



MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL

IMPACT AND REVIEW BOARD

GAHCHO KUE PROJECT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW HEARING

Mackenzie Valley Review Board:

Chairperson	Darryl Bohnet
Board Member	Rachel Crapeau
Board Member	James Wah-Shee
Board Member	Peter Bannon
Board Member	Richard Mercredi

HELD AT:

Dettah, NT

November 30, 2012

Day 1 of 6

1	APPEARANCES	
2	Chuck Hubert	)MVEIRB
3	Simon Toogood	)
4	Shannon Hayden	)
5	Stacey Menzies	)
6	Carol Luttmer	)
7	Cailin Makin	)
8	John Donihee	)
9		
10	Stephen Lines	)De Beers Canada
11	Terry Kruger	)
12	Cathie Bolstad	)
13	Veronica Chisholm	)
14	Leah Russell	)
15	Craig Blackie	)
16	Andrew Williams	)
17	Elizabeth Biscaye (Sabet)	)
18	Shirley Tsetta	)
19	Grace Mackenzie	)
20	Wayne Corso	)
21	Daniel Johnson	)JDS Mining
22	John Virgil	)Golder
23	John Faithful	)Golder
24	Terri-Lee Oleniuk	)Counsel
25	Martin Iynusiak	)Counsel

1	APPEARANCES (cont'd)	
2	Bill Enge	)North Slave Metis
3	Ed Jones	)Alliance
4	Eric Binion	)
5		
6	Lionel Marcinkosky	)AANDC
7		
8	Kate Witherly	)NPMO
9		
10	Todd Slack	)YKDFN
11	Alfred Baillargeon	)
12	Fred Sangris	)
13	Randy Freeman	)
14		
15		
16	Kimberly Balsillie	)GNWT
17	Russ Teed	)
18		
19	Kelly Burke	)Department of
20	Bruce Hanna	)Fisheries and
21		)Oceans
22		
23		
24		
25		

1	APPEARANCES (cont'd)	
2		
3	Alfred Baillargeon	)Member of the Public
4	Travis Mercredi	)
5	Peter D. Sangris	)
6	Ora Williamson-Mercredi	)
7	Joel Dragon Smith	)
8	Bobby Drygeese	)
9	Paul Betsina	)

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1 --- Upon commencing at 11:03 a.m.

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good morning,  
4 everybody. We're going to begin with a prayer, and  
5 Alfred Baillargeon has kindly volunteered to do that.  
6 So please rise, please.

7

8 (OPENING PRAYER)

9

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,  
11 Alfred Baillargeon. It's much appreciated. Thank you.  
12 I don't see the Chief here, but the next thing on the  
13 agenda was for Chief Sangris to make some comments.  
14 We're on his home territory and his -- his building  
15 here. So is anybody going to get the Chief?

16

17 (BRIEF PAUSE)

18

19 OPENING COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRPERSON:

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: It appears the Chief  
21 is going to be with us in a few minutes, so I'll --  
22 I'll proceed with the opening comments.

23 Good morning. My name is Darryl Bohnet.  
24 And I'm the chairman of this panel. We are here to  
25 listen to what you have to say about the Gahcho Kue

1 diamond project. The developer is De Beers Canada  
2 Limited. De Beers proposes to construct, operate and  
3 close an open pit diamond mine at Kennady Lake.

4 Today's agenda this morning is as  
5 follows: presentation from the Developer and community  
6 and public statements; lunch will be served at 1:00  
7 p.m. The agenda this afternoon is as follows:  
8 continuing of community and public statements will --  
9 with breaks this afternoon. At 6:45, I will be making  
10 closing statements, and -- and close the hearing at  
11 7:00 p.m. A copy of the agenda is available at the  
12 front table.

13 Today the panel will hear the views and  
14 opinions that you may have regarding this project. We  
15 are interested in your views on the environmental,  
16 social, economic, and cultural impacts of the mine and  
17 your opinion on the potential significance of these  
18 impacts.

19 The panel will fully consider these  
20 views while it is deliberating -- de -- deliberating on  
21 its decision in this Environmental Impact Review. Once  
22 the decision is made, the panel will prepare a report  
23 and send it to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and  
24 Northern Development. The panel will produce an  
25 official transcript of this hearing. This transcript

1 will be available on the website early next week.

2 I would like to introduce our panel  
3 members and then introduce counsel and technical  
4 advisors and staff. So our panel members, Richard  
5 Mercredi on my right -- I guess your left -- Peter  
6 Bannon, James Wah-Shee, and Rachel Crapeau. Richard is  
7 from Fort Smith. Rachel is from Dettah here. Peter is  
8 from Yellowknife. And James is from Behchoko. I am  
9 from Yellowknife and originally from Fort Smith.

10 Our legal counsel is John Donihee.  
11 John. I would like to introduce our staff. Community  
12 Liaison, Stacey Menzies. I'm not sure where Stacey is.  
13 Put your hand up if you're -- oh, there she is, right  
14 at the back. Intern, Kit -- Cailin Maki; Environmental  
15 Officers Shannon Hayden, Simon Toogood, Carol Luttmer;  
16 our Panel Manager is Chuck Hubert. That's it for  
17 staff. We will have different staff at -- at other --  
18 other meetings.

19 This panel of the Review Board -- of the  
20 Review Board is a co-management body established by the  
21 Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act that makes its  
22 decisions by consensus. Our members are Northerners,  
23 nominated by First Nations and by the Tlicho,  
24 territorial, and federal governments. Our goal is to  
25 make decisions that will benefit the North for all



1 residents and for future generations.

2                   After the presentation from De Beers  
3 this morning, we have scheduled the rest of the day for  
4 statements from community members. The panel wants to  
5 hear directly from members of the community and the  
6 public; in particular, women and youth are encouraged  
7 to participate.

8                   Panel staff at the front table are  
9 preparing a list of names of people who would like to  
10 speak today. Please identify yourself to our staff so  
11 that they can help you. I will call you to the  
12 microphone when it is -- when it is your turn to speak.  
13 Please come to the front table to speak directly to the  
14 panel members. If you are more comfortable speaking  
15 from where you -- you are standing, a roving microphone  
16 will get -- will be given to you by staff. State --  
17 statements must be made with a microphone so that  
18 everyone can hear and the translators can translate  
19 properly. And please identify yourself before you  
20 speak.

21                   Please remember to sign in at the front  
22 door. Signing in helps our transcriber and gives the  
23 panel a good record of how many people attended the  
24 hearing.

25                   We have simultaneous translation in

1 Tlicho and Chipewyan. On your headsets, you can hear  
2 English on channel 1, Tlicho on channel 2, and  
3 Chipewyan on channel 4. I ask that you speak slowly  
4 and clearly for the interpreters.

5 Let us proceed. This morning's  
6 presentation from De Beers, and I ask Veronica Chisholm  
7 to please introduce your staff and begin the  
8 presentation. Thank you.

9 Sorry. We're going to hold on that.  
10 Chief Sangris is here, so we'll give Chief Sangris an  
11 opportunity to make some welcoming comments. Thank  
12 you.

13

14 WELCOME BY CHIEF EDWARD SANGRIS:

15 CHIEF EDWARD SANGRIS: Thank you,  
16 panel, Chair. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen,  
17 community members, Elders, and everybody that's here  
18 this morning.

19 Now, it's -- it's important that, you  
20 know, we -- follow our -- our protocol, and I'm going  
21 to say a few words in my language and to make that --  
22 our language has to be the strongest, so I'll do the  
23 first part in my language.

24

25 (INTERPRETED INTO ENGLISH)

1 CHIEF EDWARD SANGRIS: I would like to  
2 say good morning to everyone to -- and welcome to Chief  
3 Drygeese community and for the hearing here. And we're  
4 -- the -- we're here to listen to everyone's concern.

5 We're here, us Dene people. There's --  
6 this issue is very important to us. That is one of the  
7 reasons we are here at this meeting, at this hearing.  
8 I know that you're here -- the panel is here to listen,  
9 and also other -- the mine -- the mine people are here  
10 also to work with us. And us, too, as the Dene people  
11 from our community, we know our job, our work that has  
12 to be done for the people. We want to make...

13 We -- and we know that the mine want to  
14 take minerals or minerals out of our land in this area.  
15 And our ancestors and our grandfathers have all lived  
16 and worked on this land. Even through hardship they've  
17 survived on this land in this area. And we have  
18 abundance of wildlife in this area and lots of wa --  
19 fish of all kinds in this area. And that's what we --  
20 they survived on in this area. Even though they didn't  
21 have very much, they have survived on this land with --  
22 with their families for generations.

