

22 MS. JULIE MACKENZIE: Without the
23 water, what are we going to do.

24

25 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

1 MS. JULIE MACKENZIE: Everything comes
2 from water. (NATIVE LANGUAGE SPOKEN) it all comes from
3 water. When I listen to this water hearing it scares
4 me.

5

6 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

7

8 MS. JULIE MACKENZIE: We're scared
9 about the cancer.

10

11 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

12

13 MS. JULIE MACKENZIE: Masi. That's all
14 I wanted to say.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,
19 Julie Mackenzie.

20 Is there any other young people that
21 want to come up and speak? Please come up, and then
22 also introduce yourself, please.

23 MS. ALICE ZOE-CHOCOLATE: They said
24 speak from your heart, so I'm going to tell you what I
25 feel about this -- this mine that they want to open up.

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THE CHAIRPERSON: Just --

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MS. ALICE ZOE-CHOCOLATE: Oh, my name

is Alice Zoe-Chocolate. I'm -- my grandfather is

Jeremiah Zoe-Chocolate, and my dad is Johnny Zoe-

Chocolate. And Hislop Lake is called Got'tia

(phonetic) in Tlicho.

Since I was little, like as long as I

can remember, every year we're there all winter long

until everything starts to melt, and we have to go back

to Behchoko. And my family, my grandpa, my

grandparents were there. My -- my parents, and up

until my dad got sick in 1999 -- '90 he passed away,

and that's when I stopped going there because there's

no one to take my family out there.

And then so I resided in Behchoko. And

so -- and now I got two (2) little boys. They're --

let's see, Gary Issac Zoe-Chocolate, he's three (3).

And I've got another little boy, his name's Ibay

Jeremiah Johnny Zoe-Chocolate (phonetic), and he's six

(6) years old. And as soon as they're strong enough

and able enough, I really want to bring them out there.

And I have plans for them to be out there in Got'tia.

And -- and I hear they're -- they're saying all these

wonderful things about the water. They're saying, Oh,

1 we're going to clean it, it's going to be okay and --
2 but it's not going to be okay.

3 There's -- there's chemicals they're
4 going to use to separate all the minerals, and that
5 chemical once it goes into the water, it's -- it's
6 irreversible. There's -- there's a lot of water out
7 there. And not one (1) persons in this room can --
8 like if we go without water for like five (5) days,
9 that's it. We're not going to make it. Like we'll die
10 without water.

11 And there's another thing is cancer.
12 The stuff. If we drink the water that's contaminated
13 people can get cancer, and -- (NATIVE LANGUAGE SPOKEN),
14 that's what we call cancer. And because there's been
15 so many mining, like Rayrock, and all our fathers,
16 grandfathers, uncles, brothers, they -- before like
17 they worked out there. My dad worked out in the
18 Rayrock, and they don't -- like, they trusted the
19 companies, you know, for their well-being to dig out
20 that uranium, or -- and then now they're passed away.

21 So -- but I just want to say I oppose of
22 this mine. And even if they talk really -- they're
23 going to follow all these contingency plans and all
24 these -- it's -- it's only for a little while until
25 their wallet grows big enough for them to retire and

1 turn their backs and walk away. That's -- that's
2 usually what the idea is, you work until you can -- you
3 don't need to work any more.

4 But you know, what are my kids going to
5 -- like, they're going to have kids and it's down the
6 future, down the line and if they put the mine there,
7 where am I going to go, like, am I going to go around
8 the mine? And, you know, it's just, I don't -- I just
9 wanted to say I oppose of it, that's it. Thank you.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: That was Alice Zoe-
11 Chocolate, Masi. Is there any youth that still want to
12 come up, that may be in the audience, please come up
13 and introduce yourself please.

14 MR. DARREN DENNIS: Hello, my name is
15 Darren Dennis. I have -- in the past all the creatures
16 and Tlicho ancestors did not care for profits or wealth
17 but the nutrients that will sustain them to live and to
18 thrive. A place on the land that has plenty of food,
19 water and shelter, that has changed as we Tlicho have
20 adopted to the modern way. A colonial way of living
21 seeking wealth, at the same time trying to balance our
22 responsibilities to protect, not destroy, what we have
23 long fraught for our land. We must protect the land of
24 our ancestors and for our children's future.

25 Today I think back about what our

1 ancestors have said, "in the future money will divide
2 us." I see this happening now as the industries and
3 governments are using our own people for their own
4 purposes.

5 This is a one time, one-shot deal, if it
6 does open to become a mine, the minerals will forever
7 be removed from the area leaving our sacred scarce that
8 completely no benefit from that location for our future
9 generations to come.

10 This would be the only time to state
11 that we must and will benefit the most, if not more, or
12 just bank this mine for a future project. There will
13 be impacts, not just in this mine site area but along
14 the purpose roads, ponds and lakes. Proposed roads.

15 The proposal is to bring a European
16 society into the heart of the Tlicho land and thinking
17 it will not effect our own society is totally nonsense
18 as there could be huge social impact on the duration of
19 the mine.

20 Mines from the past, like Elders pass of
21 thinking of all the sickness that has happened before
22 will come back. The mine is all about money. What if
23 it goes -- goes to hell and it goes irreversible? We
24 will be affected while you will be able to go home and
25 we will be left with the damages. You could be making

1 a mine and just selling it to someone else and make
2 money while we have to go deal with the new people and
3 you'll be hiring people from down south cause there's
4 not much people with experience or qualifications
5 living in the Tlicho land.

6 This road that -- winter land road,
7 Whati would be affected as well. The roads that would
8 lead to Whati and the mine during winter, the wildlife
9 would get affected because they're natural roads they
10 go on. There could be hazards or spills that could
11 occur by vehicles transporting. There could be air
12 pollution that could affect everyone, even birds won't
13 be able to migrate there. The water would be affected
14 and you could cure it but it causes more chemicals to
15 cure and if there's no mine then nothing will happen.
16 There would be no damages or any pollution. Masi.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Darren Dennis
18 for your statement.

19 Is there any other young people, youth
20 in the community or in the hall here that want to come
21 up and say a few words? Yes, please come up. I've got
22 one here, then one over here. Introduce yourself,
23 please.

24 MR. DENI DANIELS: Okay. My name is
25 Deni Daniels and my comments are impacts on the land.

1 I see this purposed mine the same way I see any man and
2 woman. They are fully responsible for the impacts on
3 our environment including our way of life. The change
4 to the landscape will for -- forever impact the
5 animal's behaviour, impact the fishes, impact the
6 quality and quantity of the water on the lakes and
7 rivers. Impac -- Impacts to our culture activities,
8 are these above mentioned, would create a domino
9 affect; meaning, one will affect the other and keep
10 affecting the next and the next and so on.

11 These days corporations and companies
12 are held responsible and should not take away blame
13 from individuals should anything wrong happen to people
14 and to the environment.

15 Projects like this, these mines, are
16 actions of people and those people need to be held
17 accountable for their actions. If this project goes
18 ahead, it should be independent monitors on an ongoing
19 basis for the life of the mine. This would be the
20 right thing to do.

21 Well our ancestors -- ancestors have
22 said, this land is our bark, you can work on the land
23 to make an income which is true. They also said, This
24 land is like our freezer, you can hunt for food,
25 including fish, which is also true. We have all the --

1 all the Monfwi tradition on our land as a bank and
2 freezer but the air -- areas is located within Wekweti,
3 right in the heart of Tlicho land.

4 Our ancestors have spilled their blood
5 for these lands and waters. Our ancestors have hunted
6 and lived here and we continue to travel in their
7 footsteps. Our ancestors are buried here in our lands.
8 They have strong ties to the area as we are aware of
9 the place's names. They had a close relationship with
10 the nature as many stories have been told and passed
11 on.

12 We can not just let anyone come in and
13 do as they please unless they are invited and welcomed
14 by us and we are always been here on our traditional
15 lands. We had never travelled out of our territory to
16 claim what is not ours to claim. Masi cho.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you to Denny
18 Daniels. It's really good to hear from the young people
19 and it's good that you speak from your heart. I think
20 that's always been said by Elders, if you're going to
21 speak, speak from here. So I am really glad to hear
22 what you have to say. Masi.

23 I believe I got another young lady up
24 here, if she could come up an -- and make your
25 statement please and just introduce yourself for the

1 record.

2 MS. JANET RABESCA: Hi, my name is
3 Janet Rabesca. I come from Behchoko as well. I am --
4 I live on Bay Island. Majority of the people on Bay
5 Island are descendants of Marian Lake. The old Marian
6 Lake Village which is one of the cru -- crucial
7 passages that our people use to commute as we are
8 nomadic people.

9 I too, can speak my language fairly
10 well, I too, come from a traditional family. So I will
11 speak a little bit of both as the language barriers is
12 not -- some pronunciations in the modern terms are not
13 the same.

14

15 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO TO ENGLISH)

16

17 MS. JANET RABESCA: Maybe you guys
18 everyone knows me, (NATIVE LANGUAGE SPOKEN) they call
19 me. Johnny Cho (phonetic) that's one that raised me.
20 Jamie Gong (phonetic) were -- a lot of people had
21 stayed in Merlin Lake. My Elders and people that have
22 -- that had travel like an animal but today we're
23 talking about water and talk -- and here the young
24 people have spoken.

25 We had worked well for the Fortune men

1 but I can't speak behalf of them and I can't speak
2 behalf of the leadership like Tlicho, but how I feel
3 from my heart. I speak from my heart.

4 This thing is true, the water is pure,
5 fresh water. We were raised well by our parents and
6 our grandparents. We're taught well. We had respect.

7

8 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

9

10 MS. JANET RABESCA: I'm going to
11 speaking a little bit personal about the water and Nico
12 and the terms of language. So it'll be a little bit
13 over. You have -- you can cut me off if you want.

14 But from the time that I was small I too
15 have grown up nomadic. We were raised nomadic. I have
16 a brother here that's sitting in the audience that has
17 grew up along the river, so has all my uncles, my
18 family, Harry Apples, Charlie Football, Joe Rabesca,
19 Victor Rabesca, we are all descendants of the river.

20 And I too -- we have a cabin next to Joe
21 Mantla at the old Marian Lake village; that's my
22 grandfather's -- my dad's camp. We have also
23 throughout our life -- lifetime have commuted on the
24 Marian River, which has no name, what is the confluence
25 of the Whati River and the Marian River. In my

1 language that's called (NATIVE LANGUAGE SPOKEN).

2 And all the way onwards up to Labridge

3 (phonetic), which is Nicato (phonetic) they call it.

4 As an undergraduate environmental student, as well as a

5 person that has first hand grew up with my language, I

6 said I would speak a little bit of both. From the time

7 that we are small, I'm probably one (1) of the youngest

8 girls to speak my Marian Lake dialect and I still

9 maintain that. I still try to maintain as the girl --

10 as the women to do whatever I can to live my culture,

11 my values, my life.

12 My whole life depends on this area. I

13 will probably grow old here. But the water is the

14 utmost important. They say even in school all the

15 countries talk about water at a local level, national

16 level, global level.

17 We were always taught by our Elders that

18 everything has a spirit, has a mind, and the -- the

19 essence, the spirituality will never go away, but the

20 water, we've always been raised making an offering to

21 the water. You speak to the water like you speak to

22 your own family, you give it thanks, as it is a

23 necessity of life.

24 Now in school, ten (10)/fifteen (15)

25 years later we're talking about environmental

1 intelligence, that everything has a life, water has a
2 life. You talk to the plants, you talk to the water,
3 you talk to life as though you're talking to your own
4 family. Everything has feelings, even rocks. And the
5 Marian Lake River watershed is the last freshest water
6 lake shed in the north. It's the last where our people
7 have come across, mushed, sled, pulled all the way up
8 to the Arctic watershed.

9 All the surrounding rivers, Fort
10 Providence, Dehcho, all the oil waters from all the way
11 up to Fort Chip to Fort McMurray. It's all -- we're
12 only -- the Marian Lake River is the freshest that we
13 have. That's all we have.

14 And everybody is confused. I'm not
15 putting down Tlicho government, but everything has a
16 name. From all my experience with in -- interpreting,
17 my whole life I grew up with my language. And to have
18 such language -- to have Nico referred to as one (1)
19 language as poison, for me that's not good enough.
20 Just like in the room that you sit here, you think it's
21 a room. All the copper in the room is being mined
22 somewhere. The brass is being mined somewhere. Even I
23 love the colour pink. Is that not mined somewhere?
24 I'm sure our Elders love the colour
25 blue. Is the colour blue not mined anywhere? How

1 about all the pills that we take? Tylenol, everything,
2 is being somewhere else. Siaf wun edee (phonetic).
3 What gives us the right?

4

5 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

6

7 MS. JANET RABESCA: I would think that
8 you'd like the colour pe -- colour pink. It's good.
9 The colour blue, everything is mined. Even Tylenol,
10 it's all -- each and every one (1) of the Aspirin, it's
11 come from the mine. It comes from the mother earth but
12 sometimes we don't even think about it while we speak.

13 Everything that we see, it comes from
14 the mine. When we talk about the Fo -- Fortune
15 Minerals, you're talking about one (1) thing. If
16 you're going to talk about the Fortune Minerals, it
17 would be hard and difficult to talk about. And -- and
18 also of how an illness is going to affect us and also
19 how the river is going to flow, how it's going to
20 impact on the fish and so forth. If we're going to
21 talk about, it's very hard and difficult.

22 For the last fifteen (15) years, they've
23 been doing a lot of study. To -- to me, sometimes I
24 find it amazing. Sometimes you have to do your own
25 study to do your own research. The -- we all talk

1 about Tlicho company, we continue. We're talking about
2 aboriginal engineers at Tlicho company. Tlicho
3 Logistics is the -- is the aboriginal owned company.

4 And also when you talk -- now even your
5 language has changed over the years of how you re -- do
6 you -- how to read and write in your language. It
7 changes of how you speak. We're not here -- we're not
8 here to say anything negative, to -- to speak, but here
9 we are speaking from our heart. But for the last four
10 (4) -- the last three (3) years, I -- we worked for
11 them all summer. And nothing had -- they had never
12 refused of anything.

13

14 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

15

16 MS. JANET RABESCA: I am optimistic. I
17 am not happy, as I explained to the -- my people. That
18 is the last watershed that we have. I am optimistic
19 about the lack of employment in our community, the lack
20 of education, because as far as I've seen, all the
21 people have been trained for is truck driving. How
22 many truck driving operators do we have? In the
23 hundreds, maybe? Maybe a simple office admin?

24 We will always rely on the non-natives.
25 Always rely on people...

1 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

2

3 MS. JANET RABESCA: We always rely on
4 the white people. We always rely on other people to do
5 things for us. And -- and also each and every one of
6 them, they're the ones that do everything. Sometimes
7 it's hard to work on your own resume, because we're not
8 properly educated.

9

10 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

11

12 MS. JANET RABESCA: I have so much to
13 say. I have so many things to express, but for the
14 last few years, I've been trying to get in my little
15 two (2) cents. It's not easy not having a scientific
16 background. It's not easy explaining to the people
17 about the modern changes and the -- with the go with
18 the flow.

19 With everything else, we have to learn
20 to adapt. We have to learn today. But I thank you,
21 Fortune Mineral guys, for not restricting me to go out
22 on my hiking trips, to go on my hunting trips. You
23 have never, ever discouraged me in my outings. I'm not
24 for the mine. I'm not against it. I'm neutral,
25 confused, just as anybody else. But this is what I

1 wanted to tell my people from the community. This is
2 what I wanted to express, but that's not enough time
3 for me.

4 But you guys personally are good guys,
5 but for the watershed, that's another thing that we
6 have to learn to adapt with to go with just like
7 anyplace else, any other place, any other town, any
8 other city, any other county. And there's a lot to be
9 learned. There's a lot to be said regarding training,
10 adapting to all the changes, adapting to our culture.
11 Even within our own languages.

12 Even me in my language has shifted
13 because of the linguistics but I try to do the very
14 best to keep my spirituality, my beliefs, and just stay
15 at a neutral and hope that everything will good -- go
16 good. But for employment purposes, whether it goes
17 through, whether it doesn't go through, I hope that
18 everything will be monitored and kept as said. So my
19 five (5) minutes is up, and that's all I wanted to say.
20 Masi cho.

21

22 (BRIEF PAUSE)

23

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I want to
25 go to the next young speaker. Just say your name for

1 the record.

2 MR. GARY WEDAWIN: Gary Wedawin, from
3 Behchoko but I was raised in Ataha (phonetic).

4

5 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

6

7 MR. GARY WEDAWIN: I can probably stand
8 there in the middle where the...

9

10 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

11

12 MR. GARY WEDAWIN: Our land, water,
13 wildlife, ...

14

15 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

16

17 MR. GARY WEDAWIN: I grew up in --
18 along the river with Jeremy and Phillip Chocolate. I
19 grew up, and those people are not here with us today.
20 They passed on. Some of the Elders you see -- if the
21 water is contaminated, look at the children in the
22 school. We're -- we're doing this for them.

23 But as for today, I've never stand in
24 front of people before but I've written a letter but --
25 so -- it's so to -- told us to speak from the heart.

1 We have a heart and we have a mind to think, but as for
2 Fortune Minerals, the water flows into -- in our way.
3 The water is not flowing to Gameti, Whati, or Wekweeti.
4 Us, we -- the water flows in our area.

5 What's going to happen if the water is
6 contaminated? The water might bring illness to --
7 there's a lot of cancer that's related, illness in Fort
8 McMurray area, and there's -- I have a friend when --
9 while I was attending school down south, and my parents
10 passed away at fifty (50) years; that's what my friend
11 said. And because of the water, contaminated water.

12 But we who are living here, maybe we
13 have three (3) or four (4) mines on our land and those
14 are for the Aboriginal -- you -- you see -- oh, we're
15 going to hire Aboriginals, but it's only labour
16 positions. And we have grade -- grade 12 graduates, we
17 have grade 12 -- us -- we have -- and it's good for the
18 employment. We have to keep on trying. If you don't
19 have a grade 12 education, there's people that go back
20 to school to attain their grade 12.

21 But three (3) mines that I work, they
22 have tailings ponds, and it overflows and the water
23 would contaminate. And the mines would cover up their
24 -- when I was working at the mine there was a stream
25 flowing to -- there was -- and then we're going to

1 cover it up with a road. And that's what they -- they
2 do. So everything -- all the tailings ponds would --
3 there's melting of the winter ice, and also the rain.

4 But Mackenzie Valley Water Board and all
5 the Board members here, the Chiefs, the Fortune
6 Minerals, I'm almost forty (40), and my son is almost
7 fifteen (15). If -- what's -- what's going to happen
8 to me if I drink the water and the water is
9 contaminate? It's -- it's no good that -- we have to
10 think about these things.

11 The water is flowing in our way, and
12 there's a lot of people -- because of the polluted
13 water in the Rayrock area, my grandparents along the
14 river... And at the end of Marian Lake, all these
15 Elders that were alive, they would oppose this. And
16 why are they talking about these kind of things.
17 That's what they would say.

18 There's a lot of employment today. And
19 -- and as my mom told -- talked -- just recently I went
20 trapping with my brother. And we make lots of money
21 with trapping and hunting. If we help one another and
22 if we work together and if we're strong, they say that
23 we're strong like two (2) people. If we work together
24 we're stronger. That's what's being said.

25 But the mine, I don't want it open

1 because if something happens to me and something
2 happens to my youth, my son... Look at Elders.
3 There's not very many Elders among us. There's mostly
4 young people. When the BHP began they talk about IBA
5 (phonetic). We could ask for lots of money but all
6 these Elders that you see -- there -- everything was
7 being paid for them. But today, Fortune Minerals is
8 doing a similar thing.

9 Money...if they give -- offer me money I
10 would refuse it because the water flows in our area.
11 And al -- also, in -- we have a cabin. And also,
12 there's other cabins along the river route. And
13 there's their families. People go back in that area
14 and still go trapping, hunting and also from Whati they
15 use the river stream. But once the federal -- Fortune
16 Mineral opens up, there's going to be -- there's --
17 once they build the all-weather road, it'll be
18 simplified to travel back and forth and bring alcohol
19 and drugs. And with talking to my -- from my heart, I
20 think about these things.

21 I used to work with -- I used to -- in
22 biology class I -- I was -- we were cutting up the frog
23 -- why they use -- why -- how did -- how did he do it
24 fast. I just took it right easy. And you're not
25 scared. Well, my grandparents grew me up. That's how

1 we used to work with the fish. And that's why I'm
2 capable of doing...

3 But all the people that are given the
4 opportunity, young generation. And there's -- there's
5 no youth -- if they told the school probably the
6 students will be coming here and speaking to the
7 issues. So we the -- and there's a lot of people that
8 pass away because of the contaminants along the river.

9 And, also, Fred Battel, (phonetic) from
10 Deline, his grandfather's name is Aya, (phonetic) told
11 him when he was a young man -- young boy, there's lots
12 of people going to be coming on our land because of the
13 water, because of the pristine of water within Canada,
14 we -- there's three (3) lakes. There's three (3) Great
15 Lakes in Canada, the Superior Lake and Great Bear Lake
16 and Great Slave Lake.

17 So if we open up the mining, then people
18 might not survive that long. We only survive with
19 water, so -- so. I can probably sing for you, but
20 there's not very many Elders. There's more youth and
21 young -- young people. Although we try to attain
22 employment, there's three (3) mines that are operating
23 right now. Maybe our leaders go to -- maybe they can
24 bring down the education level for the -- they never --
25 when -- when they first started off with mining

1 companies, the three (3) diamond mining companies, they
2 didn't wanted criminal checks, licence.

3 And today, if they -- they want
4 education. They want the licence. And they want their
5 -- and -- and it takes three (3) years to do a pardon
6 just to -- it'd be good to think there's lots of people
7 that passed away because of the water. And if you see
8 the young children here, what will happen if they
9 consume water? Look at Fort McMurray. A lot of people
10 and also in China, and -- and talk -- talk about the
11 different colours. There's a lot of people that die
12 from these kind of contaminated waters.

13 So just let it sit for a while and think
14 about it. And do a good presentation to the public.
15 And then that way -- but if we just go at it just like
16 that, what's going to happen? And they're going to
17 give out -- and it was our aboriginal people will look
18 at the Tlicho. There's only non-aboriginal people
19 working there. Tlicho -- it just takes -- you can't
20 get a job there, because there's white men that's in
21 control in those areas.

22 You know, I'm a Tlicho. I'm -- I have
23 grade 12. I have class 1. Oh, we don't have no job.
24 And this guy, white guy is standing beside me. They --
25 they offered him the job. If we face one another and

1 respect one another, but if we don't work good
2 together, then we'll be put down. But as for today,
3 that's all I can say. Think about it.