23 So today we -- we're here today to  
24 listen to the companies that want to work on our land  
25 and how are they -- how they're going to work. How

1 this mine is going to look is what we're here for -- we  
2 -- to listen to. We -- the -- we know that it is  
3 important. Our land is very important to us. But we  
4 have to remember our ancestors and our forefathers have  
5 lived here for years, and we -- and we are following in  
6 that footstep, and to hold onto our culture in this  
7 area. Even though through hardship, and they didn't  
8 have much, they survived in -- in -- on -- in this  
9 area.

10                   So now, today, in our generation, we  
11 where -- we know where all the wildlife is abundant,  
12 where the -- all the fish are. We -- we -- the -- we  
13 were taught that from our ancestors and our fore --  
14 forefathers, where we can get wildlife to survive. So  
15 we cannot just ignore that part of importance to us.  
16 That's important to us. We can't ignore that.

17                   But at the same time, the mining  
18 companies want to open a mine here. So we have -- they  
19 have to talk to us. They -- we ha -- they have to  
20 listen to our concerns. And we have to -- we -- we're  
21 following our ancestors while they worked on the land  
22 and survived, and we are following that footsteps  
23 because we want to live on this land and to survive  
24 here. And at the end, we will all die here and be  
25 buried here.

1                   So when you say their land is very  
2 important, it's -- this is what we're talking about,  
3 where it is very important to us. So when they develop  
4 this mine, what is going to happen to the area that  
5 they want to develop? And how is this going to affect  
6 the wildlife? Are -- and can we use the wildlife? And  
7 in the future, can we drink the water, the fresh water,  
8 from in that area?

9                   So before the mine is developed there --  
10 right now, there is wildlife in that area. And we also  
11 drink water in that area. And we still eat the fish  
12 from those area. So once they develop the mine and  
13 take out the minerals and -- and then the mine is shut  
14 down, how is it going to look at the end? Can we drink  
15 the water? Can we survive on the wildlife that is in  
16 that area then?

17                  So I want you to think about those  
18 things first. And right now, it seems like the  
19 government is just in charge of -- of everything. This  
20 is our land. This -- we're still in the -- in the land  
21 claims process. So they cannot tell us we -- you know,  
22 or -- or persuade us to do things because we are still  
23 in that -- in -- we're still in the land claim process.

24                  So I want you to also think about that  
25 once the -- the mine is developed and -- and all the

1 area in that area is contaminated. The young -- the  
2 generations to come are going -- how will -- how will  
3 it affect them in the future? This is not the only  
4 time that we will be bringing -- talking about this.  
5 But we have to remember how we -- where we came from  
6 and wh -- and how we're living today and how the -- our  
7 future generations are going to survive come -- on this  
8 area -- in this area.

9                   So when you're talking about that land,  
10 it seems like it's just going to be gone. It's going  
11 to be taken away. And they have to ask us. That is  
12 why we're here. Where -- this is what the hearing is  
13 for. But -- but it seems like they're just only asking  
14 or trying to get --

15

16                   (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

17

18                   CHIEF EDWARD SANGRIS: I want to say a  
19 few opening comments on -- on why we're here today.  
20 You must take into consideration the value that we have  
21 as Dene to our -- our land. There is -- we had many a  
22 meetings about the project, both at the council level  
23 and with -- with our Elders.

24                   And the Elders seems -- they know all  
25 the land -- they know how the land will -- is out

1 there. And they value that -- for their future  
2 generations. But as Yellowknife Dene, we are concerned  
3 about our environment, how it's going to impact the  
4 future generations, how it's going to impact the  
5 wildlife that we depend on. Right now we are  
6 struggling.

7                   The caribou doesn't come near to our  
8 community anymore. And our members are also worried  
9 about the effect on the water and our aquatic life that  
10 we depend on. Now we've got to take that into  
11 consideration and balance it with economic  
12 opportunities. In my view, we cannot forsake one for  
13 the other. There must be equal opportunities, equal  
14 consideration.

15                   As you know, the proposed project is in  
16 the traditional terr -- territory of Chief Drygeese.  
17 That belongs to the Yellowknife Dene, if you look at  
18 the map over there under the clock. Now you're going  
19 to get many arguments from other groups, but our people  
20 have ancestors that are buried on the land over there.  
21 We have to keep our spiritual reality in check when we  
22 consider any of these undertakings.

23                   And also we must walk the fine line of  
24 environmental protection and economic opportunities,  
25 like I said. But our ancestors, they lived on the

1 land. They travelled on the land. But they were  
2 happy, even though they were not rich. But they were  
3 rich in resources. And I'd like to thank them for  
4 that, as they show us where those resources,  
5 opportunity exists that we depend on for our survival.

6 Now, you're going to get other groups  
7 making presentations. Have they lived on that land, or  
8 they're just seeking economic opportunities?

9 The proposed mine, we want to see  
10 environmental overview, because any time proposed  
11 project take -- is considered, it seems like we don't  
12 have the final say. But yet it's in our own  
13 traditional territory.

14 We also have to consider the economic  
15 opportunities that result from the project. Right now,  
16 we have three (3) operating mines in our traditional  
17 territory, and we feel the effects of it:  
18 environmentally, economically, and social impacts with  
19 the projects.

20 And we can agree -- all agree on the  
21 mitigation measures that can be enforced, that they  
22 might give us some comfort level. But if that doesn't  
23 result, then we, as the Yellowknives Dene, don't feel  
24 comfortable in saying yes to another project in our  
25 traditional territory.



1                   When I think about this project -- we  
2   have three (3) other projects that are ongoing. How is  
3   it going to affect environmentally? How it's going to  
4   look after it's all said and done, at the end of the  
5   day?

6                   It's not only the project footprint, but  
7   the cumulative effects, results from the project, as we  
8   have experienced since 2002. Slowly, our caribou are  
9   disappearing. Slowly, we're getting impacted by the  
10   access. So I hope you take into consideration what I  
11   have said. We must protect the environment, the way it  
12   is now, during and after the project is completed.

13                  We must also take into consideration the  
14   economic opportunities that might have -- that result  
15   from this project. In this day and age, how we survive  
16   in our traditional territory has been slowly going away  
17   from us because of some of these projects, as these,  
18   that are affecting our way of life.

19                  So, with that, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to  
20   thank you in the hope they can hear the words that I'm  
21   saying, not only for myself, for our members, but also  
22   for future generations. Masi cho.

23                  THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,  
24   Chief Edward Sangris. We thank you on behalf of the  
25   panel. We thank you for hosting us in your community,

1 your welcoming comments, and opening comments on behalf  
2 of the Yellowknives Dene. Thank you very much. Masi.

3 Now I'm back to De Beers. Veronica  
4 Chisholm, you are the lead on this project. Please  
5 introduce your team and make your presentation. Thank  
6 you.

7

8 PRESENTATION BY DE BEERS:

9 MS. VERONICA CHISHOLM: Thank you, Mr.  
10 Chair. My name is Veronica Chisholm. I'm with De  
11 Beers. And I'm the permitting manager for the Gahcho  
12 Kue project. I'd like to introduce the De Beers team,  
13 which is sitting at the front table, and then our  
14 engineering and consulting team, which is nestled in  
15 behind us here.

16 To my left is Cathie Bolstad. She's the  
17 Director of External and Corporate Affairs. Next to  
18 her is Andrew Williams. He's our Project Manager for  
19 the Gahcho Kue project. Steven Lines is one (1) of the  
20 superintendents for our project. And at the end is  
21 Craig Blackie. He is also a superintendent for our  
22 project.

23 In behind me, directly behind me, I have  
24 Bill Horne. He's with EBA Engineering. Dan Johnson,  
25 he's with JDS. Sorry, Wayne Corso is with JDS. John

1 Faithful, with Golder Associates. John Virgil, with  
2 Golder Associates. And Leah Russell is our Document  
3 Control Specialist with De Beers.

4 I just have a few slides to present the  
5 project and just to provide you with a bit of an  
6 overview, I'm just going to provide a very general  
7 introduction of the project. We're going to play our  
8 sixteen (16) minute project video that describes the  
9 project.

10 I'm also going to talk about how we  
11 arrived here as part of the environmental impact review  
12 process. And then I want to spend a few slides talking  
13 about what we've heard during our engagement and  
14 consultation, what we assessed, and how we plan to do  
15 our monitoring and mitigation plans.

16 So the Chief mentioned some economic  
17 benefits. I'd like to talk about those economic  
18 benefits for a few moments in the slide. The Gahcho  
19 Kue project will be the fourth diamond mine in the  
20 Northwest Territory, the second diamond mine for De  
21 Beers.