4

5 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

6

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: As I invite up young
8 speakers to come up to speak, we're going to -- again,
9 the agenda has it up to three o'clock. So then I'm
10 going to go back to the list of orders I have. But at
11 the same time, I think it's -- it's only appropriate
12 that the speakers come up if they could just either
13 speak at the mic or sit at a table.

14 But if the Elders want to come up to
15 speak then I encourage them to just maybe stay in one
16 (1) spot, because they've got to address the -- the
17 Board members. And they can look at the audience and
18 that as well, but I -- it's the Board members that have
19 to really listen really hard and make their notes and
20 comments as well.

21 So I want to ask, is there any other
22 young youth that are out there that want to come up and
23 speak and make comments in regards to the -- the Nico
24 project environmental assessment? And this is the
25 public hearing to do that, so this is the one (1) time

1 we have. So is there any other young people that want
2 to come up? And if you could just introduce yourself,
3 please?

4

5 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

6

7 MS. MARY JANE DANIELS: My name is Mary
8 Jane Daniels. My parents Lucy and John is Zoe-
9 Chocolate. My great grandpa that raised Jamie
10 (phonetic) and Elizabeth Lacourt (phonetic) are the
11 ones that raised me. At -- at Hislop Lake, that's
12 where they -- from ever since I remember until my
13 grandfather can't work any more. So they live here
14 year round and there's always people visiting and
15 stopping by to eat, to sleep. And we have fish and also
16 caribou meat. And the one they harvest in that area is
17 plentiful. And there's a lot of people that respected
18 that. And all the people -- and most of the people in
19 this room, then nobody will say they -- they see me put
20 the plate down. Sometimes there's no room in the -- in
21 the cabin -- within the cabin.

22 I'm kind of nervous and shaking because
23 I never spoke in front of people before. And also the
24 cabin, what my mom has said. When I was born, that's
25 when they completed the cabin. Until today, I still

1 continue to use the cabin with -- I have five (5)
2 children. Along with my husband, we go in that area
3 and on March break, people go down south. Me and my
4 family and my children where my grandparents -- that's
5 where and I walk in their footprint.

6 Me and my husband, we teach our children
7 how we can go trapping, how we can survive on the land.
8 How we can make fire in the morning. We teach them all
9 these things and if they can continue that, that's why
10 we're -- we want them to continue that after we're
11 gone, and that's why we're teaching them.

12 And today the mining companies -- the
13 mining -- Fortune Minerals that wants to be open,
14 what's going to happen in the future? We're talking on
15 behalf of our children. There's going to be
16 contaminates that's going to pollute the land. What's
17 going to happen? How are they going to survive out on
18 the land once the water or the land is contaminate?

19 We travel in that area. We sit -- knit
20 gill nets. It keeps our children. We make a hole in
21 the ice and put the gill nets under the ice, and then
22 tomorrow morning we check our nets. And when we catch
23 fish because the -- before we want to take out the fish
24 while it's still alive, and we clean the fish. And
25 that's how -- we teach these things to our children.

1 So annually we go back to the cabin in
2 March. And although sometimes my husband don't have
3 time off, so, at times when he doesn't have -- when
4 we're there sometimes my husband will come to Behchoko
5 to go meet -- attend meetings but still I stay out
6 there on the land at the cabin with my children.

7 My younger brother while -- while he was
8 working out on the land, he passed away while he was
9 walk --working out on the land; that's where he passed
10 away, within that area. And that -- that land is very
11 important to us. A lot of people -- and survive on the
12 land within that area. And when they talking about the
13 mine, once it's open the water that flows in our
14 direction, the water is going to be polluted, all the
15 wildlife, all the -- will be ruined.

16 And also as of today, the Rayrock, the
17 water has been contaminate, and there's a lot of people
18 that passed away from that because of the illness it
19 created. And it's true when they say that. As of
20 today there's -- when we take the wat -- when we take
21 water from the Rayrock area, would you drink it today?
22 It's -- it's -- people are fearful of drinking water
23 from the shore.

24 To -- they buy water from the store
25 everyday, bottled water. If we didn't treat the water

1 it's very -- we don't know if the water is clean but --
2 but we can't -- we're fearful of drinking the water as
3 it is. There's -- people get sick. There's -- people
4 get sick when they drink the water, they're stomach
5 ulcers, and also their throat, and also -- all the
6 Tlicho citizens with -- there's stomach problem within
7 our -- maybe it's because of the water. We don't know
8 about it. Maybe we'll get our throat -- problem with
9 our throat -- as of today I have problem with my
10 throat. It's probably not only me. Maybe there's a
11 lot of people in similar situation.

12 As -- my grandparents save me, and I've
13 seen it. I work along with them, and there's many
14 people that are in the -- in here, I work very well
15 with my grandparents. They have no -- no children, so
16 wherever my grandfather working I help him. And at the
17 end of Marian Lake -- around Marian Lake all the way to
18 Rayrock the river flows over there, and we had lived
19 around the Rayrock area. In -- in the summer, my -- my
20 grandfather used to live around Rayrock area. In the
21 wintertime he goes to Hislop Lake, and he -- below on
22 the main river he will go for muskrat.

23 And also in the springtime -- in the --
24 in the month of -- in the month of May we go to Marian
25 Village. We used to live there year round. Go to

1 Behchoko for -- for the few months just to spend the
2 winter. Go back to Dettah above the Marian River. And
3 -- and all winter long -- we used to live around the
4 Hislop Lake year round. Whenever we get visitors from
5 down the stream, people used to go there to feed
6 people. This is how my grandfather -- that's -- and
7 also there were quite a number of people who have a lot
8 of campsites in that area. But as of today -- with my
9 kids today every year I go there to teach them our
10 traditional val -- values. Even after I pass on, the
11 knowledge that I pass on, my -- my little ones will be
12 able to use it.

13 It's something I wanted to share at this
14 time, thank you very much for listening -- to listen to
15 our concerns with all these mix of people here today.
16 Yes, we -- and then also you -- you know, we're not
17 going to -- we're -- we're -- you are saying you are
18 being knowledgeable on the white man's way but it's not
19 right. I was brought up our traditional values. This
20 is how they had survived out on the land. That
21 knowledge was passed on to -- to us and we still use
22 it.

23 And there -- this -- in terms of
24 farming, we can't grow anything in terms of farming.
25 Down south, people can -- can do farming, grow -- grow

1 things. But over here it is not like that. If our
2 land is ever contaminated or polluted, how can we
3 survive? This area is cold, it's not a farming area.
4 Once you leave, you leave your home. You go out on the
5 land. You can -- you can eat any kind of wild --
6 wildlife if you go hunting for it. Down south, you --
7 and also -- and also now the food, the store bought
8 food are brought up to us; some of them there are
9 contaminants on it.

10 But if our area is ever polluted, how
11 can we survive? What can we do? There will be nothing
12 here for us. It -- it is something that I've been
13 concerned and worried about it. It's something I want
14 to share with you at this time. Masi cho.

15

16 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

17

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mary Jane
19 Daniels. Masi.

20 Is there any -- any more youth of the
21 community from the Tlicho region or Behchoko that want
22 to come up and say any more words? If I don't see any
23 young people then I was going to go back to the list.

24 We have a young lady in the back. If
25 you'd just come to the mic and introduce yourself,

1 please?

2

3 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

4

5 MS. ALICE MANTLA: Yes, hello, my name
6 is Alice Mantla. Alice Mantla. The mine that we're
7 talking about that's going to -- about to open. But
8 that it -- we have a lot of mine that is open in our
9 area. Since the effective date, since the government -
10 - there are quite a number of money, quite a bit of
11 money that we are making. We do not really know what's
12 going on. They are going to meetings. We do not know,
13 but then the Tlicho government says the effective date.

14 People that live in the four (4)
15 communities, they are the government. There -- it's up
16 to the people. The ones that are elected are -- they
17 are just like the bookkeepers for us. That's the way
18 they are supposed to look at the people, but it's not
19 like that.

20 The water we're talking about -- the
21 water we're talking about is a very important resource
22 that we're talking about. Water is very important.
23 You look around. You look around the states and the
24 other countries. People -- there's a flood and so
25 forth. And also, we're thinking about our little ones.

1 Look -- look at this -- so the -- the little ones that
2 are in school as we -- because water is -- we have all
3 kinds of illness. But while I sit here, I am -- I am a
4 diabetic, but I want to go home, give myself a needle.
5 I am a diabetic as well, so that's what I want to do.

6 My late dad -- my late dad Shetamutwa
7 (phonetic), money don't die. But people, once they're
8 gone, there's something you can think about. Think
9 about your grandkids, their gr -- and your kids. But
10 the -- the little ones that are expecting, some of them
11 are -- some of them are born with deforms. Like one of
12 them, my kids, my -- my daughter, has two thumbs. Had
13 -- had been deformed. What's going to happen now?
14 Because it's something to -- you guys should think
15 about. Money don't die, that's what my dad had said.
16 But people once they pass on, they will be gone
17 forever.

18 Now we have a lot of money, but we're
19 not really benefiting. The -- the leaders are
20 benefiting it, and we're not. We're not. So whenever
21 we talk about money, we -- we should benefit -- benefit
22 from it but that's not -- maybe that should change.

23 But I think when the mine is going to
24 open, I do not want that mine to go ahead because I'm
25 thinking about my -- my kids and my grandkids. And all

1 -- and also the -- all kinds of illness. There are
2 quite a number of people now that -- my -- my older
3 brother is in Edmonton as we speak.

4 Elizabeth Michelle (phonetic) is there
5 very ill, and also my other brother has diagnosed with
6 cancer in Edmonton as we speak. Is something you can
7 think about. The self-government issue, the self
8 govern -- people have elected for the -- the self
9 government. I am a self -- I am a government. But --
10 and also the leaders that are up there, they're
11 supposed to be there whenever we talk to them. And
12 just like they -- they don't like us, and it's just
13 like we're a little fearful. It shouldn't be like
14 that. That's all I have for now at this time. Masi
15 cho.

16

17 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

18

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Alice
20 Mantla. Masi.

21 Before I go to my list for speaking
22 again, and according to the agenda I'm still -- I'm
23 still taking statements from -- from women and youth
24 from the community up to three o'clock, so is there
25 anybody else that want to come up from the youth from

1 the community that want to make statements in regards
2 to this project?

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, we do have
7 another lady up here. If you could just introduce
8 yourself, please, for the record.

9 MS. JOLINE HUSKEY: Hi. The way I'm
10 going to introduce my -- history of who I am and where
11 I come from. First of all, my name is Joline Huskey.
12 I'm the granddaughter of Liza and Harry Quina
13 (phonetic), the daughter of Eva and Eddy Quina, and the
14 wife of Peter Huskey.

15 I introduce myself this way so that you
16 know which family I come from, and also to speak about
17 our family history of what I know, and getting them
18 from -- also getting that information from my aunt.
19 Our family and the Tlicho people continue to use and
20 occupy the lands also share a deep sincere relationship
21 with the land environment, and especially with the
22 water as water is life.

23 Our Elders had taught us to respect the
24 land by giving offers -- offerings, prayers. In return
25 we were blessed by -- by a moose, food, medicine,

1 weather, and all that the land provides.

2 I did a -- for those of you I did a six
3 pager power -- PowerPoint presentation. The first
4 slide shows -- you can't really see it but it shows of
5 how our ancestors used to travel on the Marian River
6 with a birch bark canoe, and my family did do that
7 along that river. And it was talked about. The land
8 is like the heart. The Tli -- the central, like being
9 the heart of Tlilcho lands where it's going to be
10 impacted.

11 I don't know why I'm nervous. I haven't
12 -- anyways, I'm going to carry on. The stories that
13 I've gotten from our Elders like being -- the Elders
14 that I work with as part of my job, I've learned the
15 knowledge and respect for the land. The way I see what
16 was given to me by the Elders is -- the way I see and
17 understand the teachings that I have gotten is, we view
18 the land -- we view life as an inner relationship with
19 nature. Landscape, animals, people are all connected
20 like the past is connected with the present.

21 My family has a history along Marian
22 river, we are just one (1) vessel, one (1) vein of the
23 river. My concern is that water, about the water, and
24 about how it's going to be treated. My understanding
25 is that it's going to be treated forever. Without it,

1 we will not survive. Our history, our culture and our
2 way of life will be all gone.

3 The way I see it is that we're just
4 going to be living by the history books and not
5 continuing practicing our culture and our way of life.

6 The purpose of settling land claims and
7 self government is for protecting our way of life and
8 our identity as Tlicho people. I -- I am a thirty-
9 eight (38) years old, I have six (6) children and when
10 we hear our Elders speak, they talk about the youth and
11 how it's important to preserve our way of life for our
12 youth and to continue to provide and practice those
13 traditions that we learn from them.

14 I too, have six (6) children I want to
15 pass on traditions and knowledge that I've gotten from
16 our youth, from our Elders and our community. I'm
17 really grateful to have known Therese and Louie Zoe.
18 One of the Elders from Gamati who had taught me when I
19 was working with them about respect for the land, about
20 the offering and about how the land feeds you.

21 Here's a photo of my late grandfather
22 Harry and my late grandmother, Liza. This is another
23 old picture that I found in the archives of my
24 grandparents, how they used to live in the bush along
25 the Marian River. And how we would still continue to

1 practice those but not living in that type of condition
2 but to still pass on the cultural and knowledge that we
3 learned.

4 And this is my grandmother Liza also
5 gutting or preparing dry fish for the season,
6 harvesting that they do along the river.

7 And this is another slide where a birch
8 bark was used to canoe along the river of Marian River
9 waters.

10 And this last slide, I found it putting
11 it together is very important to me. It shows Tlicho
12 lands and the water flow. I also put in there a hand
13 and a heart. And you see the drips at the bottom of
14 the heart, it's your squeezing the life out of the
15 land. It's like our heart, that's what we fought so
16 hard for.

17 It's hard for me to understand putting
18 forth money, like, some of the youth before me that
19 spoke talked about it's our freezer, it's our bank,
20 it's our life, that's who make us the people who we are
21 today as Tlicho people. There's not very many of us
22 that would want to continue or should be continuing our
23 way of life on the land.

24 I have six (6) children, I have five (5)
25 boys and one (1) girl. And I hope to practice my

1 traditions as my grandfathers, my grandmothers, my
2 ancestors did on the land. And I wish to do so in the
3 future -- now and in the future. As I learn from my
4 Elders sitting behind me that they pass on those
5 knowledge as a tool for me to learn and that's just
6 part of my presentation and I don't feel that we're
7 ready to go ahead with mining. That's my concern.
8 Masi Cho.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Jolene
10 Husky, Masi. Thank you for your presentation.

11 Before we're -- we're going to break at
12 three o'clock for coffee, but is there anybody else,
13 any youn -- young people in the community, youth that
14 want to come up and say a few words, make statements.

15 Okay then, what I'll do is if I don't
16 see anybody -- oh, we got one youth in the back.
17 Again, just introduce yourself for the record.

18 MS. CAMILLA ZOE-CHOCOLATE: Is it on?
19 Okay. My name is Camilla Zoe-Chocolate, to my parents,
20 I was known as Camilla Zoe-Chocolate. My mom and dad
21 were Johnny Zoe-Chocolate and Lucy Zoe-Chocolate. And
22 they are descendants of Germaine Zoe-Chocolate and I am
23 getting nervous too talking.

24 I just want to say that, I'm going --
25 I'll -- I'll -- I'm going to do a -- go in my language

1 first and then go to English. Growing up --

2

3 (INTERPRET FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

4

5 MS. CAMILLA ZOE-CHOCOLATE: While we
6 were growing up in Hislop Lake, while my sisters were
7 Mary-Jane and my younger sister Mary Zoe-Chocolate and
8 also, Alice has spoken already. They're all correct in
9 saying in Hislop Lake we grew up in -- Hislop Lake
10 during the winter months.

11 I want to talk about -- I am thankful
12 that my parents raised us out there, out on the land
13 but they passed on. And also, when I was 13 my dad had
14 told us we are not going to live in the bush, we'll --
15 we'll be living in Behchoko and we'll live in Behchoko
16 and live with our sisters and would put us through
17 school and once we continue finish school, where there
18 was -- there is only young girls, so we have to support
19 one another and help out one another; that's what my
20 father, Johnny Zoe-Chocolate had told us.

21 And also, our -- mentioned some, my
22 older sister and my younger sister, I just want to
23 mention my brothers and niece and nephews, all their
24 names.

25

1 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

2

3 MR. CAMILLA ZOE-CHOCOLATE: My oldest,
4 she's got five (5) children. I have a big family so I
5 have to write their names down. Pauline has five (5)
6 children: Donna, Percila, Darcy, Olivia, Johnny-Ryan.
7 And she's got five (5) grandchildren: Clarissa, Mariah,
8 Denaliah, Lucy and Jared. And my sister Florence, who
9 is the next one, she's got five (5) children: Shawna,
10 Morgan, Brandon, Nichole, Zoe. And my sister Mary-Jane
11 has five (5) children: Darren, Denae, Zemmy, Unny
12 (phonetic), Sonny. Or Sommy, sorry. And then she's
13 got two (2) grandchildren: Elysie and Lisie. Illie and
14 Lisie. I always get those ones mixed up.

15 And then, my late brother Dennis, his
16 children are: Rachel, Craig and Danny. And he has one
17 (1) grand daughter named Hannah, from Craig. And my
18 sister Mary, she's got four (4) children: Lisa, Leah,
19 Marty and Lacy. And I have four (4) children:
20 Melonie, Caitlyn, Christian, and Noah. And my sister
21 Doreen has five (5) children: Jonathon, Magen, Alicia
22 and Fredrick and Amy. And then my brother David has
23 two (2) children: Davie and Dayla. And my sister
24 Alice has two (2) children: Ivan and Issac. I hope I
25 didn't miss any of my family names.

1 I just wanted to say -- say that because
2 I want the Board members to know that whatever decision
3 they make, they're going to impact my immediate family
4 and my nieces and nephews, my children, and my great
5 nieces and nephews.

6 And then, one (1) other thing I wanted
7 to say too, regarding that is that I hope you guys make
8 a decision that you can live with, and one day you can
9 proudly say to each one of us, in five (5), ten (10),
10 fifteen (15), twenty (20) years from now, that I made
11 this decision, I decided to make this mine go ahead
12 and/or I decided not to make this mine go ahead. But
13 whatever decision you make, I hope it's one that you
14 can proudly say to me and my family.

15 And the next thing I want to talk about
16 too is I work at Dene Nation in the Environment
17 Department. And I went to a water gathering in Fort
18 Nelson a couple of weeks ago. And there -- they had
19 some really good speakers there. And they talked a lot
20 about the water crisis in North America and, of course,
21 in other countries. And I was very shocked to find out
22 that there are a lot of places in our world where
23 people are charged to use their water. I just -- it's
24 -- I -- I was so shocked at that, because being from
25 Northwest Territories and being from here, we have a

1 lot of good, healthy water. And I just -- I -- I still
2 cannot believe that there are people in this world who
3 do pay for water. And I hope that we never have to do
4 that or face that in the Nabootie (phonetic).

5 And my next -- my statement I wanted to
6 make too is I went to an arctic circumfer (phonetic)
7 meeting last week. And there were representatives
8 there from other countries, and arctic countries, so
9 Alaska, Greenland, Norway and Canada, of course. And a
10 lot of them had talked about -- we all talked about our
11 struggles or issues that we are facing. And some -- we
12 -- we were all facing the same issues. It's mining on
13 -- on our land and water, worried about contamination
14 of water if it hasn't been contaminated already and
15 food security, our food security is caribou, and
16 climate change. So I just wanted to make a point,
17 something to think about when you make a decision.

18 And the recommendations I would like to
19 make if -- if this mine goes ahead is that I hope that
20 Nico or Fortune Minerals makes a very good strong,
21 environmentally friendly and a very environmentally
22 responsible plans on how they're going to continue to
23 extract or take care of the land that they're going to
24 be working on.

25 And in other parts of the world First

1 Nations people, when they talk with mining, they also
2 practice where they shut off the mining for certain
3 seasons. And I would recommend that January, February
4 or March they can shut down everything for two (2)
5 weeks to a month so that people who use the area, for
6 example, my family, it -- it'll be quiet, there'll be
7 no disturbance.

8 And -- and then to conclude, everybody
9 talked about Rayrock Mine. This is something that's
10 very emotional for me too, and I'm sure a lot of people
11 in the Tlicho region. A lot of our -- our family has
12 passed on. And my dad and my grandpa were some of
13 those people who were affected because they worked at
14 that mine. And I hope that there will be no
15 contamination from Fortune Minerals. And that's --
16 that's all I want to say.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you,
18 Camilla Chocolate.

19 We're going to stop. We're going to
20 take a ten (10) minute break. I still have a lot of
21 speakers. And before I break, I just wanted to
22 continue to remind speakers we still have -- because of
23 time, I encourage you to really abbreviate or shorten
24 your comments but that way, we still get through the
25 list to hear from everybody.

1 Thank you. A ten (10) minute break.

2

3 --- Upon recessing at 3:00 p.m.

4 --- Upon resuming at 3:18 p.m.

5

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, if we can get
7 everybody back to the tables, we're going to start now.
8 Just -- we've got about twenty-seven (27) more speakers
9 and -- and I encourage everybody to see if we can stay
10 within the five (5) minute time limit we have.

11 Also, we already know that we're going
12 to be running a little bit late, so I just ordered some
13 traditional food from Yellowknife. It should be here
14 about five o'clock, about -- enough to feed some -- KFC
15 coming in, specially ordered. Okay, so we're hoping to
16 have that here by 5:00, 5:30 or so. We just want to
17 continue on. I want to have the opportunity to listen
18 to everybody from the community as possible. So if we
19 can get everybody down to their tables and chairs, we
20 can continue on please.

21 Next on the list I have is from -- I
22 have the Elder Harry Apples from Gameti. If you could
23 come up to the mic and introduce yourself. If not, we
24 can bring a mic to you. Harry Apples.

25

1 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

2

3 ELDER HARRY APPLES: This is the last
4 couple of days that we listen to the hearing. The
5 hearing that we had yesterday that touched on all
6 things. You talked about the access road and you
7 talked about bridges, all the stream and river that you
8 guys touch on. To think about it, things -- things
9 that might be destroyed to the people that -- that
10 should -- that's important. Things like social --
11 social problem that never touch on.

12 The mine that's going to be opening up
13 there's going to be a lot of impact. Are they going to
14 do good work? Are they -- are they ever work on those
15 crossing at the river and the bridges that's going to
16 be built? We have to do the study quite well before
17 the development begins.

18 A lot of things going to be impact --
19 impa -- all the living things on the land and the water
20 is going to be polluted. A lot of things that is going
21 to be destroyed. A lot of thing is going to go into
22 the streams from the land, and it's going to come down
23 this way. And it's going to go down to other lakes,
24 and Great Slave Lake. Things like that is going to be
25 discussed, everything before development begins. Not

1 like this is going to open like that, and I don't think
2 that's right at all.

3 We don't want thing to be disturbed. A
4 lot of things is going to go. Even the trees are going
5 to be destroyed. Now the water is going to be
6 destroyed. For me to think about -- we can't just say
7 yes to development. We need to think about it over.
8 We think about our kids, and the young people have
9 spoken today. Even us, what's going to happen of us?
10 What about we drink that water that's polluted, and
11 what our kids that drink that water? If we get sick
12 and die, that's how poison those things that they're
13 going to be working with.

14 Every since I can remember back since we
15 used to work on the land with dog teams, with a boat,
16 sometime we don't see each other for a while, and we're
17 out on the land, on the barren land. So it's --
18 sometime we don't see other people. Maybe once a year
19 we see each other, from people from Whati or
20 Yellowknife. At that time, we never hear about the
21 death of the family. There was not much sickness at
22 that time. Maybe -- today everything have changed.
23 Maybe in one (1) week few people would die; that's how
24 things are today. Why is that?

25 And also people -- people constantly die

1 off. Why is -- why is -- what is causing that? All
2 the fume from all the explosive that they use flowing
3 all over the place. Now that -- just for the mine.
4 That's how -- the huge impact we have on our land.
5 Just for money, we're destroying our environment.
6 And -- and also people that are --
7 people that are with us, are they thinking about the
8 future of their loved ones just for money, and then
9 we'll just destroy our people. That's what we're doing
10 here. Just for money. But at some time I look at
11 somebody just for -- you can't just hang around with
12 other people just for money, just to benef --
13 personally benefit.

14 We are Dene people. And -- and also we
15 supposed to help -- the Dene people supposed to help
16 the Dene people. Our people supposed to help -- if
17 anything is destroyed or contaminated, there's nothing
18 you can replace. Once it's contaminated destroyed, it
19 will be contaminated.

20 Now that mine -- that mine, it -- once
21 it's open -- and now that -- that area will be
22 considered dead. That considered area for the usage,
23 now that area, that land will be considered dead.
24 That's how -- of how of a huge impact will have on our
25 area because I do not like it at -- at all. That's one

1 (1) of the reason why I was sitting here. I want to
2 talk about it. I have a great concern about it.

3 As friends we should help each other
4 with -- with our -- before anything goes ahead we
5 should just try to resolve a lot of issues. Once
6 somebody is gone and somebody is ill and -- another
7 way, will some individual will be compensated, will be
8 -- it's something we should talk about. If somebody is
9 -- if -- if somebody -- if it ever happened to a young
10 youth, will that individual be compensated? And also
11 maybe something we can put up front of how we can
12 compensate some of the people if somebody ever gets ill
13 or hurt or...

14 A lot of people -- today a lot of people
15 are ill. A lot of people want to live. Because of
16 illness there's sores, lungs, you name it, and also a
17 lot of people some -- some of their arms are sore,
18 their legs are sore. Before it wasn't like that.
19 There was no illness, no sickness. Today we have a lot
20 of illness, a lot of sickness. Because of the mine --
21 the mi -- if the mine is going to go ahead, you want to
22 make sure they do a proper job, a good job, to make
23 sure they do a good job.

24 If they're going to go ahead with the
25 mine, we should really sit down and see of how -- you -

1 - you can't -- but from what I understand, it seems
2 like they're going to go ahead. What's going to happen
3 to the little creek? That little creek is going to
4 flow and it's going to go into the Marian River. Once
5 it flows now the river starts flowing, the river will
6 not divert. In other words, will not reflow back.
7 That -- that river was a lot of people -- a lot of
8 people had lived, a lot of campsites, a lot of burial
9 sites, a lot of archeological site where people had li
10 -- had lived.

11 It will have a huge impact on the -- on
12 -- on the wildlife. What about the -- what about the
13 lakeshore? If the moose some eat some of those willows
14 along the -- the river, they will become ill. The
15 beavers, the muskrat, because a lot of us were -- were
16 brought up on wild -- wild meat such as muskrat,
17 beavers. If you eat an -- an ill wildlife, it will
18 affect you and you could die from it.

19 But seriously, think about it and take
20 into consideration. This is how just for money, just
21 for money for two (2) days and -- and we still haven't
22 really talked about how -- how it's going to impact.
23 Today we seem like it's going to be okay, but what kind
24 of an impact it's going to have, but talk about -- talk
25 about how -- what kind of an impact will it have in

1 that area. Why is that? Why is that?

2 So it's going to have a ver -- we're
3 really going to -- it's going to hurt us in the long
4 run. Whenever you have -- whenever you have kids, I'm
5 pretty sure -- each and every one of you, I'm pretty
6 sure if you have a son or daughter you love your son or
7 daughter. I'm pretty sure your wives too love your --
8 their kids and their friends love their friends, it's
9 just the way.

10 Just like each and every one of you live
11 around that -- a lake where it flows from. If you may
12 go hunting in the certain area. If you go out in the
13 Great Slave Lake, what's going to happen if you drink
14 contaminated water, what will happen, and you will
15 become ill. You will come a great sickness for you.
16 That's why we have a great concern for the water.

17 So I want you to think about -- I've
18 been thinking about this for -- since yesterday, but
19 I'm very thankful that I have been given the
20 opportunity to speak. The leaders here, the chiefs
21 here are listening here. We have the legal counsel on
22 both sides that are listening and seriously think about
23 what I just have shared and the concern that I have
24 talked about. Think about it. Think about it.

25 So you -- you are not ill. You can't

1 say it's not going to affect me. Once that mine is
2 open, you know, once you become ill now you will suffer
3 from illness, once if it affects you. That's just the
4 way it is. But thank you -- but thank you. It's
5 something that I have been thinking about and just
6 something I wanted to share at this time. Masi Cho.

7

8 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

9

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Harry
11 Apples, Elder from Gameti, Masi for your --

12 ELDER HARRY APPLES: From Behchoko, not
13 from -- not from Gameti.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Oh, from Behchoko.

15 MR. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Behchoko.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Oh, sorry. Okay.
17 Thank you. Next on the list I have, and then I'm going
18 to go to the order I have, is -- again, I just want to
19 just remind the presenters that we got a time limit.
20 So I mentioned a little bit earlier, I just want to
21 continue to encourage the presenters to think about
22 that because we got a lot of people who want to speak.
23 Next I got -- I'm going to go to Lucy
24 Lafferty. If she could come up. And then I'm going to
25 go to the list of order I have.

1

2

(BRIEF PAUSE)

3

4

MS. LUCY LAFFERTY: Masi cho. My

5 name's Lucy Lafferty and I'm from Behchoko. Before I

6 start, I would like to say how proud I am of the youth

7 who have come here and had the courage to come up here

8 and speak from their heart. I would like to be able to

9 do the same thing in my language, but there is a

10 language barrier. We know that.

11

And a lot of things that I wanted to

12 talk about a lot of people had made comments to them.

13 But I just wanted to start off by telling you, first of

14 all, who I am and who my parents are because it's

15 important that you know the people that I come from.

16

My niece, Joline Queena Husky,

17 (phonetic) has shown you a picture of my mom and dad

18 and of our camp and the way we lived when we're out on

19 the land. I was born in Agootee (phonetic) in October,

20 of this month, but I'm not telling you the year, so

21 don't ask me.

22

There's no dispute of who lived on the

23 land. You've heard stories. You heard the voices of

24 the people that live there and those of us who were

25 born and raised over there. Love the land. I was the

1 eighth child of Harry and Liza Queena. My dad didn't
2 have any job. There was no family allowance. The land
3 provided for us. We survived from the land. And yet
4 some questions were being asked yesterday. Our stories
5 were not enough, just from some of the questions that
6 are being raised.

7 How did you use the land? What evidence
8 do you have for using the land? Three (3) of my
9 siblings, two (2) sister and brother, are buried out
10 there on the land. I don't know where they're buried,
11 but I know they died when we're out there, and they're
12 buried out there.

13 But today I'd like to talk about the
14 greatest issues that's facing all of us whether we live
15 in the Tlicho region, in the Northwest Territories or
16 Canada. And it has been mentioned before. It's a
17 climate change. We know that with everything that we
18 do, we're going to be affected by the climate. My
19 concern is the permafrost. We know that the permafrost
20 is thawing and melting. Those of you that came from
21 Yellowknife were on a roller coaster on the road coming
22 this way. A couple of years ago it was smooth, and it
23 took some people thirty (30) minutes to get from here
24 to Yellowknife. Now it's like a roller coaster.
25 There's something happening under the ground that's

1 affecting what's on top.

2 At Stag River you saw the graveyard
3 that's sinking into the water. And those of us that
4 have lived in Behchoko, half of our family members who
5 are buried in the graveyard, some of those people are
6 buried in the water. My grandfather, my grandmother,
7 and my niece, Joline's little baby, and my brother.
8 The water went over for -- their grave was -- now we
9 don't know where they are. They are under the ground
10 there somewhere.

11 So, we don't -- we do know that the
12 climate change is really affecting all the things that
13 we're doing up. There's talk of global warming,
14 there's talk of green house effect, and because of
15 permafrost melting, carbon-dioxide, men -- methane, all
16 these things are going to be affecting us.

17 There are also -- I know that the
18 government is doing research on permafrost, because on
19 your website under "Environmental and Natural
20 Resources," under there it says the state of
21 environmental report, under 13, it's got permafrost.
22 Thaw and permafrost can also damage buildings, roads,
23 and other infrastructures -- facilities leading to
24 increased maintenance and miligation (sic) causes. So
25 we know that it's going to be a lot of expenses

1 involved in the road that their proposing.

2 I wonder if some of the reports that
3 were done by other mining company has been taken into
4 consideration. One of the reports I am talking about
5 is Merge Report 2004 (phonetic).

6 "Permafrost consideration for
7 effective mine site development in
8 the Yukon Territory by EBA
9 Engineering Consultant Ltd., March
10 2004."

11 The project number is 120036. And in
12 there it talks about, under 4.1, Princ -- "General
13 Principles," that:

14 "Distribution, ground ice content,
15 and temperatures or permafrost at a
16 northern mine site are critical
17 factors in mine -- in mine planning.
18 In addition to this, the following
19 information should also be gathered
20 for at least three (3) years before
21 mine construction: The daily mean
22 monthly air temperature, aptitude of
23 grou -- ground temperature, variation
24 in the act -- active layer, stable
25 permafrost temperature, distribution

1 at depth, snow cover' and other
2 measurements."

3 These are the things that are in the
4 report. There is also 4.2 that talks about roads and
5 air strips.

6 "There are significant impact from
7 linear development and removal of
8 service insulation during road and
9 air strip construction. Exposure to
10 sunlight after right-of-way clearing
11 can lead to increased thaw and degra
12 -- degradation of the permafrost. In
13 turn, this can increase erosion and
14 the road maintenance required over
15 the life of the mine and after the
16 abandonment."

17 These are just a few come from that
18 report, but I also wanted to -- I've got zero minute --
19 but I just -- just one (1) thing that I -- I just want
20 some peop -- the people to know a few things from the
21 article from the mining company. 'Cause in some of the
22 article it says that the exploration is done and we're
23 to go. That's what is been said by the mining company.

24 And it also says in here that the reason
25 to have it processed, the ore processed in Saskatoon,

1 is because that the power cost in the Northwest
2 Territories are going to be very high, enough to
3 threaten the economic viability of the project. That's
4 the reason why they're moving it to Sas -- to Sas --
5 Saskatchewan.

6 But they also talk about -- and I don't
7 mean to pick up -- to take more -- somebody else's
8 time, but I think it's important -- that in some of the
9 article, they are talking about Saskatchewan. They
10 talk about an environment assessment that is being done
11 in Saskatchewan, environment assessment that's being
12 done here.

13 And in the article it says that they ho
14 -- hoping for a permit in Saskatchewan by 2012, which
15 is only three (3) months away. And in the Northwest
16 Territories they're hoping for it in 2003 (sic) and
17 then the mine production would start in 2004 (sic).
18 I'm not sure if that's telling me that everything is on
19 a go or not. I don't know. But these are the kind of
20 questions that -- the one (1) question that I have for
21 Saskatchewan environment assessment is: Are they
22 including the aboriginal people from Saskatchewan in --
23 consulting -- their consul -- consultation?

24 I know I have no more minutes, but I
25 have quite a few things, and if I can email some of the

1 things to -- to the Board member, I would do so. But
2 the climate change is really going to affect the mining
3 company and -- and also the road. And it also has a
4 lot of ripple effects, because who's going to paying
5 the extra costs? Masi.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Lucy
7 Lafferty. And thank you for your presentation. And if
8 you have further comments you want to share with the
9 Board, you can do so. You could email it and we'll put
10 it on the public registry. And we'll submit it around
11 to all parties that are involved.

12 We will continue on. I have an Elder
13 Louie Wedawin, if he's here. And you could just state
14 your name. And can we adjust the mic for him?

15

16 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

17

18 ELDER LOUIE WEDAWIN: Thank you.

19 (NATIVE LANGUAGE SPOKEN NOT TRANSLATED). The reason --
20 I grew up in Behchoko. Using our ancestors' words is
21 very correct. This is a very important issue wh --
22 when I think about it. I can't say I'm a young man.
23 I'm over seventy (70) now.

24 How my Elders spoke in the past it's
25 just like they're speaking to me today. Our Elders

1 that spoke in front of me, they often use very wise
2 words when they spoke. And -- and also my in-law Nick
3 and from -- Exelmaker (phonetic) and the elder from
4 Gameti, all these Elders they represented us very well
5 at the table.

6 At times when I think about, for me it's
7 like taking a -- my -- like my heart is crying. Our
8 traditional knowledge is very important. We haven't
9 done our work in the way they work in the past, but
10 with self-government, we use our -- with the
11 opportunity they have given us for self-government is
12 through the words of our Elders. So when I think about
13 those things, I'm very thankful for that.

14 And today, Fortune Minerals -- there's
15 going to be as -- there's going to be contamination of
16 land, water, and wildlife. And it's correct in saying
17 that, too. But I'm not helping the White people, but
18 although we -- we refuse and oppose the opening of the
19 mine, it's up to the government if they're going to
20 open up the mine.

21 What happened in Rayrock? Along the
22 Marian River, you can see the landscape. It was really
23 contaminated. And these mining company just took off.
24 And the Rayrock is situated near where the mine is
25 being -- are they -- are they keeping and monitoring

1 the river stream? Maybe there's dead fish floating
2 along the river.

3 And there was a young woman that spoke.
4 The -- they're ruining -- the mining companies are
5 ruining our land, and they're filling up their wallets
6 with money, and they took off. And today we never see
7 these people. That's what we are faced with today.

8 As of now -- when they were going to
9 open up the Rayrock Mine, did they have the
10 consultation with the geologists or the biologists? No
11 expert visited us to consult us. The land that we have
12 is ruined today. It's polluted. And we never seen not
13 even one dollar (\$1) from it. Absolutely nothing.

14 And there's another proposal to open up
15 another mine on our land. It's -- the same thing is
16 going to happen. With our traditional knowledge, with
17 the self-government that we are given, we have to sup -
18 - be united as one (1) and be strong as one (1), and
19 it'll be good in that manner. With our traditional
20 knowledge that we are given, the self-government,
21 there's never been one (1) cent that was given to our
22 Elders.

23 And today, as we live on -- and our
24 grandparents, our ancestors, they would survive in the
25 harsh conditions, and they survived. And if they kill

1 one (1) wildlife, they shared amongst each other.
2 That's how we survived. And as today, I'm living on
3 this -- we're going to have control of one (1) thing,
4 and we have -- we speak as united, as one (1) then we
5 can accom -- accomplish things, we, as a self-
6 government, as the Tlicho. I'm thankful for that,
7 although we haven't really accomplished anything at
8 this point in time. But I'm still thankful.

9 We, as a self-government, the Tlicho
10 self-government, are we going to face the federal
11 government? Other governments, are they going to give
12 us money and be a self-government in that manner?
13 Because we're a self-government. And with all the
14 funding that we get and all -- all the graduates that
15 continue on schooling in the South to university and
16 college, maybe they might succeed and be employed and
17 make money.

18 We, as the Tlicho government, we can
19 probably accomplish things through our -- our -- we can
20 sustain our government with making money on ourselves.
21 As said, we're going to get funding from other
22 governments continuously. It's not going to happen.

23 I'm not helping the White people, but
24 everybody's been talking about the water being
25 contaminated and the land and the wildlife. And they

1 are correct in saying that. But united as one (1) and
2 respecting one another and helping one another, we will
3 be strong.

4 In the future, the future, our children,
5 our children's children, if we manage to implement a
6 good plan, that's what I want in Whati. That's --
7 that's the only thing I talk about in Whati, and that's
8 what I have mentioned.

9 With listening to what Grand Chief had
10 spoken about how we can succeed, and that's what he had
11 mentioned. So in the past, Rayrock, we didn't -- got
12 nothing out of it. Today, the same thing is going to
13 happen. No -- if the mine is going to open, until the
14 end of time we should be funded. That's the only way.

15 As for me, I am over seventy (70) years
16 old. I probably won't see a penny from it. But my
17 children and their children's children, I'm talking for
18 them. We're all like that. We're all in the same
19 situation. As for my uncle, he's -- he's not going to
20 see another -- sen -- seniors are -- we're -- we're
21 talking for our future generations. That's being said.

22 And -- and when we have meeting like
23 this, I remember Alexis -- or, the late Alexis
24 Arrowmaker. When we become self-government, he said,
25 nobody's going to accomplish that except for us. If we

1 make a mistake with our -- if we do a big, major
2 project like this and if we make a mistake, that's --
3 that's going to be our problem.

4 In the past, how our Elders spoke -- and
5 those are the words that we remember. Even I -- I
6 remember how many Elders had spoken in front of me.
7 And I use those words when we attend these meetings.
8 That's how we continue to share our knowledge and carry
9 this knowledge into the future. And that's what we use
10 and that with the short time that we're -- we're given,
11 so that's not enough time.

12 But as for today, with the traditional
13 knowledge that we were given, our self-government, we
14 have to work as united, work together as one (1). And
15 that way, we'll be strong. With respect to respecting
16 each other and the government officials that are here,
17 and when we have a coffee break and we question each
18 others and we consider each other friends.

19 And with that in mind, as the late
20 Alexis used to say, Let's not forget certain things.
21 Let's -- if we don't remember things, if -- if we
22 forget certain things, then we should implement it,
23 have -- have a implementation process in place similar
24 to that today.

25 At times, I think about these things.

1 When we say our ancestors, they don't know how to read
2 or write, but still what they're thinking process and
3 the way they were -- they've been like professors.
4 That's how our ancestors, with their words and wisdom,
5 we've been given the self-government.

6 And working as one (1) and working
7 together and respecting one another and as we move
8 forward and continue this for our future generations
9 coming. So five (5) minutes might have come up. So in
10 the past, Rayrock -- we never got nothing from Rayrock.
11 And today, it's not going to -- the same thing is not
12 going to happen.

13 So whoever is alive -- so we should be
14 compensated. And there's going to be many more mining
15 companies that will be in operation. I want to have
16 something in -- in that situation, so I'd like -- thank
17 you for giving me the opportunity to speak. Masi cho.

18

19 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

20

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Elder Louis
22 Wedawin. Masi for your comments. I'm going to go to my
23 list of order again. Is -- I just wanted to find out
24 if Richard Winsen is in the room? That would be the
25 final call. I don't see anybody.

1 I'm going to over to Richard Weyallon,
2 if he's in the room? There he is. Can you state your
3 name?

4 MR. RICHARD WEYALLON: Richard
5 Weyallon.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Please proceed and
7 then just -- just be respectful of the time. So please
8 proceed, Richard.

9 MR. RICHARD WEYALLON: What's the time
10 limit? I'm saying my language.

11

12 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

13

14 MR. RICHARD WEYALLON: Yes, the mine
15 that's going -- proposed to be open in twenty (20)
16 years. And prior to the opening of the mine and before
17 extracting the mine. And we used to sample the water,
18 the land, and also the animals, wildlife, the wolf.
19 And we examined these things. What food process is --
20 and we doing biologist work without biologists.

21 And -- and also they measured the land.
22 And they do prospecting and how -- how the mine is
23 going to be was proposed as Golder and Riscan
24 (phonetic) were doing the work. I worked for them. At
25 that time, it was -- there was lots of caribou. I mean

1 at the Ekati Mine last year. And I work at Courageous
2 Lake. It's very beautiful land, lots of water. And
3 they're mining for gold in that area.

4 And this is the third year. I think
5 it's another two (2) more years. They're applying for
6 a water licence similar to this. They're working for
7 themselves and -- and the -- all the Elders are saying
8 that we're not going to get no profit from it. And
9 that's right. They're worried only about themselves
10 and the money.

11 But nobody talked about this, is the
12 water. No -- nobody's going to survive without water.
13 The fish, the wildlife. If you look in the fir --
14 twenty (20), thirty (30), forty (40) years, they have
15 to pre -- make predictions, even five (5) years. The
16 water will cost money and will surpass the gold price
17 and the diamond price. Nobody's going to live without
18 water. But nobody -- so it's going to cost money in
19 the future. Everything survives on -- without water,
20 nothing's going to survive.

21 I want you to think. There's lots of
22 work. There's -- there's two (2) or three hundred
23 (300) people will be working. There's how many
24 thousands? And there's going to be more than half the
25 population working there. There's going to be forty

1 (40), fifty (50) jobs.

2 There's not only jobs in -- over there.

3 For that reason, we're being educated. We're not being
4 educated just to work in the mines. Mining is not the
5 only place to earn money. As my dad was saying, in the
6 1980s I asked my dad, I go trapping with you. But he
7 refused. So he -- and he refused. So he sent me to
8 school. And that's what I -- and now I have a
9 renewable resource certificate. There's lots of mining
10 companies. There's also schools. We can -- we can get
11 any kind of...

12 But if the water's ruined, contaminated,
13 even one (1) spoon is -- even the water's being con --
14 contaminated. The water flows down and goes into
15 rivers, streams. And once the fish consumes it, even
16 if somebody consumes the fish, if you -- people will, I
17 guess, they -- in Northern Alberta, the river flows
18 into the Fort Smith area. Those -- the river steams
19 goes into Fort Smith area. And a lot of people die
20 from cancer. And one of the Elders -- there's a lot of
21 people dying from cancer.