22 The project timelines will be initiated.  
23 Construction period will be two (2) years. Operation  
24 period will be eleven (11) years. And closure and  
25 post-closure will be about eight (8) years. During

1 that time, the employment opportunities include about  
2 six hundred and ninety (690) jobs during construction,  
3 three hundred and seventy-two (372) jobs during  
4 operations, and a little -- around one hundred (100)  
5 jobs during closure.

6                   The economic capital that De Beers will  
7 be investing in the Gahcho Kue project is about \$650  
8 million. The capital investment -- that's the capital  
9 investment. And then the full year of the project, the  
10 amount of money flowing to the Canadian economy will be  
11 about 3.9 billion, of which about 88 percent will flow  
12 to the NWT.

13                   When we're looking at our project, the  
14 Gahcho Kue project will be coming along at a time when  
15 other mines are nearing their initial downsizing. And  
16 although it's not at the same scale as Ekati or Diavik,  
17 we believe it's an important project for the NWT  
18 economy.

19                   Also with respect to jobs, Diavik is now  
20 completely underground. And because the Gahcho Kue  
21 project, as was mentioned, is an open-pit mine, the  
22 project will provide some opportunities for those that  
23 wish to seek employment in the open-pit mining field.

24                   The other thing I'd like to mention on  
25 the economics, which I think is important, is that De

1 Beers wants people to be aware that we've submitted a  
2 human resources strategy that's described the jobs that  
3 we have available at our mine site so communities can  
4 plan now to see if they would like to seek the skills  
5 that they require to participate in employment at the  
6 Gahcho Kue mine. And we also have training and  
7 scholarship programs and apprenticeship programs to  
8 help them get there.

9                   With respect to the environmental  
10 assessment, we submitted that in 2010. We looked at  
11 air, land, and water. We listened to what the  
12 communities had to say. And our conclusion is that  
13 this project will not pose a significant adverse effect  
14 to the environment. And I'll get into some more detail  
15 now, in a few minutes.

16                   But next I'd like to play a sixteen (16)  
17 minute video that will take you through the project  
18 description.

19

20                   (VIDEO PLAYED)

21

22                   MS. VERONICA CHISHOLM: Veronica  
23 Chisholm, from De Beers. While we have a few moments  
24 before I move on with my presentation, there's four (4)  
25 other De Beers employees I'd like to acknowledge. I

1 have -- Grace Mackenzie is the Community Liaison  
2 Officer; Elizabeth, or Sabet, Biscaye, who is our  
3 Superintendent for Community Liaison; and Shirley  
4 Tsetta, who is here also as a Community Liaison  
5 Officer. And at the back, he's hiding when he's got a  
6 camera sometimes, is our communications guy. That's  
7 Terry Kruger, so maybe he'll give a wave.

8                   And one (1) other thing I wanted to note  
9 before I carry on is we have a model at the back that  
10 has our project sort of laid out. Please, if there's a  
11 break, we'd love to go through that with you, so we're  
12 available, our entire team, to step you through that.

13                   So carrying on with the presentation. I  
14 just wanted to point out how we got here today and also  
15 point out some key timelines and dates. Our terms of  
16 reference included a series of community scoping  
17 workshops that were hel -- hosted by the Mackenzie  
18 Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. And it's  
19 through that -- those scoping workshops that the terms  
20 of reference for this project was developed. It -- it  
21 was -- came from the communities to tell us what you  
22 wanted us to assess, what was important to assess and  
23 how that needed to be assessed.

24                   In December 2010, we submitted our  
25 Environmental Impact Statement. And we haven't stopped

1 since then. In October, 2011 -- I remember because it  
2 was one (1) of my first meetings up here, De Beers  
3 hosted a workshop where we stepped through the project  
4 with a number of community members.

5                   And then in November 2011, so a year  
6 ago, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review  
7 Board hosted an analysis session where we also stepped  
8 through the project. And more recently, in February  
9 2012, we visited all the communities because we wanted  
10 to hear what people had to say about the project and if  
11 there were any questions.

12                   And then in the summer we hosted  
13 workshops at our site in which members of the  
14 Yellowknives Dene attended. I remember Sarah  
15 (phonetic), who is sitting in the audience, was -- was  
16 in attendance. And we also had a wildlife working  
17 group meeting that helped shape and develop the scope  
18 of our wildlife effect monitoring plan.

19                   We hosted two (2) workshops since  
20 September that included a wildlife effects monitoring  
21 plan to get input and feedback on that plan, as well as  
22 a fish habitat compensation workshop so we could get  
23 ideas from the community about how to bring that into  
24 our no-net-loss plan.

25                   And then, finally, here we are, in

1 December 2012, at the -- at the hearings.

2                   So Chief Sangris mentioned caribou. We  
3 understood in our wildlife effects monitoring how  
4 important caribou is. And so we went through a  
5 cumulative effects assessment approach, which is also  
6 something the Chief mentioned in his opening remarks.  
7 And then we -- we looked at a number of factors.

8                   We did annual studies on caribou from  
9 1999 to 2005. We've monitored caribou in 2011 and  
10 2012, and will do so in 2013. We looked at satellite  
11 collar data from 1995 to 2010. And we looked at the --  
12 and we examined the knowledge from other mines to help  
13 with our assessment and develop our mitigation plans.

14                  When determining how to mitigate  
15 potential effects and develop our monitoring programs,  
16 we wanted input on that pro -- programs. And we heard  
17 that at a -- technical sessions that were held in May  
18 2012, when a recommendation by the panel advisor  
19 suggested that we form a working group that involved  
20 the communities as well as regulators to develop that  
21 plan together collaboratively. And in doing so, the  
22 caribou environmental -- and monitoring program is  
23 comprehensive and has included input from everyone  
24 along the way. And it will continue to do so.

25                  We also involve -- involve people in our



1 monitoring program when we talk about the winter road  
2 and our spur road, and how we would like to understand  
3 if there is an increased pressure on caribou from  
4 hunting. And so we'll have check stations set up that  
5 we hope will be attended to by community members to  
6 help assist in that assessment. That information would  
7 be provided to ENR. We also want to include signage on  
8 any of our roads, to talk about conservation, to be  
9 aware of caribou, and to provide that level of  
10 education.

11 But we didn't just assess caribou. We  
12 also looked at carnivores. And in particular we have  
13 two (2) programs that will be going on this summer with  
14 respect to wolverine and grizzly bears.

15 Ekati and Diavik started this program  
16 last year. It's hair-snagging, and we'll be setting  
17 out a number of scratching posts throughout the region,  
18 where we hope to involve community folks in those  
19 programs because they can help guide the locations of  
20 those snagging posts. And collecting the DNA from that  
21 hair-snagging will help inform about the populations in  
22 the NWT and how our mine could potentially affect  
23 those.

24 With birds, we understand from other  
25 mines that there's very low potential to impact birds

1 from mining operations. However, De Beers will  
2 participate and undertake monitoring of bird  
3 populations. During our assessment, we noted that the  
4 closest raptor nest was 18 kilometres away. But we  
5 want to continue monitoring raptors in and around our  
6 mine site.

7 Other animals -- and while we were out  
8 this summer in August 2012, and there were a number of  
9 musk ox around or near our site. Musk ox will be part  
10 of our monitoring. Included in our monitoring will not  
11 only be regular helicopter regional monitoring  
12 programs, but also our local site surveillance.

13 And we'll be capturing any wildlife  
14 observations in our database and recording that  
15 information and submitting that to government and  
16 regulators. We also will make sure that our data is  
17 transparent, so that anybody who would like to look at  
18 the data from the mine site, that it's available.

19 Water and fish. Water and fish is a  
20 very important part of our project, and -- in terms of  
21 the assessment that we've undertaken. The baseline  
22 aquatics program on fish and -- and water and other --  
23 and other indicators, those baseline programs extended  
24 from 1996 to 2012. So we've been looking at these a  
25 long time.

1                   The things that we assessed in our  
2 impact assessment included the flows and water levels,  
3 the plankton and benthic communities. That's the bugs  
4 in the water that the fish eat. The aquatic health,  
5 the health of the fish, how do they look? What -- are  
6 there any metals in the fish? We -- we examined all  
7 these things and we presented it all in our impact  
8 assessment -- and also the fish themselves, getting an  
9 estimate of populations.

10                  And we'll continue to do work on fish  
11 and water in the downstream environment of Kennady  
12 Lake, and we'll be shaping that through the development  
13 of aquatics effect monitoring program, that we will  
14 develop through the permitting phase of the project,  
15 should it be approved. And we want to involve the  
16 communities in that program in a similar way that we  
17 included them in the wildlife monitoring program.

18                  We also talked to the communities about  
19 a fish-out plan that we have for Kennady Lake, because  
20 we have to dewater the lake to access the ore bodies.  
21 And when we came in 2012, we heard what folks had to  
22 say. And then we had the chance to go out on the water  
23 in a boat and to listen to what people had to say  
24 regarding how best to do the fish-out. And we included  
25 those comments in a document that we submitted on the

1 registry that's our draft fish-out plan.

2                   We also developed a no-net-loss, or fish  
3 habitat compensation plan that's in draft. We're still  
4 listening to communities about potential options on  
5 that plan, but we wanted to have something in to the  
6 registry so that we can -- we can demonstrate that no  
7 net loss for fish can be achieved.

8                   We're going to continue to scope and  
9 develop our water quality monitoring program, as well  
10 as our flow and flow-rate programs. We've involved the  
11 Water Survey of Canada in that program so that  
12 information is transparent and available to people who  
13 want to view it.

14                   And, finally, Chief Sangris mentioned  
15 socioeconomics, something else that we assessed in our  
16 Environmental Impact Assessment. We looked at things  
17 such as the long-term cultural -- social and cultural  
18 effects; the effects on -- on employment, training, and  
19 economic development. We looked at tourism potential  
20 and wilderness. We looked at and assessed the  
21 potential impacts on a park that's located near the  
22 project. We also looked at potential impacts on  
23 cultural and heritage.

24                   And then we also have developed some  
25 monitoring and mitigation programs around those

1 impacts. They include partnering with the communities  
2 to promote and preserve the use of culture and Aborigi  
3 -- Aboriginal use of language.

4                   We developed a human resource strategy  
5 that detailed the types of jobs. I mentioned those in  
6 my earlier statements. And so that will allow  
7 communities to -- to view the jobs that we've developed  
8 and be able to plan, or have their community members  
9 plan, and train so that they are in a position where  
10 they can seek employment in those opportunities at our  
11 project.

12                   We're working with communities to  
13 promote health and wellness and will continue to do so.  
14 We also have a traditional knowledge report that the  
15 Yellowknives Dene are working on, as well as all the  
16 communities are developing or they have submitted. And  
17 I know that Randy Freeman will be presenting a  
18 presentation on -- or, an update on the traditional  
19 knowledge for the Yellowknives Dene at our -- at our  
20 Wednesday sessions. And we look forward to hearing  
21 that.

22                   And we'll continue to incorporate  
23 traditional knowledge in our program. We made that  
24 commitment in May at the technical sessions, that we'll  
25 incorporate traditional knowledge as part of our

1 monitoring programs throughout the life of the project.

2                   And finally, we will be transparent in  
3 our reporting. That's important to De Beers, and we  
4 will ensure that there's transparency in the  
5 documentation and the data that we produce throughout  
6 the life of this project. Thank you.

7                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.  
8 That's the De Beers presentation. We -- we're now  
9 ready to hear from the community. I wonder if we have  
10 a list, people at the -- staff, do we have a list of  
11 speakers?

12

13 COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS:

14                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Our first speaker is  
15 Mr. Ed Jones from the North Slave Metis Alliance. Mr.  
16 Jones...?

17                   MR. ED JONES: Good morning. My name  
18 is Ed Jones. I'm an Elder member of the North Slave  
19 Metis Alliance, also a director. I'm looking forward  
20 to seeing the development of De Beers's new mine.  
21 There will definitely be some positive and negative  
22 impacts. Some of the benefits hopefully will be  
23 employment and business opportunities for some of our  
24 members.

25                   And one (1) of the -- or two (2) of the

1 negative impacts I'm really concerned about is the loss  
2 of the fish habitat when the water in Lake Kennady will  
3 be lowered; also, the possibility of pollution in the  
4 watershed. Lockhart River is part of this, and it  
5 flows into the northeast arm of Great Slave Lake.

6 Some benefits will be employment and  
7 business opportunities for some of our members. Ne --  
8 negative impacts I've already mentioned is the loss of  
9 fish habitat, the possibility of pollution on the  
10 Lockhart River.

11 On the negative impacts, I will have  
12 some more comments and suggestions at later meetings.  
13 And that is all I have to say at this time. And I  
14 thank you very much.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,  
16 Mr. Jones. Our next presenter/speaker, is also from  
17 the North Slave Metis Alliance, Joel Dragon Smith. Oh,  
18 okay. Sorry. Our next speaker is Alfred Baillangeon,  
19 respected Elder of the Yellowknives here. And he also  
20 did our opening prayer. Alfred...?

21

22 (INTERPRETED INTO ENGLISH)

23

24 ELDER ALFRED BAILLANGEON: Good -- good  
25 morning. We're talking about development of this mine

1 at Kennady Lake. I've been to that site quite a while  
2 ago with a -- with a plane and then on to the chopper.  
3 We -- we went on that lake. We went -- we fished out  
4 in the water.

5 They're going to dewater the Kennady  
6 Lake, and they're going to scoop some fish out and put  
7 it into other lakes. How it's going to be done, how  
8 the -- how the fish is going to be taken out of that  
9 lake and put into other water?

10 As the mine develop we see the other  
11 mine, for example, BHP and Diavik.

12

13 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

14

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: The translator -- the  
16 translation is not working very good.

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, I can hear  
21 that.

22

23 (INTERPRETED INTO ENGLISH)

24

25 ELDER ALFRED BAILLANGEON: The mine



1 that's going to be developed, one of our member had a  
2 house Gahcho Kue -- Gahcho Kue Lake. Some of the late  
3 Elders, like Isidore Sangris at that time, and is  
4 Rachel Crapeau was working with the land environment  
5 with the Elders. At those time -- at that time we see  
6 the river, that there's a river that flows to Gahcho  
7 Kue. And like the Elder Eld -- Ed Jones had said the -  
8 - we don't know about some of -- some of the little  
9 streams and rivers that flows to that lake. I'm sure  
10 there's more streams that flows to the lake.

11 And they're going to scoop those fish  
12 out. And which lake they are going to -- they are  
13 going to transport them to? And they haven't said --  
14 they should tell us what they're going to -- how are  
15 they going to do it and which lake they're going to  
16 bring it -- those fish to.

17 We live on fish, as the Dene people.  
18 And all those -- the -- all those things that's going  
19 to be happening just because of the money, making the -  
20 - the mine is going to make. All the white people,  
21 they -- they think about money, making money. But they  
22 don't care about the environment and the wildlife.

23 We, as a Dene people here in Lutsel K'e  
24 and Yellowknives, we go on the land. We survive with  
25 the animal, what our ancestors and our grandparents and

1 grandfather had to go out on the land for harvesting  
2 and getting caribous. And -- and today our land and  
3 BHP and Diavik and to have a winter road that destruct  
4 that -- the wildlife. So we don't see no caribou  
5 coming down to this -- on this side of the lake.

6                   The water is going to get polluted.  
7 Would that be good? We have a beauti -- beautiful land  
8 that's being destroyed on our First Nations. We see  
9 the map, Susie Drygeese map, that's the land of Susie  
10 Drygeese. And in it -- in it there's mines and there's  
11 polluting environment and the wildlives. They're  
12 destroying the land. We don't get no -- none of those  
13 benefits coming into our community.

14                   By about 1930 -- '36 -- '38, I see some  
15 of those mines. At those time when the mine was being  
16 developed on our land, we were never consulted. You  
17 guys are -- you guys need money, we'll give you guys  
18 some money.

19                   No, there was all those abandoned mine  
20 today, and I know where they are. You see all the dirt  
21 from the land. And some places, there was real good  
22 fish and the water was good. And we see that picture.  
23 Now -- now the sign is up saying that you can't get  
24 fish from it or drink the water from it. That's what  
25 it says.

1                   And before the '70s -- before the --  
2   seventy (70) years ago, the water was good and there's  
3   good fish, and you can use those. Now, today, the big  
4   sign is up that you no longer tres -- trespass the  
5   place because the water and the fish are no good.

6                   And all the -- so those other news mines  
7   are coming up today, so you discuss something that's  
8   concern to the -- our community. We know our community  
9   and we know the land, and we're telling the truth. And  
10   we see all the big trucks -- all the big trucks that  
11   goes to the mine and that goes to the discovery mine,  
12   1950 -- about 1958, they had a winter road going to  
13   those mine, and today, it's still being used as --  
14   winter roads are still being built, and -- and all the  
15   big trucks has been hauled to -- to the mine, and all  
16   the lakes that they go -- that they go over.

17

18                   (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

19

20                   THE CHAIRPERSON:   Excuse me, Alfred.  
21   Alfred? Something's gone wrong with -- we can't hear  
22   you again.