22 I'm not -- but our land is very
23 beautiful. Once the water is contaminated, then it's
24 ruined. And once they blast all that area, they're not
25 going to put it back into the way it was. So once it's

1 ruined, it's ruined. The chemicals that they would be
2 using and those -- they're not going to wash away these
3 chemicals and all the -- and they're going to leave the
4 waste stockpile, just like even Giant Mine.

5 Even though if they hire people and
6 there's -- when you ge -- get hired, you can't talk
7 about things. If you talk about things, they're --
8 they're going to fire you. And that's how some of the
9 mining op -- operations -- and whoever's operating the
10 mine, whoever hires those -- even though if there's
11 overflow of the tailings pond, you can't say nothing.
12 That's the way we're faced with, my people.

13 There's nothing going to be -- come out
14 of this mining. And we have a beautiful land. The
15 wildlife and the water, once it's ruined, we have
16 nothing. Even one (1) spoon of contaminants goes in
17 the water stream, then it will ruin everything
18 downstream. And that's all I'd like to say for now.

19 I'm not going to say it in English
20 because I want to say this in my language, so that's --
21 I'm talking for my people in front of my leaders.
22 Thank you very much.

23

24 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

25

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Richard
2 Weyallon. Thank you very much. Masi. Next I have on
3 the list is going to be an Elder, Narcisse Bishop, if
4 he's in the room.

5

6

7 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

8

9 ELDER NARCISSE BISHOP: When we went --
10 when we went to Whati, I did -- I made a -- I made a
11 speech in the public. I'm not going to be speaking
12 long. This is a short speech I'm going to do. And
13 Hislop Lake, a lot of -- have the people concerned.

14 And we'll go out in the boat. And we'll
15 go on the land. We set net overnight, and we catch a
16 lot of fish -- a lot of fish -- a lot of good fish.
17 And all around the shore, you can see some grave site.
18 Those -- those grave sites should be respected. Even
19 we say no to this development, they will still go
20 ahead. They -- they will want to shut it down, it will
21 be -- I don't think it would be -- our voice would be
22 heard.

23 But our -- our Elders and ancestors,
24 maybe before 1900, before the White people come to our
25 land, there was a lot of Dene people on the land. And

1 they went all through the -- our ancestor trail, even
2 to Gameti, they paddle, no motorboat. Just -- they
3 just paddle.

4 They don't see no -- no White men stuff,
5 like store-bought clothing, nothing. There -- it was
6 made -- everything that has been made, it was made of
7 the hide of caribou, moose.

8 So those trails are really important.
9 That -- that's where all the burial site are. If
10 there's going to be a road built -- so K'ia Goti, have
11 a concern about some of those area. And the
12 environmental should -- people are going to be touching
13 on it. Some of them, they don't have markers, no
14 cross. Where's a good place for -- to bury your
15 people? When somebody dies, that's where they go, to
16 the land. So some of the place they have a bury site a
17 -- around the shore.

18 So to -- to have a road be built so --
19 so I just worry about those burial site, where they
20 are. I'm not going to speak long because I know a lot
21 of people have a -- get a chance to speak.

22

23 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Elder

1 Narcisse Bishop. Thank you. Masi.

2 I'm going to go to Melanie Lafferty, if
3 she's in the room, if she could come up.

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: I don't see her or
8 anybody standing up. I want to go to Leon Nasken. Is
9 he in the room?

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: No. Okay. I'm going
14 to go to Elder Jimmy Nitsiza. Is he in the room?

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: No, he's not here.
19 Okay. I'm going to go to -- is there a Jimmy John?

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. How about Joe
24 Wedlin?

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. The next guy,
4 Alex Black?

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

9

10 MR. ALEX BLACK: Thank you. I'd like
11 to ask some questions. I'm going to ask questions as I
12 stand here. I'm not saying I'm better than anybody.
13 I'm not smarter than anybody else, and I haven't been
14 educated. But as a Tlicho, how our parents grew --
15 raised us out in the land, with that we're -- we've
16 been taught in the school.

17 We still continue to work out on the
18 land. What I'm thinking about today is the Fortune
19 Mineral Mine. That's what I'm worried about,
20 concerned. When I was working at BHP, at times when
21 there's no wind and there's a calm on the lake, when
22 you -- blasting takes place and the blasting, you know,
23 the dust would -- just like would float in the air.
24 And it floats in the air for quite a while, and it will
25 go out on the land. And -- and with that, you know, the

1 blasting chemicals that's --the caribou would consume
2 it.

3 And just -- just when I went for my fall
4 hunt, I shot two (2) caribou within the -- caribou
5 within the lungs, maybe there's about 2 inches in the
6 lungs -- within the lungs. I had my nephew working
7 with me on the fall hunt. Why is this -- why is this
8 happening, I asked my nephew. He told me with the
9 thing, that disease, we been -- made -- we test caribou
10 in the past before with the ENR personnel, and so with
11 -- because it's within the lungs, it wouldn't go
12 throughout the body. That's what my nephew had
13 mentioned to me.

14 With that kind of the disease that takes
15 place within the caribou, it comes from the blasting
16 chemical they use. When I was a young man, when we
17 used to -- when I was a young boy, we used to go
18 caribou hunting. And at that time, we used a dog team.
19 The caribou -- the -- the caribou meat taste good, and
20 the blood was just pure red. But today is different.
21 There's a big difference with the meat, the taste.

22 And the caribou is -- as -- and another
23 caribou that I harvest, shot, the hooves had split and
24 it swelled up. And I gave that -- the ankle of the
25 caribou was swelled up. And maybe the caribou was

1 walking on the tundra, and maybe it got injured at that
2 time. So there's a biologist for caribou. That's what
3 -- if there's caribou -- maybe the caribou -- want it
4 to be examined by a caribou biologist.

5 So we as a hunter, we're worried about
6 these things. We're worried about these things because
7 we survive. We need our caribou meat. When the
8 Fortune Minerals opens up and all the blasting that
9 they will do, all the wildlife, the squirrel, the
10 rabbit, and similar to the caribou, the way it's
11 getting sick.

12 They're not -- it's not only that, you
13 know. I hear about the water while my in-law, George,
14 was talking. And my in-law had mentioned this on many
15 occasions. And the water is very pristine. The water
16 is flowing in our area. And that's what my in-law had
17 mentioned to me in the past.

18 I'm not -- we're not -- we're not
19 talking about only today. It's our children's and our
20 grandchildren. We love them. Once the mine opens up
21 at the Marian Lake, you know, they go fishing with the
22 fishing rod. And they would catch coney, and they
23 would bring it back. And it tastes really good. But
24 in the future, would we be able to consume coney?

25 And also in the future they are -- the

1 children of Behchoko, they go swimming in the water
2 here, and also they set gill nets out in the lake.
3 When that time comes, maybe the water is contaminated.
4 Where are we going to get our fish from? How are we
5 going to con -- we're not only talking about today.
6 We're talking about fifty (50) years from now in the
7 future, at that time. And that's why -- why we're
8 talking in this manner.

9 Yes, I remember my dad's words.
10 Sometimes when I remember my dad's words, he was
11 correct in saying, It makes me cry. Sometimes I think
12 about this. And the last thing I'm going to touch off
13 on, at Dasati (phonetic), there's -- at the Matberi
14 (phonetic). I'm worried about that lake.

15 And Carl Clouter, while my sister was
16 telling me this, that -- that Carl is prospecting in
17 that area. And we've talked about this with our
18 family. And you, our leaders, our government leaders,
19 we're going to send you a letter regarding that area,
20 because our -- our father -- my dad really loved --
21 loved us very much. He built a cabin there. So that
22 in the future, maybe if you have -- your children are
23 facing hard times, maybe you -- you will teach the
24 youth -- the youth to go -- how to go trapping in the
25 bush.

1 So as you are worried about the water
2 today, me too. I'm opposed to the opening of the --
3 the opening of the Fortune Mineral mines. Either I'm
4 employed or not, the water is the only thing I'm
5 worried about. The water that -- that -- the water
6 that flows to this area, you know, it's -- it's also
7 flowing from Nunavut area. All that -- the ice that
8 melts in the future, how -- how is the water condition
9 going to be?

10 We -- we think about these -- some of
11 the young people that aren't able to talk. They tell
12 us, Thanks. So that's all I'd like to say for now.
13 Thank you very much.

14

15 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

16

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Alex Black, in your
18 comments, you -- you mentioned that your family is
19 going to send a letter to the -- most likely to the
20 Review Board. And if you are going to do that, I just
21 want to let you know that the public record will be
22 closed on October 22nd. So if you are able to get it
23 in before that, then parties and everybody else can
24 take a look at that letter from your family. Thank you
25 very much. Masi.

1 I'm going to continue on, on the list.

2 I have former Grand Chief Joe Rabesca.

3 MR. JOE RABESCA: Masi cho, Chairman.

4

5 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

6

7 MR. JOE RABESCA: The thing that I was
8 worried about is the water. Mr. Chairman, if I
9 continue to work with the Fortune Minerals, what --
10 what can I help them with? Maybe I correct some of the
11 things that would proceed forward. And today, people
12 are mostly concerned about the -- Mr. Wayallon that's
13 spoken. And today's he's saying that water is going to
14 cost money.

15 I'm very happy about that. When I was
16 the Chief for -- in the future, maybe there might be a
17 pipeline we could -- I knew that they were going to be
18 buying water. We've been -- on the water, who is going
19 to be in control? Because the water is going to cost
20 money. And we've been talking about that in -- fifteen
21 (15) years ago. And Mr. Weyallon spoke about this.
22 Water is very important. And we survive with water.
23 And that's correct in saying it.

24 But if we support one another, we can
25 probably correct the situation. Those Fortune

1 Minerals, if you just leave them alone -- but if we
2 work together, we'll correct the situation. If you do
3 it on your own, it's -- it's -- you're not going to do
4 a good job. But if you listen to the people and if you
5 gather all the information, then you'll do a good --
6 make a good decision.

7 But if we're going to work on a major
8 project like this, not only one (1) person can correct
9 the situation. But we have to be supporting one
10 another. Maybe if I help this Fortune Minerals, then
11 maybe I can help the people, for the people of today
12 and for the future generations.

13 I look in the future and the past and
14 what's been taken place. I know what I -- took place
15 in Rayrock. That's where I went to school. And when
16 it was time to do the remediation, it took us a lot of
17 people. There's been a biologist, geologist. And we
18 took twin otter and Jimmy Rabesca is here and -- and,
19 also, Violet, Joe -- the late Joe Migwhi (phonetic).

20 When we visited that area, the
21 contaminated area, we want to do a reclamation. No,
22 the -- all the buildings is gone. There's been -- we -
23 - we did the same thing at Colomac. And so we talked
24 to the Minister, Northern Minister. So if you don't
25 want -- if you want -- you got to put some funding for

1 a closure plan. So the government is -- is working in
2 that process, but we've been working in this manner
3 from our learning from the past. I think about these
4 things, all these things that people are talking about.

5 Without employment, we can't be -- we
6 can't survive. We need employment. That's how we
7 survive. Who -- who can -- there's -- people can go
8 trapping. Strong as two (2) people, that's what we
9 say. Are we capable of doing that?

10 All -- there's -- there's a lot of
11 employment around this world. And we hear from each
12 others. If -- if somebody makes a mistake, we don't
13 want to make the same mistake. But if we don't say
14 nothing, then sim -- similar thing's going to happen.
15 But we have to -- if there's a mistake going be make it
16 -- made, then...

17 But there's a way, and that's helping
18 one another, supporting one another. That's why we
19 have leaders. And that's the decision-makers. But if
20 we work together, whatever, if there's something -- a
21 little problem that needs to be corrected, then we can
22 support one another. But if we don't support one
23 another, it's -- it's not going to happen. But if
24 we're sitting apart, it's not going to happen.

25 Similar to that -- so everybody that ca

1 -- gather into this building, we're thankful. Nobody's
2 complaining. Nobody's complaining to our Elders.
3 Nobody's complaining to the Fortune Minerals. And for
4 that reason, we came in here. But in the future, what
5 will happen.

6 Lucy's been talking about the climate
7 change. And she's correct. We see it on television.
8 We're not in control, when -- we are praying. It's up
9 to our Creator. How it's going to be, it's out -- it's
10 up to our Creator. I still think in that manner.
11 Everything -- with all the knowledge that we have, it's
12 up to the Creator to make things happen. We have no
13 control. And prior to that, if we do things in the way
14 He wants it, then He will help us.

15 But I would like to thank you, Mr.
16 Chairman, all the people in the audience, the Elders,
17 the young people. And I'm very happy that I'm standing
18 here and listening. They're not -- I've been a leader.
19 BHP was open, and Diavik and Snap Lake. It's all been
20 open. And I witness it.

21 Now -- so Colomac, we make one (1) dam.
22 BHP, in this similar fashion, like the sitting of the
23 hearing here, I represented lots of people. I don't
24 want the wildlife to get a negative impact, and the
25 water. And those are the -- our Elders words.

1 And today, even I -- as I work with the
2 company there are three (3) very important things the
3 Elders have talked about in the past. And if we take
4 care of these things and also the water that flows into
5 our area. And it's correct in saying that.

6 From Whati, Gameti, out onto the tundra,
7 and in Strad (phonetic) Lake around -- I travel with a
8 canoe with the young people. We know the flow of the
9 river, if we see everything flows. There's eleven (11)
10 rivers that flows into this area from Whati. And all
11 the streams that are connected. There's eleven (11)
12 rivers/streams that flows into our area here.

13 So in the future, we have to protect
14 that. That's what the young people are saying. I want
15 to support them. I want to support the young people,
16 but we have to protect this. That's what the -- I'm
17 telling the mining company, as we know what took place
18 at Rayrock. We know what happened -- what took place
19 at Colomac.

20 But at those -- in those days -- one
21 person has said there's no Water Board, biologist, and
22 geologist when we were living in Rayrock. And all the
23 trains, like the caboose was night and day. All the
24 timber, the lumber that was needed. I witnessed that.
25 But they -- we never been consulted, but today we're in

1 a different situation.

2 And today the -- the Tlicho are the --
3 the ones in control. And back in those times, the --
4 and today, we have Boards to work with. I think we can
5 -- I think we can still work it out. Just think about
6 this, Mr. Chairman.

7 If the mine ever opens, what will --
8 what will happen? They shouldn't say what they're
9 saying. You should not have said what you're saying.
10 I'm just basically saying that what's going to happen
11 if the mine ever opens.

12 I know what Lucy had said though, the
13 climate changes, the perma -- permafrost are melting,
14 and she is right. Yes, my mom and dad had lived in --
15 in Rayrock. My mom and dad, they both died of cancer
16 the same day, eleven (11) hours apart. They had --
17 they had lived in the Rayrock area.

18 I asked them -- I asked my -- I asked
19 the doctor why they -- they both died of cancer. So I
20 asked him, They had worked the Rayrock. What -- what -
21 - so the doctor had said that it wasn't from the
22 Rayrock Mine. It wasn't from it.

23 He has said that the Elders had worked
24 out in the land. When they were out in the land, they
25 were very happy. There were no illness. That's how

1 they were brought up. And also they'd been to the
2 community. They -- they didn't know -- know nothing
3 about TV. There were nothing with social problems,
4 especially alcohol. And also the -- and also -- so
5 they both -- they both had died of stress. My mom and
6 dad had died of stress. They both died the same day.

7 Maybe the doctor is right; I don't know.
8 He's a doctor. He should know. So there's -- I'm just
9 basically saying that my mom and dad had died the same
10 day - same day, eleven (11) hours apart.

11 I left the Rayrock. Like my friend here
12 is saying, we left -- we left the Rayrock -- Rayrock
13 Mine to go to school. And the -- there was some tent
14 frames. We used to go to school in the tent frame in
15 the Rayrock Mine to Fort Smith back in those early
16 days.

17 So -- so if we're going to go up with --
18 with this mine, we learn from the Rayrock Mine. So if
19 this mine is going to go ahead, but then I'm going to
20 the Chairman. So it's something for you to think
21 about.

22 I remember how, when the -- how the
23 first vehicle was made, and how the vehicles are made
24 today is totally different. From the days of -- they
25 start making automobile, the improvement of making --

1 the improvement of building vehicles, improving with
2 the same mine, the same thing with the mine, of how the
3 mine was built. They can improve on building the mine
4 as we go along, the same thing.

5 But I want to say one (1) other thing.
6 Do -- the -- the water that they were concerned about
7 it -- and then so it will be up to the people in
8 Ottawa. If they say yes, if they have the Water Board,
9 the Elders, the young people. And then also, they
10 should monitor -- they could monitor the water. Of how
11 it's going to monitor, they can get some further
12 training to monitor the water. If not, we can monitor
13 the water. Any recent changes into the water, we can
14 know, Chairman.

15 So I think, Chairman, I think you're
16 looking at your time, so I would like to say thank you
17 to you, so thank you. You guys have a heavy duty and
18 hard-working people. And even the Chiefs, the leaders
19 here now, they're -- they're not even moving. They are
20 hardworking people. Even people from Fortune Minerals.
21 But it's not up to me, I am not a leader. But I was a
22 leader before, but I was know what it's like to be a
23 leader.

24 When the BHP first open, so we did -- I
25 am pretty sure we didn't do the right job. From now we

1 learn; we have learned from the days of the BHP. So I
2 would just like to say, if you're concerned about the
3 water, if we can work on it, we can -- so if we leave
4 our -- all the good things that are said, just leave
5 it. And -- and if you -- Mr. Chairman, if you want to
6 do something, talk about something, do the follow-up,
7 work on it. And also, you can't leave anything on the
8 site.

9 So what is it that we can do to -- to
10 see if we can -- if the mine's going to go ahead?
11 There -- I am not an Elder, but thank you for the
12 giving the opportunity to have spoke. Masi cho.

13

14 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Joe
17 Rabesca, former Grand Chief of the Tlicho government --
18 Tlicho region.

19 I'm going to continue on. I have is --
20 Elder Louis Zoe, if he's here.

21

22 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

23

24 ELDER LOUIS ZOE: Yes, thank you for
25 giving me the opportunity to speak. I am from Gameti.

1 My name is Louis Zoe. They're talking about the -- the
2 mines -- the mines. All the people from that area,
3 that is a -- that's a -- the trails -- the canoe
4 trails, it's going to have a huge im -- if the mine
5 ever opens, it's going to have a huge impact on our
6 portage and our traditional trails.

7 Will -- the fish, the waterfalls, all
8 the ani -- mammals that's in the water, will it be
9 eatable? Will we be able to consume it? And also,
10 along the shoreline, some of these willows -- along the
11 shoreline, the trees that are out there, and also, will
12 we be able to make a campfire?

13 If somebody ever gets ill from that, if
14 the mine ever goes ahead, that -- that land -- that
15 area, there are a lot of things in around that area.

16 I remember -- I remember Johnny had took
17 off years ago -- and then from Deline. So he went
18 there. He killed over one hundred (100) fur-bearing
19 animals. He did bought -- bought a vehicle at one
20 time. It's a good -- of how we can survive that area
21 we're talking about around the Fortune Minerals mine
22 area. That whole areas going to be contaminated.
23 Going to be all the wildlife that's er -- that's there,
24 all the things that are eatable, that's -- that's going
25 to be destroyed from us. That's why just for money --

1 just for money we should not look at -- I personally
2 think we should not look at people just for money.

3 If that huge land is ever contaminated
4 or polluted, will that the wildlife ever go back to
5 that area? Will we be able to use that area? We had
6 learned from the Rayrock Mine (NATIVE LANGUAGE SPOKEN).
7 Even though there was a -- a reme -- remediated --
8 reclamated (phonetic), people do not use that area.
9 People don't go near that area. At this time of the
10 year when it's just -- and also it's just like a fog
11 and -- and also -- and -- and also it's just like --
12 it's so warm from all that stuff that's on the land.
13 It's just a foggy area.

14 If that mine goes ahead around the
15 Fortune Minerals mine, if that mine goes ahead -- if
16 they wants -- if they want to go ahead with the mine,
17 but once the mine is shut down, what are they going to
18 do with that area? How they going to reclamate it or
19 remediate?

20 So I'm pretty sure the wildlife will not
21 go near that area. That whole area will be totally
22 destroyed for us. That land will not -- and also it --
23 it flows from -- it flows from the Fortune Mineral mine
24 area all the way to Marian River to Marian Lake. If
25 that water is ever contaminated or polluted, all of our

1 people that work around the Rayrock Mine they all are
2 buried there. Have died -- have -- have passed on like
3 my mom, my dad, my relatives. Today -- they're no
4 longer with me today.

5 I did not want to lose my people due to
6 the illness that they -- they are contracted from the
7 mine. That's why if -- to want to make sure that when
8 they first talked about the -- they want to do -- and
9 also if they're going to make this tailings and also --
10 usage from the wetland and also it's -- it's going to
11 flow out of there, will that be -- I don't think the
12 tailings will not be properly fixed and also it will go
13 -- it will go right into the river, all those from
14 Marian.

15 If they're going to go ahead they should
16 make a good dike or a dam and also put some wirings
17 around and also -- and also they -- with -- with the
18 moss, with the wetlands to -- to make a proper dike or
19 a -- a proper dam to make sure, because I'm -- I'm
20 concerned and worry about it.

21 It's a good beautiful land, good for
22 muskrat. We can spring the springtime going through
23 some lakes, going from one (1) lake to another, small
24 little lake. It's good for ratting, good for spring
25 hunting, good for waterfowls such as ducks, things that

1 we can eat, and it's a good nice rocky area. We --
2 it's a good -- it's a nice country where you can spend
3 some nights out in the land.

4 We used to go around the Fortune Mineral
5 mine area and we used to go to Hislop Lake, but still -
6 - but I personally think -- I personally think that I
7 do not want my people -- I do not want my peop -- to
8 lose my people due to the mine and of how it's going to
9 attract illness.

10 That's all I have for now. Thank you.
11 There might be quite a bit of people that may be
12 speaking.

13

14 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Louis Zoe from
17 -- Masi. Next on my list I have is Elder Pierre
18 Beaverho.

19

20 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

21

22 ELDER PIERRE BEAVERHO: Thank you. We
23 had a lot of people have spoken. We had listen. A lot
24 of people spoke. They had talked from their heart.
25 Down the road, it's going to be a lot of things that's

1 going to be changed. People are right, what they had
2 expressed their concern, and talk about Hislop Lake. A
3 lot of people touch on it.

4 I'm going to support of my member at
5 large. Hislop Lake and that road that's going to be a
6 road, I want to touch on that road. And the road --
7 and there's -- there's another lake there, and Hislop
8 Lake. And there's another lake. And the road, maybe
9 it's going to be a winter road, an all-weather -- all-
10 weather road. And one (1) of the Elder -- Elders from
11 -- Bishop -- Elder Bishop has spoken at one time. And
12 there's a ancestor -- ancestor trail. And there's a
13 portage. And right on top of the hill the people had -
14 - a lot of people had stayed in that area.

15 Any my sister, my older sister had died
16 and was buried in that area. Those are the kind of
17 things that has to be watched. And the road -- once
18 the road is built -- maybe before the road's built and
19 we do some -- where the burial site are, we do a
20 feasibility study. There's -- there's a lot of people
21 had stayed in that area, so there's a lot of historical
22 site there. So those are the kind of things that they
23 need to do, not just make a road over things that is
24 very important, like a bear site.

25 So we need to do some kind of

1 feasibility study before this project begins. So some
2 of the Elders had been buried there, so that's our
3 concern. And Hislop Lake, once that mine's been built
4 -- and a lot of people had spoken, I supported the
5 people that spoke today.

6 And the mine that's -- we know that once
7 the mine's been built, a lot of things are going to
8 change. And around that area, how many miles, that
9 animals that goes around that area, it will destroy the
10 animal.

11 And the mine -- and we have waters that
12 concerns and that fish -- maybe the fish will get sick.
13 So there's other animal like muskrat, beavers, they all
14 live in the water. They all survive by water. And
15 little wild games, even they live by water. They
16 survive by water, even caribou, moose, all the
17 wildlife. So that's a concern to us.

18 Water is pure like holy water to us.
19 We're the Nor -- people that live in the North will
20 survive by water and we drink the water. Without water
21 we won't survive, so is the animal and plants. Even
22 little small animal, they survive by water. So we talk
23 about water, it's very important. And Hislop Lake, the
24 mine that's coming up and that water that flows down to
25 the lake here, it's so true what the people had to say.

1 Once a line goes ahead and the -- the
2 water is going to get polluted, and what is going to
3 become of the people? People are going to get sick,
4 and the future for the kids that's going to be living
5 now for the next generation. How are they going to be?
6 How are they going to survive? There's going to be a
7 lot of changes for them, so today people are expressing
8 their concern. It's so true.

9 We'll survive by animals. We'll harvest
10 them. We'll survive by animal; that's how we survived
11 from our Elders and parents. Even caribou in the
12 barren land and the mine area, so we like to have the
13 monitoring in place for caribou or the -- where all the
14 caribou migrates.

15 And the winter road that's going to be
16 built, if something happens, what -- what we're going
17 to get out of it? What compensation that we're going
18 to get? So we need the support of the company as a
19 whole that winter road be built. If we don't support
20 each other, things will never go right with us. That's
21 what people had concern.

22 So the -- the road to be built, we
23 should really discuss it. The only way things is going
24 to be built is when the road be built first. We really
25 need to talk about it and consult with each other. We

1 don't want the road to be built, it's going to be a lot
2 of impact. Those are the kind of things that we have
3 to think about.

4 And a lot of people has spoken. And
5 we're being recorded, and they're going to take our
6 word. Even young people has spoken. Are they --
7 they're going to take their words seriously. And are
8 you guys going to take our words and use it?

9 Today is the -- like, it's the last day
10 that you hear people talk. I don't know when the next
11 time we're going to meet like this. We'd like to have
12 a next meeting regard to this mining, Fortune mine. I
13 don't know when there is going to be a next meeting.
14 Those -- those information that we need to hear to --
15 after all the people has spoken.

16 And all the information that's being
17 gathered, and you guys take those recommendation, what
18 are you guys going to do with it? And send it to
19 Tlicho government? Then to federal government?
20 Where's all the information is going to be sent to? Or
21 are you, as a Board, just going to make a -- take those
22 recommendations and go from there?

23 And the road -- and my concern is the
24 road that's going to be built. I know people use the
25 highways to haul stuff and we need all the information

1 on how the road is going to be built. The public needs
2 to know. I wish that this only like a seasonal road,
3 not all-weather road, be only winter road that's being
4 built.

5 So that's my concern is the road. Once
6 the highway is being built, we, as a Whati citizen, is
7 going to maybe impact. There might be social impact on
8 our future kids and how they're going to be. Are they
9 going to have a healthy community? That's the kind of
10 things that we need to know.

11 People are hurting and suffering; that's
12 why they're expressing their concern. They want to
13 have a life, a good life, good healthy community.
14 That's what they're saying. Even young people had
15 talk, they talk from their heart. They're suffering.

16 Look like I support that people that had
17 spoken today that we have everything in place. We're
18 all human being. We're all like one (1) people, and
19 relative to each other. Even our Creator build two (2)
20 people. From there, we are like relative. If
21 someone's in trouble and someone speaks, that person
22 that's suffering, we'll help that person. Even people
23 are suffering, we have to try and help them.

24 Non Aboriginal people, Dene people, we
25 know each other. We're -- we're relative. We want to

1 have a good lifestyle and healthy community, and
2 healthy water and land. Once everything -- we don't
3 want anything to fall apart. We live by animals. Like
4 our traditional foods -- we like our traditional food.
5 We live by the traditional food; that's how we survive
6 by our Elders.

7 Even today I still eat my traditional
8 food, and I have a lot of kids, and I have a lot of
9 grand -- grandkids. We're talking for the next
10 generation, and -- and our words to be taken seriously.
11 Things that's important, take the recommendation from
12 it. Take our statements seriously.

13 Today I have spoken. I thank you as a
14 Board and people sitting at the table, all the leaders,
15 the Chiefs, and the Tlicho government, all the workers.
16 Everybody as one. I was -- I thank you guys. We have
17 to speak from one (1) mind, speak one -- one (1) voice
18 that things will go right with us.

19 It was given us five (5) minutes to
20 speak. Even five (5) -- five (5) minutes is not long.
21 There's a lot of things that people -- people want to
22 say but there wasn't giving us enough time. And I'm
23 happy a lot of people have spoken and take them
24 seriously. You, as a Board, you guys all have kids and
25 grandkids. And people as the -- all sitting at -- on

1 the table, young people to think about.

2 We say young people going to school.

3 How -- how are their futures going -- going to be for
4 it when nobody knows? We don't want the young people
5 to suffer in the future. How they going to survive?

6 We don't know that. So we speaking on behalf of the
7 kids that are going to school.

8 And that's all. With my mind and heart
9 that I thanks everyone. Thank you.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Pierre
14 Beaverho. We're going to take a ten (10) minute break.
15 Before we take a ten (10) minute break, I just want to
16 make a note. I've got fifteen (15) more speakers left,
17 and -- but we also just finished our 33rd speaker. So
18 we'd -- that's pretty good.

19 I just want to thank everybody so far.
20 We've just been -- we're just being patient. So I want
21 to -- coming down to the last fifteen (15), so I want
22 to finish that off, and then we're going to go to
23 closing statements. So we'll take a ten (10) minute
24 break. Thank you.

25

1 --- Upon recessing at 4:57 p.m.

2 --- Upon resuming at 5:14 p.m.

3

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. We're going to
5 start.

6 Just a couple points. It was mentioned
7 a little bit earlier that as people came into the
8 public hearing, there was two (2) things happening.
9 We'd have the list of people to sign in just so that we
10 are able to track as to who's all in the meeting. We
11 have that list. And there was another list that we had
12 for people that wanted to speak publically. And I've
13 just got two (2) more names on the list here.

14 But I just wanted to just -- at this
15 point, I guess, we -- when we push into about fifty
16 (50) speakers now, so I'm going to continue to just go
17 with what I have and go forward.

18 A little bit earlier as well, the Elder
19 Joe Beaverho was asking some questions. Maybe if we
20 could get everybody to their seats so that we continue
21 with our presentation. Okay. I think they are going
22 to take their seats.

23 This af -- actually, this morning, just
24 after I -- we did our discussion on -- at ten o'clock
25 this morning, we started off with -- prior to the

1 presentation of the public people coming up to speak, I
2 explained the -- the process as what's going to happen.
3 And the Elder Joe Beaverho talked about: Where do we
4 go from here? What happens to the statements made by
5 the people here today?

6 It was -- as -- as you know, and I was
7 going to read this out after my comments for Chairman
8 or closing statements, but just to give a little light,
9 in terms of what will happen, again, after we finish
10 off the agenda for here today, there's closing
11 statements: closing statements made by Fortune
12 Minerals, the Tlicho Government, and myself as
13 Chairman. And after we finish this meeting, we'll have
14 a closing prayer. Then -- then we adjourn this
15 meeting. We're -- we're finished with this public
16 hearing.

17 We also have up to October 15th to have
18 undertakings that is due. We also have October 17th
19 for final written submissions from parties. Then on
20 October 22nd, we have final written submissions from
21 Fortune Minerals. And on October 22nd, the public
22 record will close. And what will happen thereafter is
23 that the Board will sit down and take a look at the
24 evidence from the public record and from this public
25 hearing, and from all the statements that were made

1 here by the Elders and the public and the youth.

2 Once we've looked at all the evidence,
3 then the Board will make a recommendation to staff as
4 to what they're going to do, in terms of taking
5 direction to write a report. And that report will be
6 sent to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and
7 also to the Tlicho government. Sometimes that report
8 will take anywhere from one (1) to three (3) to six (6)
9 months to write, but I -- I'm sure we will probably get
10 that done within a reasonable time frame.

11 Then once that is done, the Minister
12 will make a decision whether or not this mine should
13 proceed or not, or he could send that report back to
14 the Review Board for further consideration for us to
15 take a look at. But if the Minister accepts our
16 report, it will be approved with -- or rejected. In
17 either case -- but if it -- if it's approved with
18 measures, then what will happen is that that report
19 will go to the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board.

20 Then what will happen after that, the
21 Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board will meet. And they're
22 going to have another set of public hearings on a Class
23 A water licence, to issue that and permits that -- that
24 is followed with that. And so you have another
25 opportunity at a later date to further address some of

1 those concerns here in Behchoko.

2 Then from there the -- if it is
3 approved, it will go through a Class A water licence
4 hearing, and the -- licence and permits will be issued.
5 Normally, that's what will -- that's the process. And
6 I believe the Elder wanted to know what will happen
7 from here. So I was going to make that on my comments
8 and my Chair's report. I just wanted to refresh
9 everybody's memory and let you know what the process
10 is. So -- so anyways, I hope that helps.

11 And a little bit earlier this morning, I
12 explained the process a little further. But this is
13 coming to the tail end of the public hearing. After
14 this public hearing is finished, we will -- we're not
15 meeting anymore from -- as a Board. And it goes to the
16 next stage, like I said. So I just wanted to really
17 explain that.

18 Okay, so I hope that it addresses the
19 concern or exp -- I'm hoping explain that in such a way
20 that the Elder Pierre Beaverho understands it. So I
21 hope that explains that. Thank you to Elder Beaver --
22 Pierre Beaverho for bringing that up. Masi.

23 Okay. So I'm going to continue on with
24 the, list that I have for speakers. I guess while I
25 was up here there was two (2) more names that came up.

1 So I want to make sure that we give everybody an
2 opportunity to speak, and I think we've done quite
3 well. And I just want to make sure that we will
4 continue on doing that until -- and I'm told that the
5 bingo has been cancelled, so I think we're all going to
6 be here for a little while yet. I'm just kidding.

7 Okay. I've got on my list the next
8 speaker was going to be -- is Harry Apples, if he could
9 come up. You talked already? Oh, okay. Sorry about
10 that, Harry Apples. I better take that one off my
11 list.

12 Okay. The next one is Marcel Zoe. If
13 you could come up here, that would be good. Thank you.

14 MR. MARCEL ZOE: Yeah, my name is
15 Marcel Zoe. I was one of the member of Nishi Khon
16 Forestry contractors. And I would like to elaborate
17 more about -- into details. And also I would like to
18 interpret it into Dogrib myself.

19

20 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

21

22 MR. MARCEL ZOE: When we first -- I was
23 the forestry -- under contract, I was the forestry
24 separation crew foreman. And we made money. Clouter,
25 the Edzo Air, he was the one that he made an agreement

1 with us to -- there -- there's quite a number of things
2 that he had done.

3 And -- and there's -- now, because of
4 the claim block, that he had claim. But still,
5 nobody's talking about what kind of a thing that he
6 had. That I have asked that at one time. The four (4)
7 years now I work with forestry at the time for four (4)
8 years because of -- they had their own -- we -- we
9 started the Edzo Air.

10 But then when I look at it, Carl
11 Clouter, he had -- he had selt -- he had sold his own
12 claim. In 2009, he had -- and -- and at the -- at the
13 culture centre, we had spoke about it with all the
14 Chiefs. All the Chiefs are listening to me as we
15 speak. But then I am telling the truth as we speak.

16 And the Fortune -- we're talking about
17 the Fortune Minerals here. It seems like they have --
18 it seems like they have a hook in. They're talking
19 about the all-weather road. They will do whatever they
20 want to do. They will -- it seems like they're talking
21 and say they will do whatever -- whatever they want to
22 do with water. To -- to me, I find it amazing.

23 I just spoke with my friends. They find
24 it pretty amazing. But what does the Tli -- the
25 Tliche, we're always -- the -- the Tliche, there are a

1 lot of things that are happening. We're -- we're not -
2 - we don't come from other country. We were born and
3 raised here. We are the Tlicho people.

4 The -- the late Chief Jimmy Bruno had
5 stated at one time that -- Jimmy Bruno had -- he said
6 there are a lot of things on our land. But still...
7 And also, because of the -- because of the minerals
8 that's in the -- in the ground will affect the
9 wildlife, the caribou, the environment and all kinds of
10 wildlife. That's what he had stated.

11 Yes, while you guys are living, he said
12 that it will -- will not be like that. We're the ones
13 -- it will be up to us at that time. That's what he --
14 it is our land. In 1921, when Chief Jimmy Bruno, he
15 had replaced Monfwi. Monfwi had stated that anything
16 that is on -- and also, we still have the full control
17 of any minerals that's in the ground. We have the full
18 control over.

19 But Canada, it seems like the federal
20 government in Canada, they have the full control over
21 our land. That's what I think. But, you know, you
22 guys will not fall into the footsteps of other people.

23 That's what the Elders had stated and
24 talked about. But today it's not like that. If you
25 will just look at their mouths -- mouths move, it seems

1 like we -- we don't have to listen -- listen to them.

2 It's -- it's our land. And we live by the water -- by
3 the water.

4 If you look at other countries it is
5 pitiful. There's no water in other countries, and it's
6 a poor country. There are a lot of things that -- and
7 it's called the last frontier. We have -- we are the
8 last frontier. We have a lot of good natural re --
9 resources, rich -- rich in resources, ever since I can
10 remember as a kid.

11 When I look at Canada -- when I look at
12 Canada, a lot of things smell. It smells terribly in
13 other countries. You can't even walk around in other
14 countries. But in the western part of the territories,
15 we have a lot of uncontaminated area, good water.
16 Things smells good. Things is okay.

17 And the Board that -- so I just wanted
18 to say something to the Elders while they are here.
19 When -- they should -- we should have an inquiry about
20 the Cal -- Carl Clouter. How did he -- did he made --
21 did he -- how did he manage 25-mile radius of the land
22 lease that he got? It is our land. It is our land.
23 It is our area. How did -- why did -- how did he do
24 that without our consultation, without informing us?

25 We're the ones that gave him money to --

1 he was -- he was working for us. And it's just like he
2 stole something from us, did a -- a great deal of
3 stealing things from -- stole things from us. We
4 should have inquire about the -- the mine. They --
5 they should freeze, put a moratorium or freeze on that
6 -- on them.

7 Tell to have their full -- there will be
8 no road, nothing, no development will ever occur just
9 for money. Money is nothing. And the -- and the --
10 that land, we depend on and we rely on it. And this --
11 this mother earth, the mother -- the earth is our
12 mother.

13 The air is good, water is good, and a
14 lot of good natural resources and good wildlife. And
15 the other country -- other country are poor, and the
16 other country are not like our country up here. And
17 the money doesn't mean anything to us.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 MR. MARCEL ZOE: The -- the Hislop Lake
22 area, the Fortune Min -- where the Fortune Minerals
23 exists, they said there was a mine close to the Fortune
24 Minerals. We have to ask the Creator, and -- and Jimmy
25 Bruno had stated that to me. But as for today, the --

1 regarding the Fortune Minerals, me, I say no. Thank
2 you.

3

4 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

5

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Marcel
7 Zoe. To respond to your comments in regards an inquiry
8 and moratorium, at this point in time the Review Board
9 has an application from its Board. And under the
10 Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, we have to
11 follow it through. So we're going to continue on with
12 the business of this application from beginning to end,
13 so. But your notes -- I mean, your comments are on
14 record, so I just wanted to let you know that. Thank
15 you.

16 I'm going to go to the next speaker.
17 Speaker number 35 is Joe Beaverho.

18 MR. JOE BEAVERHO: I thought you were
19 going to say Elder.

20

21 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

22

23 MR. JOE BEAVERHO: I'm going to say
24 this in my language. You, the Board, the Mackenzie
25 Valley Review Board, a lot of people have made a

1 statement. And all the people that spoke to you and
2 the experience and what they thought about and how they
3 worked out on the land. And also how our ancestors
4 worked on this land, they have knowledge of this.

5 And as for myself, I'm not -- I don't
6 want the Fortune Minerals to open up. The reason why
7 I'm saying this is if we're going to be making --
8 regarding the money, we have a lot of problem with
9 land, water, and also people who are employed. You
10 know, we have a social problem.

11 As for the land, the environment
12 contaminates, even the soil, even the -- our Elders,
13 our ancestors in English, we call it "sacred land,"
14 because of our ancestors worked on this land, and some
15 of the historic value that we take for value is on the
16 land.

17 And when we go out on the land, when
18 there is development on the land, it ruins the
19 environment. Even digging up the soil, you know, the
20 soil would con -- would -- when the wildlife consumes
21 some vegetation from the growth of the disturbance of
22 the soil, the wildlife would become sick. And if that
23 wildlife becomes sick, then the -- whoever consumes it
24 will probably get sick. And also, not only that, also
25 with the fish.

1 The fish and the wildlife, we still
2 survive on these things. We still consume on these
3 things. In the past, when we take water from the lake,
4 we would drink the water from the lake. But today it's
5 not like that. Just recently, when it snows, when we
6 gather snow with our hands, it seems like it's -- like
7 salt. And in the past it wasn't like that. And even
8 the climate is changing today.

9 And when there's employment, employers -
10 - employers are there so they can make -- have an
11 income. But at times they would have situation that's
12 not very good. Some of these -- when we make money,
13 60, 40 percent would be employed at the beginning. It
14 would be stated in this manner. But once the operation
15 starts, it's -- it's like our people would be
16 terminated.

17 So regarding the employment -- and also
18 there's situations that we have social problems
19 regarding alcohol and drugs, and we have family
20 problems. Individuals would have these kind of
21 problems. Probably people spoke onto this issue. But
22 how can we improve these kind of situations? People
23 are speaking to these kind of things.

24 Although we say things that are --
25 although we say our piece, but you have to make a

1 decision. You're the ones that have to make a
2 decision, what are the people thinking? Are the people
3 -- do the people want to have a good life? Do they
4 want to prosper? And the issue -- keep that in mind
5 and make your decisions.

6 In Berger inquiry in the past in the
7 North, while the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline was
8 proposed, he visited every community. And that's how
9 they closed -- closed that project. But we, as Tlicho
10 citizens, you should listen to those Mackenzie Valley
11 report. And with that in mind, you should make your
12 decision. And that's all I'd like to say. Thank you.

13

14 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, young
17 Elder Joe Beaverho. Masi, Joe.

18 The next speaker I have on my list now
19 is speaker number 36, it's Francis Williah, Elder
20 Francis Williah. We could bring a mic to him if he
21 wants. Oh no, he's coming up. Maybe the staff could
22 help adjust a mic for him.

23

24 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

25

1 ELDER FRANCIS WILLIAH: Thank you.
2 (NATIVE LANGUAGE SPOKEN NOT TRANSLATED). As for me,
3 the five (5) minutes -- I've been here all day, so
4 maybe we have five (5) minutes. I probably have only
5 one (1) minute now. But if we're going to talk about
6 things, and we can't touch on -- touch upon every
7 topic. And the mine that's going to be created, the
8 proposed mine, that's what we're talk -- the -- the
9 water is going to be damaged.

10 The water, everything, and every
11 creature that lives on this earth, even the waterfowl,
12 even all the -- without water, they're not going to
13 survive. And so the water is very important, and
14 that's true.

15 The Rayrock that was in operation is --
16 hasn't be in operation, but I worked there for one (1)
17 summer underground. So prior to that, I used to go
18 fishing with a crew. We used to live in a tent. And
19 the fish was very huge, the whitefish. And the fish
20 was very healthy. The muskrat, the beaver, and all the
21 fur-bearing and waterfowl, the ducks. And going down -
22 - down stream after the mine shut down from Hislop Lake
23 all the way down the Marion River and also from Labrash
24 Lake.

25 We had no -- the people used to use this

1 for food source. But since the Rayrock mine was in
2 operation, there's no more fish. And also, the water
3 downstream, even the -- there was less muskrat and
4 ducks. And also, the small fur-bearing animals had
5 reduced. Even though the -- today there's less and
6 less Whiskey Jacks.

7 So if there's going to be an opening of
8 a mine -- I've been -- I was raised in that area, along
9 with my family, and I also work underground. I -- I
10 used to work underground at Rayrock. And while it was
11 in a closure plans, everybody took -- everybody -- and
12 while they were going to move their mines, everything
13 was going to be moved into the tundra. Until they
14 moved the last building, all the equipment that was
15 taken out from underground, I was there until the
16 closure.

17 The people who was living there, there
18 was many people that lived in that area, even the young
19 people and all -- all the non-Aboriginal, are probably
20 not alive today. So the contaminants is very dangerous
21 for -- we have to talk towards these kinds of issues.

22 So with our experience, these
23 experiences that we -- we went through, so that's how
24 we have to -- so the things that we are worried, if
25 it's going to -- not going to be good for the human and

1 also the water is flowing -- it's not flowing north.

2 The water is flowing in our direction.

3 So the people that live and -- the
4 people who live in Wekweti and Gameti and also north of
5 Marion Lake, there was -- at the end of Russ Lake
6 (phonetic), we can't consume fish and even the ducks.
7 That's why they move further north. And today, they
8 are healthy. And today, if the mine opens up, then we
9 will face difficult situations, not only us, but our
10 generation coming next. How are they going to be?