23                   MR. ALFRED BAILLANGEON:   Again?

24                   THE CHAIRPERSON:   So we'll have to get  
25   that guy to fix it.

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. We're going to  
4 take a break, because they've got to fix the apparatus.  
5 So let's give them about ten (10) minutes, and then  
6 we'll come back to operate so you can finish up. Thank  
7 you.

8

9 --- Upon recessing at 12:16 p.m.

10 --- Upon resuming at 12:31 p.m.

11

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: We're still  
13 experiencing some technical problems with the  
14 translation device here. My suggestion now is that we  
15 take a break. Lunch will be here at one o'clock, and  
16 if we -- we should be able to get back together about  
17 1:45. That will give plenty of time for the technical  
18 people to sort out this translation device. So 1:45  
19 we'll be back -- back in business. Sorry about that.

20

21 --- Upon recessing at 12:32 p.m.

22 --- Upon resuming at 1:44 p.m.

23

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good afternoon,  
25 everyone. Our apologies for the translation equipment

1 not working. We think we're -- we have it fixed. The  
2 English channel can be accessed on channel 2 or 5, the  
3 Chipewyan language accessed on channel 4, Tlicho on  
4 channel 1.

5                   If you are having difficulty with static  
6 on your receivers, please ask the Pido fellows to --  
7 back -- back there to get you one of these grey ones.  
8 So we've got two (2) systems on the go. And we'll see  
9 how that works.

10                   Our compliments to Paul and Adelaine  
11 Mackenzie (phonetic) for a very wonderful traditional  
12 meal. It was great. We very much appreciate that.  
13 Alfred Baillargeon had the floor. And he's left the  
14 building. So when he gets back, he will be the very  
15 next speaker after the -- or, whenever he comes back,  
16 we'll slot him in so that he can complete his  
17 presentation.

18                   So I'm going to go to the list that we  
19 have been gathering up at the door. And our next  
20 presenter or speaker is Travis Mercredi from the North  
21 Slave Metis Alliance. So, Travis, are you here?  
22 Welcome. And the floor is yours.

23                   MR. TRAVIS MERCREDI: Hi. My name is  
24 Travis Mercredi. I'm a youth member of the North Slave  
25 Metis Alliance. I guess one of things I want to talk

1 about was sort of the -- the socioeconomic aspects of  
2 this mine and sort of how the mining issue works with  
3 the community.

4 I think a lot of these proceedings have  
5 gone on kind of in -- oh, a lot of these -- sorry, a  
6 lot of these proceedings have gone on. And in --  
7 within the time, we've seen a whole generation of  
8 people come up underneath this that really have little  
9 or no say in these things, but it is definitely  
10 defining their future.

11 And I think a lot of the -- okay.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Excuse me. You're  
13 going to have to slow down a little bit. The  
14 translators are going to have a lot of difficulty  
15 keeping up with you.

16 MR. TRAVIS MERCREDI: For sure. I  
17 understand. Sorry. So I guess what I want to say is  
18 maybe that we look at the diverse economic benefits  
19 that can be done with this -- with the money that the -  
20 - that mining issue is going to be bringing into the --  
21 into Yellowknife.

22 I know a lot of the youth have different  
23 interests than strictly mining. I'm part of a board of  
24 -- part of the board of directors for Music NWT and the  
25 Yellowknife Artist Run Community Centre. And we do

1 outreach through the arts and try to sort of bring more  
2 culture into -- into the communities. And I think  
3 that's where the youth are -- they're -- with this --  
4 all this -- the benefits of the mine is that it's grown  
5 the middle class.

6                   And so with that, we have youth that are  
7 -- have different interests than -- than strictly  
8 mining. And so I -- I think the future, the -- the div  
9 -- diversifying the economy through these directions, I  
10 think, is -- is -- will better connect the youth to --  
11 to things like entrepreneurship and being independent.  
12 And the economy becomes stronger from that.

13                   I guess that's kind of what I was just  
14 hoping for the mine, that it sees the -- there are  
15 potential contracts that have be gi -- can be given out  
16 for people here doing things like video production and  
17 then to the arts. The -- well, in the arts there --  
18 all the people that I know in the arts are writers,  
19 graphic designers, people that have -- that not only  
20 work in the arts but work in another sector in some way  
21 that -- you know, the creation of media. So, yeah, I  
22 guess I was just hoping for the -- the mine to kind of  
23 see -- see that potential growth there and hopefully  
24 invest.

25                   And I know BHP and -- well, previously

1 BHP and Diavik had -- had a lot of programs that --  
2 that benefited. I -- I saw direct benefit with like  
3 bringing -- investing in the Folk on the Rocks  
4 Festival, investing in workshops for youth, for video  
5 and stuff.

6 So hopefully that with this mine we see  
7 that that is something that also helps develop the --  
8 you know, the socioeconomic end of things for the youth  
9 in -- in the territories and that they see that that  
10 direction is important.

11 Thank you. I guess that's it. That's  
12 all I'll say.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,  
14 Travis. Our next presenter is Peter D. Sangris. Is  
15 Peter here?

16

17 (INTERPRETED INTO ENGLISH)

18

19 MR. PETER D. SANGRIS: I want to -- I  
20 wanted to speak to my -- I want to speak to my -- in my  
21 language. Thank you. I'd like to say good afternoon  
22 to all my friends here. I would like to speak on my  
23 concerns to -- in this public hearing.

24 The -- the mine that we're talking about  
25 here at this hearing that is going to be opening up, I



1 think -- my grandfather has claimed that area for us,  
2 and it is still here in this building, Susie Drygeese's  
3 territory. That is the -- in 1921, when we had treaty,  
4 as you notice, it's -- it was an agreement that was  
5 made with Chief Drygeese at that time.

6                   And at that time -- and at that time  
7 when the agreement -- the treaty was made, the Kennady  
8 Lake was also included in the treaty, and Dry -- Chief  
9 Drygeese is my family. He is actually my great-gran --  
10 my grandfather who had claimed that area for us.

11                   And if you -- if the mine is going to be  
12 developed in that area, I would like to -- I would -- I  
13 would like the Developers to be very careful of the  
14 environment because we have wildlife and also caribou.  
15 That area -- that area is -- there's abundance of  
16 wildlife and also fish in that area. And if the mining  
17 companies -- if the mining company is going to develop  
18 a -- a mine there, I would like to see them watch and  
19 be very environmentally aware of how they are going to  
20 develop the mine in that area.

21                   I know that, in the past, you notice  
22 that the Giant Mine used to have a mine here, and  
23 they've made a mess in -- in our -- on our land and  
24 then left. And we don't want to see this again. We  
25 don't want to have this repeated again, so that is why

1 we want to be very environmental -- concern in that  
2 area.

3                   And I know that the mine is going to be  
4 developed with the dewatering of the lakes and taking  
5 the -- the fish out. The Kennady Lake that we're  
6 talking about is -- they're going to develop a lot of  
7 dams and dikes and then dewater it and then take the  
8 fish out.

9                   When you're working with fish like that,  
10 you have to be very careful of the water, how you --  
11 you work with the water and also the -- the fish is our  
12 food. And same with caribou, we -- that's our food.  
13 That is what we survive -- we survive on. So we don't  
14 want anything to happen to any of our wildlife, so if  
15 the companies are going to be working in that area they  
16 have to be very environmentally aware of how they're  
17 going to affect the area.

18                   I would like to have -- I would like to  
19 see the mine, as long as it's -- it's going to be open  
20 and running and operated, to be careful of the land.  
21 We're more concerned about wildlife, which we depend  
22 on, and the water. So we would be grateful if that is  
23 the case.

24                   Wildlife also -- all the birds, ducks,  
25 all live in that area. There's -- we're -- we're

1 concerned about that. There's all different types of  
2 wildlife in that area. There's a wetland, there's  
3 fish, there's wildlife, there's ptarmigans, muskrats,  
4 caribou, all kinds of wildlife that use that area.  
5 There's lots of good wildlife in Kennady Lake area.

6                   So we would like to see the Company, the  
7 mining company, be aware of the wildlife and to take  
8 care of the -- the land, to be careful of the land.  
9 But we have to be aware and concerned because I know  
10 that the wildlife haven't been down here, especially  
11 the caribou.

12                   But in the past we used to travel those  
13 -- in that area with the dog teams. Now we're using  
14 Skidoos. But a lot of my -- my friends, my generation,  
15 used dog teams in that area to hunt and trap. And all  
16 we -- all we're concerned is about the wildlife and the  
17 land, espe -- and the water.

18                   And the water there, if you're going to  
19 make dams and dikes in those areas to develop the mine  
20 and dewater -- dewater the lakes, what -- you have to  
21 be careful of the water, how you treat the water and  
22 how you dewater it and take the -- the fish out.