11 I am not saying to open the mine; I'm
12 not saying not to open it. We're working -- this is
13 the process. We have a winter road, and we have an
14 airport, all the infrastructure that's been placed in
15 that area. So what is going to be done with the
16 mineral? You're still going to continue on to extract
17 the minerals.

18 But even though all the nice words that
19 you use see -- all the nice words that you use to try
20 to open up the mine, I've witnessed on many occasions,
21 even in Great Bear Lake area, we used to -- we used to
22 live in Great Bear Lake, where the mine was situated.
23 Today there's many stories about those areas, and it's
24 not very pleasant stories.

25 Even though it's our land, even though

1 we talk about these things the process -- these kind of
2 process takes place. So we have to listen to one
3 another and support one another. And -- and when I
4 pray -- did the opening, prayed for you. And when we -
5 - we come to these kind of -- sitting at these
6 meetings, then we have to think about our people and
7 take into consideration what people have to say.

8 And two (2) days I've been here at this
9 meeting. And so I can't speak very long, so I don't
10 want to touch upon everything, but the most important
11 things that I've touch upon is all I'm going to say.
12 Thank you.

13

14 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: I want to thank the
17 Elder Francis Williah. Masi for your wisdom.

18 Next on my list I have is Noel Bishop
19 (phonetic), Elder.

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: He's gone. Okay, the
24 next one I have is Phillip Dryneck. I believe he's
25 also an Elder. Yes, he's coming up. Maybe the staff

1 could just help adjust the mic for him.

2

3 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

4

5 ELDER PHILLIP DRYNECK: Thank you, Mr.
6 Chairman. I'm here -- thank you for giving me the
7 opportunity to speak to you.

8 Talking about the Fortune Mineral mines
9 that we're -- that we're talking about now that -- I
10 suppose they're absolutely right. The people that are
11 here, we did not make that our trad -- the traditional
12 trails. None of the traditional trails has been done
13 by us. It was done by our forefathers and our
14 ancestors of how they can survive. The trails that
15 have been made -- the trails that -- our ancestors'
16 trail have been made -- made by where they can survive.

17 But today -- so remember the old Rayrock
18 Mine. There was quite a bit of people that were happy
19 back in the old -- in those days. At that time, people
20 were happy. All these Elders that were very useful are
21 all gone, all have passed on. Every one of them are
22 gone. That's what's a very -- very -- that's a very
23 powerful thing that we're talking about as we speak.

24 I, myself, had to work -- from work -- I
25 was born in the Wekweti area, in Snare Lake/Wekweti

1 area, around -- around -- look at the -- around that.
2 I work at Goti (phonetic) area at the Colomac. But now
3 with the help -- for the help of the doctor, I have
4 eleven (11) years. Today, I seem to be okay, the
5 doctor -- with the help of the -- if I did not get the
6 treatment from the -- from the doctor, I'll -- I would
7 have been -- maybe I would have passed on like my other
8 previous people who have passed on.

9 But then -- they're talking about how
10 important the water is; it also flows to us. That area
11 flows to us. They're absolutely right when they say
12 that river flow to our area. Not only us, but -- like,
13 for instance while I -- I, myself, stand here, before
14 me -- maybe about twenty (20) people before me -- like,
15 even myself I -- I had an illness from there, a
16 sickness. I had surgery -- I had surgery -- surgery,
17 and I survived by -- survived by my surgery. What
18 would have happened to my kids, my -- my daughters, and
19 so forth?

20 Now we -- you guys have given the
21 opportunity to speak for approximately five (5)
22 minutes. When Monfwi -- when Monfwi, before he
23 accepted the treaty, he drew a boundary. No other
24 Chief have ever built a foundation like that, like the
25 way that Chief Monfwi had done. He drew a boundary,

1 but still -- but still now we are restricted --
2 restricted to hunt caribou. Now we -- people are
3 struggling. Now over half of you are listening and
4 some of you aren't -- aren't listening. That's just
5 the way things are.

6 In the past, our -- our Elders when --
7 when we had the Chief, the boss, they were informed,
8 and they were consulted. There were -- were people --
9 what -- people used to inform each other where they
10 were going to go. That's the way it was around at --
11 at that time. I did work very hard out on the land --
12 land. And -- and I used to paddle all the way to the
13 barrens a number of times. I worked very hard.

14 At the old hospital the -- and I was a
15 janitor there. Even though I did not speak -- spoke
16 one (1) word of English, I had worked at the old
17 hospital for -- until the day it was -- till the day it
18 was closed. But I'm prett -- I'm pretty knowledgeable
19 -- knowledgeable person. Today nobody seems to
20 consider me, as a -- as if I'm nothing, that's -- I
21 know that.

22 I did work very well. A number of
23 times, I step out on the land without even having a
24 proper meal. This is how our people have survived.
25 You know, when they talk about that, they're absolutely

1 right. Sleeping out on the land when there was -- when
2 there was no game. But then the river flows from the
3 Fortune Mineral Mine area. And also from the Colomac
4 Mine, the river flows from that area to -- to this
5 area.

6 But if it wasn't with the help of the
7 doctor, if I didn't have the surgery, maybe I would
8 have not been here today. When the doctor speaks to
9 you, I -- when the doctor wants -- I usually listen to
10 them because I know I will survive. But all of my
11 friends, none of them are alive today. All of my
12 friends -- I am eighty-five (85) years old. As I speak
13 to you, I am the age of eighty-five (85) years old.
14 I'm not talking -- I'm not full of it while I speak to
15 you, and that's not a word of a lie.

16 People in Behchoko are the population of
17 over two thousand (2,000) people. I can't say this
18 community is good, but then we have -- it seems like
19 there is -- there isn't anything here. It's just the
20 way it is in this community. To me, it is not right.

21 So now they're talking about the all-
22 weather road. Look -- look at this road between here
23 and Yellowknife. I had held an axe when they were
24 cutting the -- for the -- for the road back in the
25 early days. And also past Yellowknife out to the

1 tundra, I have worked on the -- when they first start
2 building the road. And also the -- from here to
3 Yellowknife, they used to -- they -- we used to put the
4 logs across the road.

5 There are some people that are saying
6 because -- maybe because now -- but then the vehicles
7 are heavy now, they just like -- too many potholes and
8 too many dip in the road between here and Yellowknife.

9 But still I do not -- I'm not -- we're
10 given the five (5) min -- five (5) minutes to speak.
11 So, Chairman, thank you for giving the opportunity to
12 have speak. Masi cho.

13

14 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Phillip
17 Dryneck, for your presentation. Masi.

18 I'm going to go to Elder John -- Jimmy
19 B. Rabesca.

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Stepped out. Okay,
24 the next one I'll -- I'm going to go to the next Elder.
25 It's going to be Bernadette Naskin. Is she here?

1 Okay. Maybe staff could help her get a
2 chair or put the mic -- to help her with the mic and
3 chair.

4

5 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

6

7 ELDER BERNADETTE NASKIN: Yes -- yes,
8 things that have been talked about, we have the Chiefs
9 and we -- we have our own government and -- but as we
10 sit here today we are spiritual people. We are
11 spiritual people while we sit here. Monfwi -- Monfwi
12 was the one that had drawn a boundary, a huge land. He
13 was thinking about the future of our little ones at
14 that time. Will they be able to survive? That's what
15 he had thought before he drew the boundary.

16 And now so even just because he had
17 passed on, we will still remember him. He did a huge
18 thing for the Tlicho people. As long as we last, we
19 will always remember Monfwi and also the late Chief
20 Jimmy Bruno. Those two (2) leaders -- those two (2)
21 leaders they were excellent and good leaders. And also
22 their rel -- their relatives still exist today.
23 Monfwi's relatives are still alive today. He did a
24 good, good thing for us.

25 Now we have the Chief here, we have the

1 government here. And now are -- we're going to look
2 for minerals in your area. What do you think, is it
3 okay if -- okay, I'm going to do the exploration and
4 search for miner -- minerals if it's okay -- if it's
5 okay for your people. Are they -- can they inform our
6 leaders so the minerals that is found in that area what
7 -- have our people been consulted? We're going to
8 search in the area.

9 But anyway, the -- Monfwi that the
10 boundary that he had drawn, that -- so in the Monfwi
11 boundary area can you give me that -- that lot -- if I
12 find, can you give me that -- that land? Will I be
13 able to -- to hold it or have it? So the -- are they,
14 us Dene people while we live here -- and also now to
15 know they're doing things way beyond -- beyond us.
16 It's not right. It's like stealing the land from us,
17 stealing the area from us.

18 And the Chief Jimmy Bruno and also --
19 and I remember -- and I also -- I used to -- whenever
20 there was a feast at Chief Jimmy Bruno's place, I used
21 to -- used to wash dishes and clean up there. People
22 from the outside are coming in. Now they're going to -
23 - to collect stories and bring it back to their people,
24 that's what -- that's what he had said and today, it
25 exists today. They were gathering stories, information

1 and taking it back -- back home.

2 Yes, they are our people and we all come
3 from our leaders. So the -- so I'm pretty sure that
4 things that he had said are still written down
5 somewhere. And all that -- the boundary that he had
6 drawn, it still exist -- still exists on the map, we
7 still -- we still have that. Today -- even to this
8 day, we hang on to the words of the Chief Jimmy Bruno
9 and also Monfwi. Those two (2) -- two (2) leaders had
10 did an excellent thing for us.

11 Why are -- no, don't you remember the
12 words of our two (2) old leaders? Now why are we
13 opening the mine for the other mining company? Look at
14 -- so look at all the minerals that are -- the mine
15 that had opened other areas. We have a lot of people,
16 a lot of orphans. And -- and some of them are being --
17 some of them are -- are being asked to leave -- leave
18 from -- from the housing. But still, it's -- some of
19 them, they pay their rent for over a thousand dollars a
20 month if they have an income or if they have a job.

21 So they can't even pay their rent.
22 There -- sometime there is no -- some of them, there's
23 no fuel, there's no nothing. Sometimes -- sometimes --
24 so some of these people will try to help them any way
25 we can. But once a year about two hundred and fifty

1 dollars (\$250) -- we used to get the IBA money for two
2 hundred and fifty dollars (\$250). What -- what is two
3 hundred and fifty dollars (\$250)?

4 Now we have the -- now that we're -- now
5 -- now they are millionaire. And then they would
6 leave. And then who -- do -- do we have a million
7 dollars in our -- in our account? If you think I'm
8 lying, look at our -- look at our account and what is
9 in our account. There isn't anything in our account.
10 Maybe there isn't a penny. Maybe -- maybe we have not
11 a penny, but maybe two (2) cents in our account.

12 But now they are just like walking over.
13 Why are we listening to the mining company? Why are we
14 listening to them? So the mineral that is -- that is
15 found, before they open it we should all get the Dene
16 people together of how we can really -- then we will
17 say, Yes, to the mine. If not, then when -- and
18 whenever we say "money," you just seem like you jump to
19 some con -- conclusion. You think there is a lot of
20 money. Today we still never seen any money. What are
21 we doing here? And now so we don't even have a dollar.
22 There are a lot of kids that are pitiful. Sometime
23 they are without food. Sometime they come and visit
24 and we feed them.

25 And then -- and also, you guys are

1 millionaires. We can starve right -- right next to
2 you. Once you become a millionaire you would -- will
3 not -- will not eve -- you don't even treat us like --
4 like dogs. Once you become a millionaire, you will
5 probably go back home to your country; to me, that is
6 not right.

7 So you should straighten a few things.
8 And -- and also, we have -- we have a lot of arrears to
9 our land lease. You can't even fix that. Now, why are
10 you getting minerals from -- from our land? You know,
11 that -- our lands have nothing to do with you and it's
12 none of your business. And -- and we live within the
13 Monfwi boundary. We're not even benefiting from it.
14 We're not...

15 And also, you're just taking our --
16 money from our natural resources. Why? So ask the
17 chiefs. Ask the chief and ask our leaders to do what
18 you want. So, to me, it's not -- not -- shouldn't be
19 like that.

20 Money... And -- and, also, it's just
21 like we're nothing to them. And they will really
22 benefit. And people will probably -- now the people,
23 some of them are -- are without homes. Pretty soon
24 when you look at, the people, once they leave their
25 housing, they will probably be living in a tent

1 outside.

2 How many millions will -- they will get
3 from -- millions of dollars they will get from our land
4 and our natural resources. Do we have millions? We
5 have nothing. We don't even have millions while we sit
6 here, people from the Behchoko. We have five (5)
7 community. Not one of us have a million dollars in the
8 bank. It's nothing. Talwidi (phonetic) means nothing.

9 Now, the -- the -- so if you're going to
10 open the mine, of how we're really going to benefit
11 from it, and then work out a deal, then we can go from
12 there. Masi cho.

13

14 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. Masi to
17 Bernadette Naskin for sharing your views and comments.
18 I really appreciate that. Thank you. Masi.

19 I'm going to go on to -- next on the
20 list I have is Vita -- Vitaline Gon. Is she here? Oh,
21 she's here. Please state your name.

22 MS. VITALINE GON: Vitaline Gon. And
23 everybody knows everybody. I am employed with Tlicho
24 government. But I am not here for Tlicho government.
25 I'm -- I'm here for myself and my grand kids. And I

1 will not be speaking English. I'll be speaking my
2 fluent language, which is Dogrib.

3

4 (INTERPRETED FROM DOGRIB INTO ENGLISH)

5

6 MS. VITALINE GON: We see other
7 country. We look at TV, how things -- how things --
8 our animal are dying, how many millions of things are
9 dying, animals. We see that on the news. If you watch
10 the news, even fish, they all are on the shore.
11 They're floating. They're -- they're dead.

12 As we speak in here, we're talking about
13 mine exploration. Once a mine's open -- and we see
14 other places, other country, people have spoken about
15 Diavik, what -- example, Diavik and BHP, even Diavik
16 Mine, when -- when it's operating.

17 And today, is there caribou around that
18 area? Even here to Wekweti used to be a lot of caribou
19 migrate between here and Wekweti. Now -- now today you
20 have to go further out to get caribou as it has impact
21 on the caribou today. If there's noises they won't go
22 that certain area where -- and for harvesting. So
23 habitat and everything has changed.

24 What people had said, they -- they work
25 with it, that chemicals is poison and it kills a lot of

1 things, a lot of environment. To -- at one time, there
2 used to be a lot of animals. Now all the animals are
3 going somewhere else maybe, maybe because of that mine
4 -- for mine in this area. And there's a lot of
5 sickness and disease. A lot of things has been
6 contaminated.

7 We can't disagree and let this mine
8 company go ahead. Are we going to do -- make a right
9 decision? And how many people in here looking at us.
10 Do we have a diamond mine on a ring, we are not wealthy
11 people. Do we have a lot of things at home, are they
12 expensive, like vehicles? I don't think our community
13 have that.

14 A lot of people has spoken. We have to
15 hold on to what we... That's a very powerful
16 statement. And that's all I wanted to say. Thank you.

17

18 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

19

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Vitaline
21 Gon. Masi. I want to go to the next speaker, be Joe
22 Erasmus.

23

24 (INTERPRETED FROM DOGRIB TO ENGLISH)

25

1 MR. JOE ERASMUS: Thank you. My name
2 is Joe Erasmus. In Dogrib they call me Tliqua
3 (phonetic). And I live in this area. Thank you for
4 giving me a chance to speak. I'm going to do it in
5 English.

6

7 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

8

9 MR. JOE ERASMUS: My name is Joe
10 Erasmus. I'm from Rae/Behchoko here, living on barren.
11 I talking -- I'll talk a little bit about the important
12 of water, you know, from how important it is from
13 teaching from my parents and my Elders and how to
14 respect the water and everything, all creations.

15 And I know the water's running right to
16 our -- our community. How it's going to impact our --
17 our water when this mine...? We don't know how much
18 water you guys will be using and how many years to
19 treat it before we can -- when the mine closes or
20 whatever.

21 The water is so important, water, life.
22 Water is life. It's life, blood of mother earth that
23 creates everything, our plant, our animal. And if it's
24 destroyed we're destroying our self and our plants and
25 our animals. So water is so important. Water is life.

1 When we first start, right from the
2 morning, like this morning I used water to wash. And I
3 have to cleanse myself and give thanks. And I use
4 water to cook my breakfast and give thanks when --
5 before I eat it, so it nourish the mind and our body
6 and our spirit.

7 It's so important. That's what our
8 Elders and our parents taught us, to respect this
9 water. Water is life. It's a spirit. We talk to it
10 when we travel on it. We give tobacco so we have a
11 safe trip. The same with plants. There's a lot of
12 plants out there still healthy we use for medicine.

13 So when you make decision you really
14 have to decide how important water is. Water is number
15 1, it comes first. Then plant life is second. And
16 animals, and next, we're the last one, is human being.
17 So you have to respect all the plants and animals
18 before you do this work.

19 I don't know if you respect and give
20 offering before you did the mine, but this is our
21 culture. Our Elders always tau -- taught us these
22 things. So when all the speakers are talking about
23 water and how important it is, I am for them because
24 respecting water is so important for us as human
25 beings, not only us, but for our plants and animals

1 because that's why we call this mother earth our
2 mother. It provide us everything, the food, the
3 animals, all different kind of fish in the water and
4 the plants and all the trees.

5 We give thanks for our shel -- shelter
6 we have in the winter, our lo -- our home. It provides
7 everything. We're all interconnected with universe.
8 We're part of everything and give thanks for
9 everything.

10 So it's so important for us, as Dene
11 people. So when you -- it says zero minute now. So --
12 so little time to speak. But I give all of you masi
13 cho. And I hope you make the right decision, and hope
14 you -- it's so important that you should make a
15 decision on the land. Have your meeting on the land,
16 near a water, so you listen to this water. Masi Cho.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you Joe
18 Erasmus, Masi. Next I got Mary Adele Mackenzie, is she
19 here? I don't see -- I don't see her. I'm going to go
20 on to the next one, Gary Wedawin, is he here? Oh
21 sorry, okay. The next one I got is Sam Mantla. Is he
22 here? Sam...?

23

24 (INTERPRET FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

25

1 MR. SAM MANTLA: Masi, Mr. Chair. Yes,
2 thank you Mr. Chair for giving me the opportunity, I am
3 thankful. There's a lot of people that spoke and
4 they're talking about the water, the importance of the
5 water. And the future generations, that's who we're
6 speaking for.

7 The wildlife, the fish in the water, the
8 waterfall, all the ducks, it's true. Even in my
9 community a lot of people wanted to come this way to
10 the hearing. There's a lot of orphans in -- in -- in
11 Rayrock there's a lot of our people prior -- before --
12 before the Gamati became a community, half of the
13 population in Gamati are orphans. They have no
14 parents, no brothers. Those kind of people want to
15 speak, they asked me -- they want to come but I am not
16 the one in control.

17 The four (4) communities being as one
18 united, we have to support one another but it's -- it's
19 not in that fashion today. It's seems like there's
20 only two (2) communities that are. If we going to
21 think -- if we think about it, there's some people that
22 say that we are not going to be affected but it's not
23 like that. We travel throughout each of the
24 communities, sometimes we spend our time here for one
25 (1) week, two (2) weeks. One of these days we might

1 get affected.

2 When we talk about the water -- when the
3 mine opens up, it's not going to take effect right
4 away. Once the mine is in operation, maybe fifty (50)
5 years after the closure then the effect may take place.

6 From Hislop Lake, I travel out on the
7 land with the canoes prior to the forest fire. From
8 Rayrock there's a really different shapes on the ground
9 and the soil, there's a difference.

10 And the mine that's been proposed to
11 open, I very worried about the water. I have children,
12 I have a son and daughters and the future generations
13 that come after them. How -- How is it going to be
14 fifty (50), sixty (60) years from now? There's going
15 to be a big difference? And that's the time we'll see
16 the difference.

17 Prior to coming this way, there's a lot
18 of people that asked me, wanting to come this way but I
19 have -- I never said nothing to them because I...

20 Thank you, Chairman. You've listened to
21 that many people all day and it's very difficult to do
22 this kind of sitting. I am thankful for listening to
23 the people, that's all I would like to say for now.
24 Masi.

25

1 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you Sam Mantla,
4 masi. The next one I have on the list is Noel Drybone,
5 is he here? Did the guest not come inside, he's an
6 elder?

7

8 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

9

10 ELDER NOEL DRYBONE: Yes, My name is --
11 Oda (phonetic) Elder, I'm considered an Elder, my name
12 is Noel Drybones. But still I'm not a speaker -- a
13 public speaker but what I'll basically want to talk
14 about is, I did -- did live in Rayrock area.

15 I want to talk about when I was -- when
16 I was just a little child I had been in that area, I
17 used to live in that area. My late dad was working at
18 the Rayrock mine. There was some buildings around the
19 Rayrock mine. I used to go here and there -- they used
20 to ask me to do some daily chores to get some fish,
21 here and there. From there I was sent to school from
22 Rayrock mine. I had lived in Fort Resolution, I had
23 given back -- to a -- to a -- so I know all the rivers
24 around the Ray -- Rayrock mine and also around Hislop
25 Lake and these little -- little lakes. They used to --

1 they used to tell me to go here, to go there, to do the
2 chores for my dad 'cause my dad was working at the
3 mine.

4 At the Rayrock mine there was no fish in
5 that area around the -- the Rayrock mine so they used
6 to send me here and there to get some fish. Some them
7 -- so we -- when talk, we talk of what we had
8 witnessed, something we had seen with our own eyes.
9 Some people say they had lived there but I am not here
10 to talk about other people. I know who had worked
11 there and lived in that area.

12 Since I was fourteen years old when I
13 was sent to the residential school from -- for a number
14 of years where I spent some time. When the mine was
15 taken apart, when I was young, I used to take --
16 disassemble some of the stuff around the mine area and
17 take them.

18 So each and every one them speak, there
19 are only four (4) people: Edward Zoe spoke English,
20 Jola Mile (phonetic), Benny Drygeese, and my dad were
21 the ones that spoke. They're the ones -- the only ones
22 that were -- they're the ones who were interpreting for
23 our people. The only four (4) people that had spoke
24 English at that time. But still -- but things did not
25 get out of hand and they worked fairly well.

1 When we talk about -- when we're going
2 to talk about -- when we talk about Q'wetia, it's
3 dangerous, it's dangerous. The same thing with the
4 Fortune Minerals, the same thing, it's a dangerous.
5 When we talk about Gogweti (phonetic) around the Hislop
6 Lake, we used -- they used to walk -- walk from Hislop
7 Lake all the way to the Fortune Mineral Mine area and
8 they used to walk back and forth. They didn't say dog
9 team, the Elders that walked the land, that -- this is
10 how harder they had work out in the land. Those are
11 the ones we are talking about.