23                   When you're making the dams, I know that  
24 -- you know that when you're developing a mine you have  
25 to use the blast -- the rocks that are -- the gravel to

1 build the dams and dikes in those areas. So you have  
2 to be careful of the water, that the water doesn't get  
3 contaminated and affects the fish.

4 We depend heavily on the fish and the  
5 caribou and the ducks. Those are our food. And that's  
6 why we're expressing our concerns. So please remember  
7 I want the company to be careful of -- of the land  
8 while they're developing the mine. That is my concern.  
9 Thank you.

10

11 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

12

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,  
14 Peter D. Sangris. We have Alfred Baillangeon back.  
15 His presentation was interrupted. So, Alfred, can you  
16 come back and -- and do your presentation, please? And  
17 we apologize for interrupting you and -- and the  
18 equipment wasn't working. So if you could come back  
19 and finish your presentation, we'd appreciate it.

20

21 (INTERPRETED INTO ENGLISH)

22

23 ELDER ALFRED BAILLANGEON: It might  
24 break down again. When you're building up a mine, just  
25 as with BHP and also Diavik. And today, just ask the

1 woman who had said there you have your people working  
2 at the mine site. That's what she said. That's what  
3 she mentioned. And -- and B -- BHP had also said that.  
4 But just to get their water licence, they -- they talk  
5 very well about training your people and there's going  
6 to be lots of people being em -- employed. And that's  
7 what Diavik also mentioned.

8                   Once they get the water permit -- and  
9 today are -- are there a lot of our people working at  
10 the mines? My -- my son works at BHP and he mentioned  
11 that there's only eight (8) of them, but the other --  
12 other workers are Southerners, not Aboriginals. So  
13 they -- they talk in this manner. Why -- why do they  
14 talk in that -- in that manner? And Diavik also laid  
15 off a lot of people.

16                   Once they get the water permit, maybe  
17 four (4) or five (5) years, that's the only way for  
18 that period of time they -- they work in good faith  
19 together. And the people are employed at the mine.  
20 And during that time they purchase vehicles, build up  
21 their homes, and they lose their jobs and -- and they  
22 lose their jobs. And we can't be working like that.

23                   This is -- this is our land. It's not -  
24 - it's not non-Aboriginal people's land. So all these  
25 mines that exist on our land, and it's not helping us.

1                   And today -- and today, we're getting --  
2 once -- they're saying similar things. And once they  
3 get their permits, what's going to happen? We can't --  
4 we can't lie like this to people. It's not good. And  
5 the government is not the boss; we are. We, the  
6 people, are the boss of our land. When -- when I tell  
7 the truth about certain things and then I want the  
8 truth to come out, I'm not talking with a false  
9 language; I'm talking the truth.

10                   And in 1900, we -- we had a treaty that  
11 was signed, and what was said at the trea -- signing of  
12 the treaty, We have to work good together in good  
13 faith. We have to be friends and take care of one  
14 another, and -- and those things were said at the trea  
15 -- signing of the treaty, but today is -- we're in a  
16 totally different situation.

17                   All these mines that exist on our land,  
18 the -- the minerals that's been extracted and all the  
19 money that they made and all the environment that's  
20 been ruined and -- and all the wildlife and the habitat  
21 and the environment has been destroyed on many  
22 occasions. And we do not destroy anything on our land.  
23 We go hunting for wildlife. And when we go fishing, we  
24 take care of our -- our works.

25                   And -- and today, with all the minerals,

1 the different minerals that's been extracted, we're  
2 still poor. We don't have anything to account for. At  
3 times, when I think about it, it's -- I don't feel well  
4 about it. And you can see -- you can see our land;  
5 Giant, Con Mine, all these mines that existed. And no  
6 -- not one (1) person that made a penny out of it, and  
7 the land is contaminated. We have to take into  
8 consideration these things, the negative impact.

9                   Because of the negative impact to your  
10 people on the environment that was take -- taking  
11 place, and we never got paid out for it. And for the  
12 future generations -- I have lots of grandchildren. In  
13 the future, what will they live on if we destroy  
14 everything before they exist? For them -- for them I'm  
15 talking, on -- on behalf of them, for -- for all my  
16 grandchildren and their children and all my nephews and  
17 nieces and their children. Those are the -- the ones  
18 that should be well taken care of with -- regarding  
19 financially.

20                   People would be happy, but if -- but if  
21 -- if there's a contamination, and where they're going  
22 to take the fish out and how they're going to do it,  
23 and they have to tell us this, how they're going to  
24 take the fish out and where they're going to put the  
25 fish.

1                   And on -- on our land, while I was a  
2 young man, I -- I used to travel in that area in 1949  
3 when I was fourteen (14) years old. Our people, Wijam  
4 Drybones (phonetic), got a cabin in Gahcho -- Gahcho  
5 Kue, Kennady Lake, and in that area is part of our  
6 land.

7                   In the -- in the barren grounds, on the  
8 barren lands, we ha -- there's mines that exist on the  
9 barren lands. Our -- our good land is being destroyed.  
10 I know about this. And once the winter road opens, how  
11 many -- how trucks are going to take on the road?

12                  La -- last year, I counted three hundred  
13 (300) trucks, it's just like in line together also on  
14 the return trip. All the winter road that exists to  
15 the current mines that they haul the material, and,  
16 also, the vehicles that parked on the land. And all --  
17 all the fumes from the running of the vehicles, it  
18 melts and goes...

19                  And along -- along the route of the  
20 winter road, how is the fish habitat? Is it healthy?  
21 It's probably not. When we go trapping in that area we  
22 use fish -- and I'm a trapper, ever since I was a young  
23 man. I -- I know the area.

24                  I -- I've never been into school. I  
25 always travelled with my grandfather. Where is the



1 good hunting grounds? He taught me all that, which  
2 area. So when I talk about my land, I trav -- I travel  
3 on the land. I've been everywhere on the land, up the  
4 stream, Thurber Lake (phonetic). I -- I've been to --  
5 on a caribou hunt in that area twice when I was young.  
6 And that's how we...

7                   If a person that doesn't work on the  
8 land is making some -- and Peter -- Peter Sangris  
9 spoke. When -- when we were young we used to go  
10 trapping, work along with our family. And that's how  
11 we talk about it's our land. And all my friends that  
12 live in Behchoko and Lutsel K'e that thrive and survive  
13 and -- and went hunting on the land, that's how they  
14 survive. And our ancestors, that's how they never  
15 contaminated land. They treat the wildlife with  
16 respect. And everything that they live off, that's how  
17 they treated it good -- everything well, as they do  
18 their work.

19                   But when the mine -- how long is the  
20 mines going to be operating? We do not know this. We  
21 know the environment's going to be disturbed. And the  
22 Diavik -- East Island is very, very beautiful Island.  
23 But today it's like that -- that East -- that East  
24 Island is a dead island today and it's not going to  
25 reclaim itself forever.

1                   But in -- in the past, wherever we go...  
2 But today when we travel in that area we're never going  
3 to see no caribou. It's not going to reclaim itself to  
4 the way it was. Once the -- once the mineral has been  
5 extracted and closure comes what's going to happen?  
6 It's going to be... Everything destroys with the mine  
7 when it -- when it comes up into -- just -- just ask --  
8 for Yellowknife Bay there was a mine there.

9                   It clo -- there's a closure in -- of  
10 that mine. You can't use the water. You can't use the  
11 fish. And if you use the wood for cooking your food it  
12 will -- you will get sick with it. How come -- why is  
13 the government not looking at us and taking care of  
14 these things? All the -- he takes all the money and he  
15 never -- he never looks back to us and say, You -- you  
16 need this and that. And so he -- he takes all of the  
17 money that comes from the mineral and the mining aspect  
18 of...

19                   That's how we're pitiful sitting here.  
20 All these mines that were in operation in the past, and  
21 now we sit with nothing. If we really think about it,  
22 whoever has a -- thinking about this, and it's not --  
23 it's not good for us. Me -- even for myself, I don't  
24 like it.

25                   When we travel down south, if we -- if

1 we destroy the amount of land that they're working on,  
2 then we'll probably get charged and go be thrown in  
3 jail. But us, we don' destroy nothing, even the  
4 wildlife. We -- they talk -- they talk about us  
5 destroying wildlife, but we're not doing that. If we  
6 really think about it, we know that they're destroying  
7 our -- our land. We know about this.

8                   And -- and you, because I work on the  
9 land, my children and my niece and nephews, my  
10 grandchildren, we take them out on the land. We teach  
11 them where -- we -- we teach them about where's the  
12 good hunting ground and that's how we take the youth  
13 out on the land.