12 And also, just because they had to spend
13 -- they spend the freeze-up, they used to walk the
14 land, winter or not because they cared for their dogs
15 and they walked the land, each and every one of them.
16 We are without the people that -- who had worked very
17 hard on the land, at that time when we were young. We
18 remember what our parents had -- of how hard they had
19 worked, and it's been passed on to us because -- but
20 today I didn't expect to be standing up here to speak.
21 I am very fortunate and lucky to be alive to be able to
22 speak to you.

23 When we talk about that Fortune Mineral
24 Mines area and also the uranium mine, it's dangerous,
25 it's dangerous and also, the -- and -- and, and, and --

1 and also the uranium can be very, very dangerous. If
2 ever you put it in your pocket and start to walk and
3 it's very dangerous minerals but still...

4 Well, I'm not here to talk a little too
5 long, and also the minute you speak we may -- our words
6 may not be taken but you may think this is how we had
7 lived. This is something that we wanted to share with
8 you of how we had lived. Who are we referring our
9 issues to? We are -- our people were born here and we
10 have grand kids, and also, look, look outside here,
11 that river flows right on the Lou Lake (phonetic). So
12 my late brother Johnny -- late brother -- brother-in-
13 law Johnny and I, used to trap in that area, it flows
14 from there. It will affect -- it will affect us in the
15 long run, it flows from there, all the way to main
16 river, to Marian Lake.

17 And -- and you guys human's as well and
18 you guys are people, and we are the same. We all have
19 leaders -- you, I am pretty sure you have leaders and
20 we're all the same. So, so maybe you will listen --
21 maybe you will listen, listen to -- to, to -- just all
22 I want to say for now that hopefully you will listen to
23 our concerns, the concerns that have been raised. Masi
24 Cho.

25

1 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi Noel Drybone.

4 Next I have is -- thank you, I'm going to go to

5 Georgina Chocolate, is she here?

6

7 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO TO ENGLISH)

8

9

10 MS. GEORGINA CHOCOLATE: (NATIVE

11 LANGUAGE SPOKEN NOT TRANSLATED) The late Jimmy Martin

12 -- Alex is our maker (sic). As we sit here for the

13 past two (2) days, we have children in the future,

14 twenty (20) and thirty (30) years. We want the land to

15 be pristine and if we make a good decision and -- and

16 also, the mine proposal, the Fortune Minerals has two -

17 - two (2) mines. This is a mine and they're just

18 beginning the process, as for me, just like they're

19 practising on our land, that's how it looks for me.

20 So -- but at the same time, as we live

21 in the North, we live off the land, the wildlife and

22 also the water. We live off the many abundance of

23 berries. So we don't want it to contaminate and ruin.

24 So the trail that exists within that area and also, the

25 trail that exist within the Gamati and also the barren

1 lands and also we use -- used to have dog teams.

2 There's three (3) mines out on the
3 tundra: BHP, Diavik, and De Beers within that area,
4 that's where the caribou migrate and that's where the
5 calves are born and they -- the caribou migrate back
6 down to this area but the caribou migrates -- that's a
7 natural affect but there's three (3) mine exists and
8 within the heart of the Tlicho land.

9 Just like, our heart, they want to open
10 up a mine within the ancestors' trail, that's where we
11 travel to Gamati and Great Bear Lake. And where is the
12 caribou going to migrate during the winter? Are the
13 people going to take the -- we can't go hunting for the
14 Bathurst but now have to go hunting for the Bluenose
15 now so. Where we going to go hunting? We have to
16 think about these things and also the water. We are
17 blessed with the water. You, the non-aboriginal
18 people, you are blessed with the water where everyone
19 is like that. If you want the water be taken care of,
20 protect it.

21 And we're not getting mad at each other
22 or trying to put each other down. Let's work together.
23 Let's put in a good plan. And even though it's a tough
24 decision, we have in front of us but that's all I could
25 say for now. Thank you very much.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Georgina
2 Chocolate. I want to go to Jimmy Labolin (phonetic).
3 He's not here? Okay, thank you.

4 Joe Champlain from Whati. Is he here?
5 If he could come up to the front then maybe staff could
6 help him with the mic.

7

8 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

9

10 ELDER JOE CHAMPLAIN: Masi. I'm from
11 Whati. Joe -- Joe Champlain. We've listened to a lot
12 of people. And thank you for giving me the op --
13 opportunity to speak for a little while. There's a lot
14 of Elders and the youth and a lot of women that spoke
15 and some of them are very true and I want them to be
16 recorded and that's what I think about.

17 And what -- what -- a lot of people talk
18 about many issues and the mine that's been produced --
19 proposed and the water, they're talking about
20 everything lives off the water, even we live off the --
21 the people who -- the citizens of Behchoko, the water
22 flows into this area, so we -- we -- although the
23 importance of the money exists, but we -- we can't open
24 up the mine right away, that's what I'm think about.

25 If they want to open up the mine, then

1 they have to put a delay on the -- so that we can talk
2 to the issue, that's what I think. So sometimes they
3 talk about the Rayrock, maybe there's -- maybe that's
4 not the only place where there's minerals within that
5 area. Maybe they'll find a different mineral within
6 that area then there's going to be some more
7 consultation within.

8 So within the boundary that the Monfwi
9 outlined, we know about each other. We know where --
10 who work out on the land, where -- who travel on the
11 land. We know everybody, even though if we're young.
12 Even the young people, we know who works well with the
13 people. So why should we talk about as who we are,
14 people know us.

15 Just ask for the boundary of the --
16 Monfwi had made and it is true. And within the
17 boundary and with the words he put forth and that's how
18 he outlined the boundary and within that boundary we're
19 not restricted to do anything, but as for today -- and
20 that's the kind of stories we hear.

21 Also, with Chief Jimmy Bruno, he had a
22 similar and -- and he was firm. And also they talk
23 about the Chief Jimmy Bruno, I -- I've lived with him
24 for one (1) year because at that time I was just a
25 young boy. My -- my mom had passed -- passed and also

1 the -- and we lived off the tundra and the barren lands
2 and as they raised me -- and prior to working for us to
3 get of age to start working and also be -- before I
4 come of age, my parents both passed away, so at that
5 time Chief Jim Bruno. So they asked him -- and after
6 that so I -- I lived with them for one year. These old
7 couple were pitiful and they -- their two (2) children
8 had passed away and those people at that time probably
9 know about the situation. At that time, there was lots
10 of -- many Elders that living with us but when we
11 arrive here from the barren lands.

12 I'm from Wekweti and also to -- Misa
13 Lake and so there was a -- when we come to shore and
14 people see us, then we greet them with shooting the gun
15 and also we wait for others and there's no shooting of
16 the gun for greeting. In one (1) area people gather
17 and there was many, many boats on the lake and we can
18 see it. It was lots of people there but there was a --
19 when we came ashore to greet them and shake hands, the
20 elderly, the Bruno couple, they -- they were facing a
21 very difficult situation at that times they asked me to
22 stay with them.

23 So I made tea for them and I got them
24 tea and I probably went hunting with -- for them. I
25 went hunting to Mackay Lake and Alex Mackenzie, three

1 (3) of us, there was forty (40)-- we harvested forty
2 (40) caribou and also the caribou -- caribou was
3 brought back here with the vehicle for us.

4 I was young and although I didn't had
5 nothing but still I help out and today -- and today
6 we're in a pitiful situation. And sitting back there,
7 these young -- young -- young people are talking about
8 the mine and I want to support them. The money, the
9 mineral they're talking about that mineral they're
10 going to extract but still, I think about the water. I
11 don't want the pristine water to be contaminated and so
12 that's all I'm going to say for me, thank you very
13 much.

14

15 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

16

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Whati, I believe
18 that's where he said he was from. Masi.

19 I got two (2) more speakers left and the
20 next one is Therese Mackenzie, is she here?

21 MS. THERESE MACKENZIE: I'm been
22 working on the mine since I was very young. I know how
23 is it to be at a mine site, to live at a mine. To
24 start off, there was hardly any valley, we just live in
25 a tent, cabin. What I see, there's people out there

1 working. When I first worked there -- when I got
2 there, everything was so beautiful. The green grass,
3 the tree and the water was just blue. A couple years
4 I've been there back and forth. The last time I worked
5 -- went back there, I seen nothing. Just a dead tree,
6 the grass was just brown, the water just green.

7 Me and my friends were there, my friend
8 is not a mommy no more. Yes, I see lots, I see lots of
9 what happened to me over there, with my hand. They
10 told me not to drink water over there. Do not use
11 water. I seen the water that being delivered with a
12 water bottle. Every day we go through water for
13 washing, cooking, and washing our hand while working.

14 When I was there I couldn't take it.
15 They ruined the land. See all the mud, rocks
16 everywhere. Sometimes we see a wild animal, they're
17 ever skinny. I never seen any caribou so white, just
18 grey, ever skinny. I've been there since last two (2)
19 years, they clean up everything. They take from this
20 year to clean everything to be the way it was before.
21 I don't know that's going to happen.

22 When I was there a couple years back I
23 seen the grass coming green, the tree came back to
24 life. The water is okay to drink. Yes, they say the
25 water was okay to drink. Well, while I was there, it

1 wasn't even good to this day. They did all to fix up,
2 to clean up. I'm so scared to work over there, but I
3 took a chance. Now I just don't know how it's going to
4 be for the land and the water.

5 As everybody knows we drink water, we
6 live by water. The wild animal live by water, all the
7 plants on this earth. As a human being we go after one
8 (1) thing, that's money; the money doesn't last long.
9 Our life doesn't last long, animal's life. Me,
10 nothing, just the water that can keep everybody alive.

11 For what I know for myself when I was at
12 the mine since 1990. The last time I back there was
13 last year. I never went back there again because I'll
14 never make a phone call to say I was out somewhere; I
15 couldn't. I have my two (2) girls with me. Who's
16 going to look after them if I got sick? Who's going to
17 take care of them and love them if anything happen? I
18 think of that when I'm at the mine.

19 I have my brothers, my sisters, my
20 friends. I don't want to lose my life over there by
21 just drinking water. That's why we get water every day
22 with the plane. And the last time I was there just the
23 truth the water is okay to drink they said, but nobody
24 want to drink it.

25 It's go -- good to go fishing over

1 there. When I see the caribou over there just going
2 across the border at the bare land was ever good to see
3 them back over there. When I was there the first time,
4 I couldn't believe it, the caribou was ever skinny,
5 even the fox. I never seen the bird over there before,
6 just the bare land. I get to see the bird. Never
7 heard a bird singing over there before. Flew over it
8 and never went anywhere. If it sat there, I don't
9 know.

10 One thing, take care of whatever you
11 guys doing. I'm not saying you guys should open it.
12 I'm just saying, How is it at the mine site to live
13 over there and not to live there? You see all kind of
14 things over there happening. That's a -- but not too
15 much I want to go to. That's all I seen is over there,
16 and what I'm telling you. The animal, they hang around
17 the -- they're fat now, the water is blue, the grass it
18 came back. I never saw any bears yet over there when I
19 was there.

20 I'm getting confused standing here, I'm
21 too nervous talking. I better get out of it. Masi
22 cho.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Therese
24 Mackenzie. You spoke really well for a person that's
25 really nervous. So you did a good job. Thank you.

1 And the last final speaker I have on my
2 list is William Weyallon.

3

4 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

5

6 MR. WILLIAM WEYALLON: I had to work at
7 the mine. When I started working at the mine, I
8 witnessed lot of things on the land. Colomac even when
9 they said they were going to -- operation for twelve
10 (12) years, but closed in three (3) years -- closed in
11 three (3) years. Then after that I went back and there
12 was only about eight (8) people working at that mine.

13 And all the chemical and the pipe and it
14 burned through the mill. It was by -- by the shore.
15 All the chemical that went to the water. And the --
16 the -- he was trying to shut the mill off so that they
17 got rid of my boss. At that -- that winter and all the
18 net -- the net they were trying to put around it where
19 the chemical spilt, but they couldn't do it, they
20 couldn't save the water.

21 And today a lot of people have spoken
22 and a lot of young people had expressed their concern.
23 When we go to a public hearing, I never speak at the
24 public hearing. We have parents, we had grandparents,
25 we have mom. That's why when we speak, we speak from

1 the knowledge of our parents and grandparents. They
2 like to put everything in place for us, on the table
3 for us to use in this hall that people have spoken in
4 this room. Just like there's -- there's no gap that --
5 they touch on all things, even the youth, the Elders.

6 Any chemical -- there's nothing that it
7 can use to get rid of those chemical. And all the
8 rocks, they can do a lot of damage once when the rock
9 is crushed it's damaged. So all the things that
10 chemical that's -- that can hurt the water and the
11 land. Now even people get sick. They go to see a
12 doctor, they're diagnosed them with cancer.

13 Sometimes I go down and -- down to -- to
14 where Gameti and we -- we seen two (2) seagull that
15 they were dead. And why is that? There was a swan,
16 they were just skinny. Maybe we were to give to you
17 and Art to look at. Even those animals, birds like
18 that, they're dying and we never thought about it --
19 giving -- we just -- we just kind of left it there. We
20 should have given to Renewable Resources.

21 If we speak -- that we give time to
22 speak, in five (5) minutes we have to -- a lot of
23 things that were our concerns, we can't touch on all
24 things. Maybe some of the people that want to express
25 their concerns, but that will go by time. Maybe some -

1 - some more people want to talk. If people speak like
2 this, we have -- we teach good value and we -- we speak
3 our own language, so when we have a meeting people go
4 out and hear our language.

5 If we have a meeting in the community of
6 Tlicho people even we don't know those people, the
7 people will come to the public meeting. And it was
8 given us time to speak five (5) minutes, maybe my time
9 is up for speaking.

10 I'm not saying things to -- to hurt
11 people, but it comes to decision making and it's up to
12 the Board. But I thought it's going to be up to our
13 cit -- citizen to make decision. And when the -- when
14 they were elected our -- our comm -- our Tlicho
15 government. And here I thought it was going to be up
16 to us to make decision.

17 And today there's a lot of orphans in
18 the community. Looking at the community we just see
19 orphans. And look into to the future, once our members
20 get sick, there will be more orphans in the community.
21 We lost a lot of Elders that supposed to teach us those
22 value of the land. And today you look in the
23 community, they're not treat -- young people are not
24 treating each other well. Even in Whati, those people
25 that care for the young ones, once the road is been

1 built there's going to be maybe social impact, a lot of
2 thing can go wrong.

3 But the decision is -- is up to the
4 Board. And my friend Richard over there had told me
5 once, You make -- you make lots of money so you can
6 get a house and -- and you -- you're -- you don't make
7 that much money, so you can't get the house and now
8 he's -- he's a chair -- he's a Chairperson, he's
9 sitting up there. And that's all I want to say. Thank
10 you.

11

12 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

13

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Eddie
15 Weyallon -- I'm sorry, William Weyallon. I'm sorry
16 about that, William. I wasn't sure which Richard you
17 were talking about, there's two (2) Richards up here,
18 but I -- I got your message. Thank you.

19 Well, we -- we publicly announced this
20 public hearing. We put advertisements in the paper, we
21 put advertisements on the radio. And I announced
22 yesterday as we started the public hearing and to --
23 for people to sign up that wanted to speak. And during
24 that process I also explained that if we could try to
25 keep it short because of time. And it's just about

1 seven o'clock now and this morning we started late at
2 9:27 and -- but yet we wanted to hear from everybody as
3 much as possible from the community.

4 And despite that, I called names, people
5 weren't here. So I had to cross off their names off
6 the list and so far we went through forty-seven (47) --
7 or forty-six (46) names -- forty-six (46) names and I'm
8 just trying to explain -- what I'm -- what I'm
9 explaining right now is that I -- I have to say that
10 was -- I've already read the last speaker. However --
11 however, if you have comments or issues, you could put
12 it in writing. If you could send it to the Review
13 Board and then we'll put it on public registry.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sorry, just go to the
18 mic so we can hear you and just state your name.

19 MS. RIA ZOE: My name is Ria Zoe, and
20 I'm just requesting that for the next hearing that is
21 upcoming and a sooner date, if you guys would be able
22 to schedule it at a reasonable time for other community
23 members that do have jobs till the five o'clock hour,
24 so this way we'd be able to come out and state our
25 concerns and ideas.

1 Because I understand that this was open
2 to the community, but the majority of us are still at
3 work. And there was a large handful that I know of
4 that really did want to come out tonight and yesterday
5 but wasn't able to. So just to put that out there for
6 you guys.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. And I
8 much -- much appreciate those comments. And as I was
9 saying, that -- again, this public hearing took place
10 in August and we agreed to carry it over two (2) extra
11 days and -- and there was notice in -- in the newspaper
12 and everything else, in the radio, so everybody had an
13 opportunity to sign up as well as they came in, so.
14 But your points are well taken. Thank you.

15 We're coming to the tail end of the
16 public hearing now and next on the list I have is
17 closing statements. We have a closing statement from
18 the Tlicho Government, Fortune Minerals and the
19 Chairperson from the Review Board.

20 So before we go into closing statements,
21 I'm going to suggest that maybe we just take a short
22 break for a quick supper, the food is here now. As
23 promised, I agreed to provide some traditional food and
24 then right after we have a -- maybe a short break,
25 thirty (30) minutes, and we'll come back and do the

1 closing statements. Masi.

2

3 --- Upon recessing at 6:56 p.m.

4 --- Upon resuming at 7:28 p.m.

5

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Everybody grab their
7 seats, if we could start. I should have announced that
8 there was no bingo. Okay, if we could get everybody to
9 sit down we're going to start.

10 I was just thinking, you know, we used
11 to have meetings like this till -- sometimes till two
12 o'clock in the morning when I was a former chief, and I
13 know exactly what you guys go through sometimes. In
14 the early days when I was a little bit younger I was a
15 chief, I was -- when I started off I was a hundred and
16 eighty-five (185) pounds and good looking. Four (4)
17 years later I gained forty-five (45) pounds and still
18 good looking. I got these per diems that is pretty
19 hard to get rid of.

20 So anyways, I'm kind of glad that -- I
21 want to thank my staff for providing some chicken and
22 some pizza for everybody and -- and you can always rely
23 on KFC.

24 So anyway, we come to the tail end of
25 the agenda for this evening. And again, we had forty-

1 six (46) speakers, I believe. Yes, we -- we had forty-
2 six (46) speakers. And I just wanted to say that I've
3 been doing this Chairman role for about four (4),
4 almost five (5) years now and been a Board Member for a
5 year as well. And I've been to a few public hearings
6 and this is the first time I've ever experienced the
7 amount of people from this community that come out to
8 speak about the issue of Nico Public Hearing here
9 today.

10 And I'm really impressed with the amount
11 of people that came up to speak and I really appreciate
12 that you were able to stick within the timeframe.
13 There were more people that were here, but they were --
14 they -- I called them and they weren't available.

15 So the next part on the agenda I have
16 now is the closing statements. And I got the closing
17 statements now from the Tlicho Government. And I'm
18 going to turn it over to the Grand Chief and probably
19 the host Chief. So I want to go to the Tlicho
20 Government for the closing statements.

21

22 CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE TLICHO GOVERNMENT

23 GRAND CHIEF EDWARD ERASMUS: Thank you,
24 Mr. Chair. Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus, Tlicho
25 Government. First, I would just like to thank you for

1 -- for the chicken. I tried to eat in five (5)
2 minutes, I couldn't do it.

3 I'll -- first, you know, also I'd just
4 like to tell the Board and Chair thank you very much
5 for these hearings. We had a series of hearings in our
6 communities starting in Whati and then Yellowknife and
7 then here, and then here again. And we have been given
8 the opportunity to have our voices heard when we're
9 talking.

10 You know Tlicho we'll put our faith in
11 the environment expertise that the Board has and that
12 was created through our -- our claim and the land
13 claims from our neighbours, the Mackenzie Valley Review
14 Board, the Wek'eezhii Board. We are really looking
15 forward to hearing the determination that the Board
16 makes going forward.

17 And I would also like to thank the
18 forty-six (46) speakers today. It was -- you know, we
19 learned a lot from our Elders. I would especially like
20 to thank the youth that -- that spoke out. A lot of
21 people that spoke out here today, generally, never
22 speak in public and I thought that was just superb the
23 way they spoke. It came from the heart.

24 The hunters, the family members that are
25 out on the land have been to the table today in this

1 hearing. Today's hearing has been about listening.
2 These people were harvesters, they were Elders,
3 citizens, youth and we found out what they most value.

4 It is hard to describe the stories on
5 the land of the people in such a short time frame. It
6 is hard for anyone to understand our connection to this
7 land in such a short time frame. Our traditional
8 knowledge will continue long into the future. And it
9 is the land that is needed to keep our traditional
10 knowledge strong.

11 In our culture and custom and the way we
12 speak in Tlicho language, there is no story without
13 lands. The land is based in our identity, our culture,
14 our language, and way of life. The land is the story
15 and the people's activity on the land reminds them of
16 those stories. The land cannot be separated from
17 language, culture, and way of life and one cannot be
18 separated from the other.

19 The Tlicho Government has listened very
20 carefully and we will carefully -- we will carefully
21 review what the Review Board recommends when you finish
22 your report in a few months. We're -- we're talking
23 about a form of impact that's probably one of the
24 biggest ones in our own history; an impact that's going
25 to -- an impact that's going to alter the kind of life

1 that we know today.

2 Mr. Chair, the Tlicho Government has
3 suggested some measures and conditions for this
4 proposed mine. And if this mine goes ahead, it will be
5 the first modern mine in Tlicho lands. What we say and
6 do now is very important in how we go ahead because
7 this will set the precedence for the future.

8

9 A lot of our speakers today, Elders, the
10 youth, and the harvesters, women, young ladies are
11 telling us the old Ray -- Rayrock Mine has taken people
12 away from us today and has moved that entire area from
13 the Tlicho youth and imagination. It is like a big
14 hole in our land. It is very hard to move forward with
15 this issue.

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair, for organizing and
17 putting on this public hearing. We are really excited
18 to share our knowledge, our traditional knowledge, with
19 the Board and we are thank -- thankful for that forum.

20 Yesterday, we -- we made history. For
21 the first time traditional knowledge is recognized and
22 is being considered in this process and we'd like to
23 thank the Board for that. And we want to wish you well
24 in your deliberations and safe travel home.