14                   But if it's -- if we don't do that, how  
15 -- how is our future generation going to survive in the  
16 future? And when -- when I think about it, I feel very  
17 sad about it. And even the -- all -- all the river  
18 streams going to flow down to this lake here. And it's  
19 going to happen in the future. All the fish that's  
20 going to be taken out of the water. And that's what  
21 I'm worried about.

22                   My -- my -- the fish -- the fish ex --  
23 exist in -- in the water. They live in the water. And  
24 BHP did similar thing, they took the fish out of the  
25 water and they -- some of the fish died. And the fish

1 lives in the water, it needs water.

2                   And some of the fish that they took out  
3 were destroyed and they got rid of it. And -- and this  
4 -- this mine is going to happen, too. Similar --  
5 similar things is going to take place. So the aquatic  
6 -- the aquatic life needs water, so with -- without  
7 water it will die off, maybe three (3), four (4) hours.

8                   There was a mine in Apple Island  
9 (phonetic), Narrow Island. There's been the mine that  
10 existed and nothing's been mentioned in that part.  
11 Apple Island where the mine existed, I've seen it in  
12 the summer. And all of that contaminant that overflow,  
13 how come they don't mention those -- those things? And  
14 that -- that water probably seeping to the Great Slave  
15 Lake, it's the arsenic that's seeping to the lake. Is  
16 it -- those kinds of things are never mentioned.

17                   All these mines that existed on the land  
18 is destroying our land. So in -- in what year -- what  
19 year will they start construction? In -- in what year,  
20 when -- when will the operation begin? These kind of  
21 things never been mentioned and how many years it's  
22 going to be in operation and when it's going to close.  
23 We don't know about these things.

24                   I know it's going to destroy everything.  
25 You see -- see what happened in Diavik. It destroys

1 everything. So we as a people, we should be -- helped  
2 -- helped out financially for the fu -- future  
3 generations, so we can live and so that we can have a  
4 good employment. Even though that -- those -- those  
5 things are being said, they break their own words and  
6 it's not good. They -- they bring in foreigners and  
7 also people from the south. Even -- even BHP and  
8 Diavik, they do similar things in this manner. It's  
9 not right. It's on our land.

10 If -- if we're telling the truth and  
11 then the end product has to be good. So if we're going  
12 to break our promise, what's going to happen? When  
13 there's going to be somebody to charge if we want take  
14 them to court then -- as long as they get their water  
15 licence, that's all they want.

16 So I just wanted to say this to you, the  
17 concerns I have, when I'm talking from my heart because  
18 I'm thinking about the future, especially for the  
19 younger generations, I'm speaking on behalf of them.

20 I'm not worried about myself right now,  
21 but I'm worried about my children, their children's  
22 children. How are they going to survive if we don't  
23 speak up on behalf of them? So I want you to -- to  
24 remember that. When you say something on behalf of  
25 something you want to help -- you want to help each

1 other. That's what we're sitting here for.

2 We know that a lot of times we're going  
3 to be disappointed, but we want to make our concerns  
4 known. Thank you.

5

6 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

7

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,  
9 Elder Alfred Baillangeon.

10

11 ELDER ALFRED BAILLANGEON: Masi.

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: The next presenter on  
16 my list is Fred Sangris, former Chief.

17

18 (INTERPRETED INTO ENGLISH)

19

20 CHIEF FRED SANGRIS: My name is Fred  
21 Sangris. I am Weledeh Dene. I would like to express  
22 my concern concerning Gahcho development in that area.  
23 So I want to express my concerns to you.

24 I know that I'm going to talk about my  
25 family, my people and the people from that area. In

1 the past -- in the past, we lived -- we lived in that  
2 area. And we know that the government, in the past  
3 they said that there's going to be a lot of foreigners --  
4 and foreigners and, also, a treaty will be made.

5                   So in the past, that's -- a treaty was  
6 made because of that. And a treaty -- July 25, 1900,  
7 Treaty 8 was made. And under the treaty -- in -- in  
8 the treaty, whenever anyone in your -- in your -- on  
9 your land and -- on your land to -- the land is for you  
10 to survive on, especially with all the wildlife on the  
11 land.

12                   And to this day, we still honour our  
13 treaty. And we -- we still -- we keep -- we're --  
14 we're keeping our treaty. We -- so we are -- we -- we  
15 take care of our self. We are governors. We govern  
16 ourselves. And we have sovereignty that -- to this  
17 day.

18                   But the government, 1900, at the time  
19 when the treaty was made, the -- we still have the  
20 treaty that is still held in Ottawa, our -- our treaty  
21 that is still exist. But for us, we know that our --  
22 this is our land and that is what we're talking about.

23                   I know that for thousands of years we've  
24 been living here. And our -- our grandfathers lived  
25 here, and they are buried here on this land. And they

1 knew the land and the wildlife in this area. And we,  
2 the generation after them, we are still here and ha --  
3 and holding onto our treaty and our -- our tradition,  
4 culture.

5

6 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

7

8

9 CHIEF FRED SANGRIS: I want to give my  
10 talk about the Gahcho project that's going to proceed,  
11 hope -- hoping that there will be a permitting process  
12 through this -- this hearing.

13 I can say that all the mines that were  
14 put in place in this area from -- from their first  
15 arrival of first European when they start to establish  
16 mines in our territory, we know that the rules and  
17 regulations of mining was not very good on Canada's  
18 part. And I said the Elders talk about those very few.  
19 They're the same, and one (1) of those mines right in  
20 the community of Yellowknife, and we're sitting next to  
21 it: 270 tonnes of pure poison arsenic.

22 And this is kind of a position that  
23 Canada put us into: poison the waters and the lands  
24 around us, and our people suffered greatly because of  
25 that. And we've got nothing in return for that to this



1 day.

2 I'm hoping that other future mines in  
3 the future will pay more attention to First Nation  
4 because if there's going to be a permitting for another  
5 diamond project in our territory, then there has to be  
6 a tradeoff. Who is the most impact group? The  
7 Yellowknives paid a big price.

8 The winter road that goes up to Lupin  
9 Mines, up to the diamond mines going north, comes right  
10 through my -- my family's trapping grounds of Gordon  
11 Lake. The roads, eight thousand (8,000) or ten  
12 thousand (10,000) loads of vehicles in the last few  
13 years gone right by our family trapping cabins. And  
14 it's only like less than a kilometre, but we receive  
15 nothing for this huge impact to our family way of life,  
16 our traditional hunting and trapping grounds.

17 Even though IBA agreements were made, my  
18 family still talk about the -- the impact and the  
19 violation to our treaty rights, even though the IBAs  
20 were -- were given to Yellowknives Dene. But my  
21 family, the Sangris family of Gordon Lake, with all the  
22 traffic, we receive none -- none in compensation.

23 And if this project goes ahead, there'll  
24 be more vehicles, more trucks on the winter road, and  
25 we'll be more -- surely more impact. And that's the

1 story of my -- my family's cabin at Gordon Lake.

2 Right now, I could probably name about  
3 ten (10) barren land trappers in N'Dilo and Dettah,  
4 because there are barren-land trappers. I was one of  
5 them. I went to the Arctic barren lands when I was  
6 fifteen (15) years old. I spent winters at MacKay  
7 Lake. My father and I own about forty (40) sled dogs,  
8 and we were one (1) of those families that were racing  
9 sled dogs in those days.

10 And because we had good sled dogs, we  
11 went deep into the barren lands, far into the barren  
12 lands: Lac du Savoir (phonetic), Lac de Gras, Elmer  
13 Lake west of -- east of Benia (phonetic) Lake, Indian  
14 Mountains. We've been all over. The men and the old-  
15 timers that I travelled with as a young man, many of  
16 them are gone, but many of them have traces. Their  
17 story still lies on the land.

18 Yes, the Yellowknives Dene trappers who  
19 make their living hunting, fishing, and trapping are  
20 going to be greatly impact. To the Proponent, to the  
21 Company that's going to -- their wish to make one --  
22 another diamond mine at Kennady Lake should really look  
23 at the impact to these trappers, because we will get  
24 run over again and our rights will be violated.

25 The Sangris family, the Mackenzie family

1 at Gordon Lake have made their homes there for -- since  
2 1972. Our homes are still there, standing. At Benia  
3 Lake, there are four (4) -- four (4) log houses there,  
4 four (4) homes. No wells, doctors. Their homes are  
5 still there. We consider them not only homes, but we  
6 consider them our villages, because we live there.  
7 Myself, I lived in Gordon Lake and beyond the barren  
8 lands for ten (10) years. And that's how I got to know  
9 the land really well.

10 At Benia Lake, we follow an esker that  
11 goes east, as the old-timers told me at one time. You  
12 go to Elmer, you go into Kennady, you follow the esker.  
13 And I've made many trips there in my young -- younger  
14 years.