25 And I would like to suggest in closing -

1 - in during our closing prayers that we close this
2 process by a drum prayer, a prayer song. Keep in mind
3 that the drum, its frame is from the land and the hide
4 from the caribou. The songs, the prayer songs, are
5 passed on from past generations. These songs are
6 passed on. You'll hear the connection to the land,
7 animals, and our ancestors. Masi.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Chief --
9 Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus from the Tlicho region.

10 Next on my list now I have is closing
11 statements from Fortune Minerals Limited -- the Fortune
12 Minerals.

13

14 CLOSING STATEMENT BY FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED:

15 MR. RICK SCHRYER: Rick Schryer,
16 Fortune Minerals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fortune
17 Minerals would like to thank the Elders and the youth
18 that took the time to speak today and all speakers.
19 This was a day for learning and hearing to make a
20 better project for everyone. We would also like to
21 thank all of those who attended the last two (2) days
22 of public hearings to hear more about our project.

23 The environmental assessment process for
24 the Nico project began in 2009. Prior to this, Fortune
25 had been engaging the Tlicho people on this project on

1 a less formal basis since 1998. The concept of the
2 Nico project is not new to the Tlicho people, although
3 the project itself has gone through a number of design
4 changes.

5 Fortune has sought to inform the Tlicho
6 people about the project as it progressed from early to
7 late stage exploration. When this EA process was
8 initiated in 2009, Fortune Minerals intensified its
9 interactions with not only the Tlicho people but with
10 regulatory agencies, the Review Board, and other
11 parties to identify potential impacts of the project.

12 The results of these interactions have
13 been numerous improvements to the project design to
14 mitigate a large number of potential impacts that were
15 identified early in the process. The most significant
16 of these design changes included the removal of the
17 processing facility to a southern location, removal of
18 the air strip, development of the co-disposal facility,
19 and a change to a reverse osmosis water treatment
20 system.

21 These design changes allowed us to
22 minimize the mine footprint, to eliminate the visual
23 impact of the project from Hislop Lake, to recycle a
24 vast amount of the water used, and to discharge a high
25 quality effluent. The result of these design changes

1 is that the scale of the mine is -- will be small in
2 comparison to other mining projects that we're more
3 familiar with in the Northwest Territories.

4 Our efforts to reduce the mine footprint
5 means that only a small portion of the land will be
6 affected for the period of operations. Changes to
7 wildlife habitat will be as small as possible and will
8 be mitigated at closure. The site will be reclaimed at
9 closure so that the effects to the landscape will be
10 temporary.

11 Through numerous discussions with Tlicho
12 people concerns from previous mining exper --
13 experiences with mines in the area, such as the Rayrock
14 Mine, became very evident to the staff of Fortune
15 Minerals. The Tlicho people we spoke to had concerns
16 about -- about water quality in relation not only to
17 wildlife and human health, but the overall potential of
18 this past mining operation to contaminate the
19 environment. Many of these concerns were based on
20 fears from events that took place a long time ago when
21 mining regulations were virtually non-existent.

22 We need to be able to distinguish these
23 fears from valid concerns based on the specific details
24 of the Nico project and its specific potential impacts.
25 Fortune Minerals recognizes that these fears are real

1 to the Tlicho people and has committed to work with the
2 Tlicho Government to inform people on how mining has
3 changed and how there are numerous layers of regulatory
4 safeguards in place to protect the environment.

5 The Review Board also heard these
6 concerns and included in the terms of reference three
7 (3) key lines of inquiry which were based on concerns
8 from the Tlicho people which were: water, closure, and
9 caribou. The -- Fortune Minerals also heard from a
10 number of Tlicho people that Hislop Lake was a place of
11 special significance and must be protected.

12 In response, Fortune Minerals has
13 designed the project to have as little influence on
14 Hislop Lake as possible. Fortune is proud to state
15 that the result of the impact analysis show no physical
16 or visual impacts to Hislop Lake.

17 To gain a better understanding of the
18 importance of locations such as Hislop Lake to the
19 Tlicho people, Fortune Minerals completed a traditional
20 knowledge study in 2009 that was submitted to the Board
21 as part of the DAR in May 2001. In July of that same
22 year, the Board found that the DAR met the requirements
23 for the terms of reference, i.e., the conformity check.

24 Shortly thereafter the Tlicho Government
25 approached Fortune Minerals to ask us to fund their own

1 TK study. Despite the results of the conformity check,
2 Fortune Minerals agreed to fund the Tlicho study at a
3 cost of three hundred and seventy thousand dollars
4 (\$370,000) so that the Tlicho people could provide
5 their own perspective on traditional knowledge issues.

6 Fortune Minerals has committed to use
7 the results of the Tlicho TK study in the development
8 of monitoring plans and the mitigation of potential
9 impacts, where feasible. We feel that the Review Board
10 has sufficient TK information related to the Tlicho pro
11 -- to the Nico Project to make its determination of
12 significance.

13 The results of the Tlicho TK study
14 demonstrated a desire to reflect past activities, to
15 inform future understanding and traditional use of the
16 land in the area of the project. Fortune Minerals sees
17 an opportunity for people to accomplish this goal by
18 taking advantage of the access created by the mine to
19 access areas that were previously difficult to reach.

20 We have heard today from many Tlicho
21 citizens that water quality is their primary concern
22 related to the Nico project from both the perspective
23 of contamination at the Nico project site and from a
24 drinking water perspective here in Behchoko or while
25 travelling on the land.

1 The treated effluent from the Nico
2 project will be discharged downstream of Hislop Lake
3 into the Burke Lake watershed. During operations, the
4 Nico project will discharge a small volume of effluent
5 produced by a reverse osmosis water treatment system.
6 This water treatment system is one (1) of the best
7 avail -- water treatment technologies available in the
8 world.

9 In addition, the chemicals that will be
10 used in our floatation process will flocculents which
11 are not toxic. There will be no processing on site, so
12 no cyanide will be used. The water from the Nico
13 project will meet discharge requirements and will be
14 protective of the aquatic environment, wildlife,
15 including caribou, and people.

16 The results of our Risk Assessment
17 showed that no threat to -- existed to all wild --
18 wildlife from drinking water from the mine. Water
19 quality will be monitored on a regular basis at both
20 the mine site and in the surrounding region. The
21 locations where water and fish are tested will be
22 selected in cooperation with the Tlicho people.

23 It is our goal that this monitoring be
24 completed in collaboration with Tlicho people. Fortune
25 has already started initial discussions with the Tlicho

1 Government on a framework for community-based
2 monitoring that would allow Tlicho people to go out on
3 the land and test the water for themselves.

4 Fortune Minerals has also just suggested
5 that an Elder's advisory committee be formed to provide
6 advice on what should be monitored, where it should be
7 monitored, and what -- how the results should be
8 interpreted.

9 Together with Fortune Minerals other
10 management plans for the mine - an example would be air
11 quality management - we are confident that the project
12 will not have a significant adverse environ -- impact
13 on the environment and people will be able to use the
14 water on the land as they have in -- as they have in
15 the past.

16 One (1) of the other key lines of
17 inquiry that was brought forward by the Board and
18 commented on by Tlicho people was closure. There are
19 two (2) main project elements that will control the
20 quality of water that will flow from the mine -- Nico
21 project at closure; these are the co-disposal facility
22 and the constructed wetland treatment system.

23 Fortune Minerals is confident that the
24 fort -- that the CDF, or cor -- or co-disposal facility
25 is the best means of dealing with wasterock and

1 tailings at this site. The wetland treatment system
2 has a proven track record and their performance will be
3 demonstrated early in operations to give people
4 confidence that this technology will address their
5 concerns. These two (2) technologies are not new
6 technologies and are not new to northern climates.
7 Nevertheless they will be monitored during construction
8 and operations to demonstrate that they will provide
9 the level of protection required to for -- for this
10 site at closure.

11 It should be noted that the results of
12 the Risk Assessment completed for the site at closure
13 with no water treatment at all showed no significant
14 adverse impacts to the environment. The wetland
15 treatment system will be put in place to give people
16 who wish to use the area for traditional activities the
17 confidence that they can do so without being exposed to
18 influences from the former mine. This treatment is a
19 safety valve and not a requirement to make the water
20 safe for Tlicho people.

21 Tlicho people will be involved in the
22 closure planning and in the implementation of closure
23 plans such as re-vegetation and monitoring. Closure
24 plans will be revisited on a regular basis throughout
25 the operation so that there are no surprises when the

1 mine reaches the end of its operational life.

2 Finally, a few words about caribou in
3 terms of the key lines of inquiry. Fortune has gone to
4 great lengths to minimize the size of the caribou
5 habitat that will be impacted. The Nico project is
6 located on the southern boundary of the Bathurst
7 Caribou winter range and the northern boundary of the
8 Woodland Caribou range.

9 Baseline monitoring of caribou has taken
10 place over a decade in the area of the Nico project and
11 has shown that caribou are infrequent visitors. In
12 fact, combined with the small size of the mine
13 footprint, this limits the potential of the project to
14 have significant impacts on critical habitat for either
15 Woodland or the Bathurst caribou population.

16 Potential to expose -- potential
17 exposure to contaminants is also extremely limited
18 which is only -- which only means that the health of
19 the animals will be protected and also anybody who
20 would consume those animals. Together with our
21 proposed mitigation for the access road, Fortune
22 Minerals is confident that impacts to caribou and other
23 wildlife will be minimal.

24 For biophysical end points such as water
25 and caribou, Fortune Minerals is confident the Nico

1 project does not have the potential to have significant
2 adverse environmental impacts given the commitments
3 made by Fortune Minerals and the monitoring programs
4 proposed for this project.

5 Fortune Minerals is confident that the
6 few remaining issues can be dealt with either through
7 the regulatory process or in direct discussions with
8 the Tlicho Government such as the development of the
9 Wildlife Effects Monitoring Plan.

10 Fortune Minerals completed the analysis
11 of the potential environmental impacts of the Nico
12 project as presented in the DAR and subsequent
13 documentation. In discussions with the Tlicho
14 Government, they expressed an interest in completing
15 their own assessment of the potential environmental and
16 social impacts of the project.

17 An environmental funding agreement was
18 developed to provide the Tlicho Government with the
19 financial means to examine the project from their own
20 perspective. A total of three hundred thousand dollars
21 (\$300,000) was provided to the Tlicho Government for
22 this purpose. This, coupled with the funding for the
23 TK study, provided the Tlicho with the tools they
24 required to complete a thorough analysis of the Nico
25 project.

1 Fortune feels it has done its part to
2 fund this independent assessment of the Nico project
3 and already has incorporated several of the Tlicho
4 recommendations into its list of commitments and/or
5 proposed monitoring plans. Fortune Minerals will
6 continue to work with the Tlicho Government on any
7 remaining concerns.

8 There will be positive effects on -- on
9 the Tlicho Government and Tlicho people -- Tlicho
10 people from this project such as funding through
11 royalties, employment and business opportunities from
12 the Nico project.

13 Fortune Minerals has made efforts to be
14 a valued member of the Tlicho business community.
15 Preference was given to northern aboriginal businesses
16 when sourcing goods or services. And Fortune Minerals
17 engaged the local business development corporations to
18 involve aboriginal businesses in our procurement
19 activities promoting capacity building and
20 opportunities.

21 Fortune has adopted policies recognized
22 by the Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business that
23 provide various types of contract possibilities for
24 aboriginal businesses and inclusion of all phases of
25 the project such as construction, operations, and

1 closure. We have also provided numerous sponsorships
2 and financial support to education, fitness, and
3 cultural awareness programs.

4 Fortune has been a business member of
5 the northern community for over twenty (20) years
6 earning a proud record of hiring Tlicho citizens and
7 investing in Tlicho and northern businesses. We will
8 continue these best practices as we develop and operate
9 the Nico project in a collaborative effort with the
10 Tlicho people.

11 Fortune is proud of the number of Tlicho
12 people it's been able to employ to date and it is our
13 intention to continue this practice in the future.
14 This project will offer Tlicho people the opportunity
15 to work close to home with different work rotations
16 which means that polent -- potential spin-offs for
17 other businesses and secondary employment.

18 Fortune is committed to building
19 capacity within the Tlicho communities through work
20 opportunities, training opportunities, and contract
21 opportunities. Fortune is open to designing shift
22 schedules and work opportunities that aren't available
23 at other mines.

24 Due to the closeness of Whati to the
25 project, we believe that we can provide work

1 opportunities to women that other mines cannot.
2 Fortune has spoken on the public record about its
3 willingness to consider candidates that the diamond
4 mines haven't or won't hire due to their past recons
5 and -- records and/or lack of formal education.

6 We have made this commitment as part of
7 our effort to maximize Tlicho hires and have been
8 public about stating this Tlicho First Policy and made
9 -- and Fortune Minerals has made many concessions to
10 the Tlicho Government. All of these efforts are about
11 maximizing Tlicho hires.

12 With respect to the Tlicho concerning --
13 the -- regarding immigration into Whati, Fortune has
14 already begun discussions on a study and has agreed to
15 use the -- a Tlicho research team to maximize Tlicho
16 involvement in the study. Overall, Fortune Minerals
17 believes that the mine will have a positive impact on
18 the communities around the mine.

19 We recognize that the Tlicho people and
20 the Tlicho Government are being cautious as this is the
21 first mine being proposed in the heart of Tlicho
22 territory. We believe that through open and honest
23 communication and a willingness to work together, we
24 can address any outstanding concerns and move this
25 project forward in a manner that will benefit both the

1 Tlicho people and Fortune.

2 Fortune would like to re-emphasize its
3 offer to the Tlicho Government to begin discussions
4 towards an impact benefit agreement and other
5 agreements that will make this project a reality.

6 Fortune has made it clear that the mine
7 cannot operate without an all-season road. Fortune
8 would like to offer its support to both the GNWT and
9 the Tlicho Government in the development of plans for
10 an all -- for the all-land winter road route alignment
11 which would lead to the development of an all-season
12 road.

13 Finally, Fortune Minerals has three (3)
14 recommendations for the Board:

15 1) The commitments made by Fortune
16 Minerals throughout the course of the Review Board's
17 assessment will be sufficient to render the effects of
18 the Nico project not significant;

19 Number 2) The proposed Nico project with
20 implementation of measures the Board considers
21 necessary to prevent significant adverse impacts is not
22 likely to have a significant adverse impact on the
23 environment;

24 And finally, an environmental impact
25 review is not required for the Nico project.

1 With that I thank everyone. And I wish
2 them a pleasant journey home. Thank you very much.

3

4 CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON:

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you to Fortune
6 Minerals for doing your closing statements. And the
7 final part of the agenda for this public hearing is the
8 Chairman's closing statements as well.

9 But before I go into my closing
10 statements I just want to -- once again, I want to
11 apologize to the public and also to the former Chief
12 from Gameti, Archie Wetrade, for -- even though that
13 you wanted to speak unfortunately we -- we had a list.
14 However, we do have a copy of your statement for the
15 record. And please accept my apology and I just want
16 to extend that to you. Masi.

17 Moving forward, I explained the process
18 a little bit earlier this morning and before we started
19 it -- this -- this day. And as I mentioned a little
20 bit earlier, the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board
21 referred this application to the Mackenzie Valley
22 Environmental Impact Review Board. And one (1) of
23 things when it was referred over to the Review Board
24 was that we need to look at the significant adverse
25 impacts on the biophysical, social, economic, and

1 cultural, and/or cause of public concern. And that's
2 the basis of this Board. We have to take a look at in
3 determining our decision.

4 So in terms of process I had mentioned a
5 little bit earlier that the Review Board will fully
6 consider all views while we deliberate on our -- making
7 the decision and the writing of the environment -- the
8 report of environmental assessment. And once we've
9 done that report it goes to the -- again, to the Indian
10 and Northern Affairs Minister and to the Tlicho
11 Government for their consideration. So, that's --
12 that's the process that we have.

13 And we also have -- I want to just touch
14 on this is that, again, on October 15 if there's any
15 outstanding undertakings that's the date that we need
16 to have it in to our office.

17 October 17 is final written submissions
18 from parties.

19 October 22nd is final written
20 submissions from Fortune Minerals.

21 And October 22nd we're going to close
22 the public record officially.

23 And so that -- that is the process that
24 we're going to follow. Even though that this file was
25 referred to us back in 19 -- sorry, February 27, 2009

1 and it's now October 11, 2012, we've come to the end of
2 this process now. And once the recommendation from
3 this Board goes to the Minister -- like I said earlier,
4 that the Minister could also look at it, could accept,
5 reject, or send back to the Board for further
6 consideration if need be.

7 Whatever the Board decides, it's based
8 on the evidence of the public registry. Also, the
9 comments from the communities, from Whati, Yellowknife
10 and Behchoko. And all the Elders that are here that
11 were -- that came forward today, that -- everybody in
12 the room that had opportunity to speak your -- your
13 comments are going to be seriously looked at by this
14 Board in determining its decision on this file, on this
15 Fortune Minerals' file.

16 So that's -- that's the process that we
17 have to follow and after -- within probably the next
18 few months, the Board is going to get together, we're
19 going to go ahead and give direction again to staff to
20 -- and through legal counsel to start putting the
21 report together on the Board's decision on whether or
22 not this project should proceed or not. So I want to
23 kind of just highlight and touch on that.

24 And so now I'm just going to go into my
25 thank yous. First of all, I want to thank the -- all

1 the Elders that spoke in Whati, here and also in
2 Yellowknife, all the women, all the youth. I want to
3 say thank you very much. Masi.

4 Also I wanted to thank Grand Chief Eddie
5 Erasmus and the Tlicho Government and staff who sat
6 with us for about six (6) days throughout this public
7 hearing since we started this process. I want to thank
8 Chief Clifford Daniels for holding this public hearing
9 in your community. I want to say thank you.

10 I also want to go to Chief Alfonz
11 Nitsiza. I want to say thank you for also having our
12 public hearing in the community -- in your community of
13 Whati. Masi.

14 And I also want to thank Edward -- Chief
15 Edward Chocolate and Chief Charlie Football.

16 I want to continue on now. I want to
17 thank the parties and even though that we go through
18 these processes, you know I always try to look for
19 balance. I always try to remind people to be very
20 respectful of each other; just the way we were taught
21 by our elders. And so that's what I -- we bring to the
22 table and I try to have -- show that every time we have
23 a public hearing. Or no matter where we go, whether
24 we're here or not, we always try and show respect.

25 So I want to thank Fortune Minerals

1 Limited as a party. I want to thank the Tlicho
2 Government as a party; the Yellowknives Dene First
3 Nation; the North Slave Metis Alliance; Fisheries and
4 Oceans Canada; the Government of the Northwest
5 Territories; Aboriginal Affairs and Northern
6 Development Canada, AANDC; Environment Canada;
7 Transport Canada; and Natural Resources Canada.

8 I also would like to take this time
9 again, I want to thank the Mackenzie Valley
10 Environmental Impact Review Board members. I want to
11 thank James Wah-Shee from the Tlicho region; Richard
12 Mercredi from Fort Smith; Rachel Crapeau from Dettah;
13 Danny Bayha from Deline, Sahtu Region; Percy Hardisty
14 from Fort Simpson, Deh Cho Region; John Curran from
15 Yellowknife.

16 We also want to thank Board counsel --
17 the Review Board counsel, John Donihee. Thank you.
18 And we also want to thank our Board technical advisors
19 that helped us out at the beginning of this public
20 hearing: Kathy Racher, Brett Wheler from the
21 Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board.

22 Board staff. I want to thank our
23 Executive Director, Vern Christensen, Chuck Hubert,
24 Alan Ehrlich, Shannon Hayden, Paul Mercredi, Simon
25 Toogood, Carol Luttmer, Caitlin Makin; Stacey Menzies.

1 I want to say thank you to our staff
2 because they're the ones that do all the work behind
3 the scenes in the community of Whati, Yellowknife,
4 here. And I told my staff about 3:30 that we needed
5 some food and somehow they pulled it off and we managed
6 to get some chicken and pizza here. So if it wasn't
7 for our staff -- I just want to say thank you for that.
8 Masi.

9 Also behind the scenes that you don't
10 see in our other office in Yellowknife is Travis
11 Schindel, Therese Charlo, Jayce Firth-Hagen, and
12 Roxanne Landry.

13 Facilities. I want to thank the -- the
14 Elizabeth Mackenzie Elementary School, principal
15 Carolyn Wynman -- Wenham (phonetic); janitor, Eddie
16 Wedowin (phonetic) and Therese Mackenzie. These are
17 the ones that come behind us and make this place
18 available for us and keep this place clean for us.

19 Also, I want to thank our transcriber or
20 is -- in the back here. She doesn't say much only
21 sometimes she reminds me to let you know that we need
22 to hear your name and that. And she still can't
23 believe that we brought KFC and pizza by pizza -- from
24 taxi from Yellowknife. So strangest things happen but
25 here we had one power outage I believe so we're okay.

1 But without our interpreters and
2 communication -- I think it was raised by the Elders
3 that it's very important that, you know, we have our
4 interpreters. Because through our interpreters we
5 wouldn't hear what you have to say. And it was raised
6 a little bit earlier by an Elder here today and I want
7 to thank you for raising that and bringing that to our
8 attention. So I want to recognize our interpreters in
9 the back as well. And also, I'd like you to maybe --
10 well, after I'm done I'm going to ask you guys to give
11 them a big hand, is Peter Huskey, Jonas Lafferty, Berna
12 Martin.

13 And I want to recognize Pido Production,
14 Pat Braden. If it wasn't for him we wouldn't have all
15 these mics and speakers, et cetera. So -- and the
16 translation equipment.

17 Also, community director, Juanita
18 Assemba (phonetic), for her coordination of the
19 services.

20 And some of the food that was provided
21 earlier during the day and last two (2) days and last
22 month as well was by FC Services, Lena Atzin
23 (phonetic), and all the helpers that are in the back.
24 With -- without you guys it would be very hard to -- to
25 really service the membership here. There's William

1 Mackla (phonetic), Frank Camsell (phonetic), Hardy
2 Mackla (phonetic). So I'd like you guys to give
3 everybody, those guys, a big applause -- applause.

4 So this concludes the Chairman's
5 comments and I'm going to turn the mic over to Chief
6 Daniels and we're going to do a closing prayer by drum.
7 So we're going to bring the drummers in. And if I
8 could ask them to come up front, maybe over here if we
9 could, by the front of the screen. And we could get an
10 Elder to come up to do the closing prayer.

11

12 (CLOSING PRAYER)

13 (CEREMONIAL DRUMMING)

14

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I want to
16 say thank you for doing the closing prayer and I now
17 Nico project public hearing is officially closed.
18 Masi.

19

20 --- Upon adjourning at 8:20 PM

21

22 Certified correct,

23

24 _____

25 Lorraine Douglas, Ms.

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