15 In the last four (4) years, three (3)  
16 years, I made a trip across the barren lands with my  
17 cousin, James Sangris and another trapper, Paul  
18 Mackenzie. The three (3) of us decided to make a trip  
19 from MacKay Lake, go across the barren lands, on to  
20 Artillery Lake and close to what we call Kwilodeh  
21 (phonetic). Kwilodeh in my language is Thelon, Thelon  
22 game area.

23 So from there we went hunting musk ox  
24 and caribou. And we followed the old traditional  
25 trails. Some of the trails I remember as a young man,

1 and markers are still there. My grandfather used to  
2 tell me stories. David Sangris was born in 1865. He  
3 was one of the oldest living men here, up until 1976.  
4 He was a very old man, but he had a lot of stories.

5                   He said in his young days, with his  
6 brothers, two (2) other brothers and many other  
7 Yellowknives, they would travel along the tree line  
8 from MacKay Lake, taking them to Artillery Lake and  
9 into Kwilodeh, because at that time musk ox was really  
10 important. The wool was important, the hides were  
11 important.

12                   And so after many, many trips that he  
13 made, he told me stories of the landscape and different  
14 places that he remembered that out -- was outstanding.  
15 And so years later I travelled the same route, using  
16 traditional knowledge to travel through that area.

17                   I have an uncle, my grandfather's  
18 brother, is buried on the south side of Artillery Lake.  
19 I've been going there for the last few years. Our  
20 family wants to put up a -- a stone in this graveyard,  
21 to mark the graveyards. And I have many ancestors  
22 buried in the barren land.

23                   My grandmother, who was a Chipewyan from  
24 Lutsel K'e, she also lived in Wilshire River, is buried  
25 on the north shore of McLeod Bay, just down below from

1 your project. And I've been searching for her  
2 graveyard for the last few years. I still haven't  
3 found it, but the old-timers told me that it's on the  
4 shoreline on the north shore. So this summer, again, I  
5 will probably make my journey to find my grandmother's  
6 burial on the north shore of McLeod Bay.

7 But there are many other graveyards  
8 there as well. For thousands and thousands of years  
9 people have used the land. As the old-timers say, the  
10 land contains many burials. And we don't know where  
11 they are, all of them.

12 So this project proceeds, it will have a  
13 -- another impact, mainly to the hunters and trappers  
14 of the Yellowknives Dene. All my families are hunters  
15 and trappers. And I have one (1) brother that works in  
16 the mine. But on his part -- on his time off, he's  
17 still a trapper. We were all raised that way by our  
18 parents.

19 Our parents wanted us to be connected to  
20 the land, close to the wildlife. And they said, You  
21 have to learn to survive, live off the land. And we  
22 took that very seriously. Today, we can go on the land  
23 and survive.

24 If a meteorite came to earth, then I'm  
25 pretty sure I'll probably survive, and I hope that all

1 -- we all will. But because of those unpredicted  
2 things, Dene people have still continued to keep their  
3 skills in place, and our families are one (1) of them.  
4 We teach our children, pass on the stories, pass on the  
5 skills of survival because they're going to need it in  
6 the future.

7                   As the Elder was talking about the water  
8 in that Kennady Lake, I've been there a few times.  
9 Over to the east of Kennady Lake is the rolling hills,  
10 as in our language. The old-timers talk about the  
11 rolling hills. And beyond those rolling hills is musk  
12 ox and caribou. And if there's no food anywhere, you  
13 can't find them, go there. You'll find caribou there.  
14 You'll find musk ox. There'll be food there. That's  
15 the reason why my grandfathers, they used to travel  
16 into that area, because of caribou and musk ox.

17                   The water quality from the tree lands to  
18 the Arctic bare lands are good water. All waters in  
19 the North are all good water except for Giant Mine,  
20 Yellowknife Bay. But as the -- the Elder said, the  
21 water quality is a precious thing, and we have to make  
22 sure that there's no impact to the waters.

23                   When the first diamond mines came, they  
24 gave contract out to have the lake fished out. It was  
25 not good. It was done during the summer, and many of

1 the fish got rotten. I'm one of the local dog mushers  
2 at that time, until 1988. And many of the fish, about  
3 fifty-five hundred (5,500) fish at least, was sent to  
4 Yellowknife. Many of those fish went bad because they  
5 was fishing the summer.

6 The dog mushers said they were receiving  
7 fish all the time, every week, off the plane, but many  
8 of the fish went rotten, so people couldn't use them.  
9 So they end up at the dog kennels in Yellowknife, the  
10 local dog mushers.

11 So I certainly hope these kind of things  
12 will never happen again. If contracts are awarded to  
13 have fish taken out, I really believe the Company  
14 should really seriously look at this and give those  
15 contracts to people who do the fishing, who know about  
16 fish, who can take care of it.

17 During the winter is probably the best  
18 time to -- to take care of your food, your fish. And  
19 the Company should do this during the winter, try to  
20 fish it out. But during the spring and summer, many of  
21 the fish might not -- might not make it to our table in  
22 our homes.

23 I'm sure that there'll be good use for  
24 many of the fish once it's taken out of the water and  
25 it's edible and going to the right people. We talked a

1 lot about fish in the last few months, but there's  
2 going to be thousands of fish taken out if the lake is  
3 drained. Thousands of fish will be taken out. So this  
4 is an area where it has to be properly done by the  
5 Company and that they have to do it the right way.

6                   The caribou and the musk ox in the area  
7 are plenty. Dene Nation did a study back in 1973/'74,  
8 the Dene mapping project. I've taken a look at many of  
9 those trails and documentation that was done by many of  
10 the Elders in those olden days. And, yes, I see a  
11 caribou migration path through that research. There's  
12 information there.

13                   It doesn't matter what the Company says.  
14 If there's -- if they say, Well, we don't see any  
15 caribou here in the last four (4) years we've been  
16 here, well, this -- it's a migration route. The  
17 caribou leaves Kontwaydo, heads to Telarie (phonetic),  
18 travels to the north shore, makes its way here. And  
19 it's still happening today.

20                   So the caribou has to be taken care of,  
21 making sure that the -- the migration is not impact and  
22 that the company work with the community traditional  
23 knowledge holders who are able to advise them what's  
24 best, because they have the same issues in other mining  
25 -- diamond mines, where they're trying to learn



1 traditional knowledge and how to work with wildlife  
2 because the resource belongs to us. And if we don't  
3 take care of it, we allow somebody else to do it,  
4 they're not going to do a good job. We know that.

5 Caribou are very sensitive animals, but  
6 we has -- it has to be monitored and taken care of.  
7 And I really hope that the Company will take great  
8 steps into monitoring and reporting on any of the  
9 wildlife that they -- that goes through there, because  
10 it's important for -- not only for Yellowknives Dene,  
11 but for everyone else to -- to know the amount of  
12 caribou that goes through there each year, migration  
13 season. Those records we need to have because, right  
14 now, we're -- we're in a caribou decline here, and it's  
15 gone down.

16 So we need to take measures to safeguard  
17 the numbers of the caribou herds. And the companies  
18 who are working on the lands should do the same. The  
19 same with the musk ox. The musk ox -- my grandfather  
20 used to tell me in 1905 he went hunting east of there,  
21 and he saw hundreds and hundreds of car -- musk ox  
22 without any hides on it.

23 These are the 1930 people that came here  
24 from the south. And the military was interested in the  
25 wool, so people came from the south and slaughter

1 thousands and thousands of musk ox. And he was so  
2 surprised, that him and his brothers almost cried,  
3 looking at all the carcasses on the hills. And this  
4 led to the decline of musk ox, where Thelon game  
5 preserve had to be put in place. It was not the Native  
6 people or the First Nations people who did this kind of  
7 a holocaust on the -- on the musk ox.

8                   But now the musk ox are coming back in  
9 great numbers which means that more hunters will come  
10 out. More hunters will be in the vicinity of that  
11 area. And I know when companies see First Nations  
12 hunters, they don't feel comfortable since -- with  
13 other mines, where they confiscate your rifle, your  
14 ammunition, if you're going to visit.

15                   I certainly hope that this will be a  
16 friendly company that will respect Aboriginal people  
17 and Aboriginal treaty rights when people will come onto  
18 the property because we're not giving up the land.  
19 It's only being leased for a short amount of time to do  
20 mining. But as a hunter who holds treaty rights, a  
21 company cannot develop policies and not allowing the  
22 hunters onto that area. We're in the constitution,  
23 635, so there has to be something the company can do to  
24 work with the hunters.

25                   There is going to be a lot of different

1 contracts going out. I really believe that. I was in  
2 Toronto not too long ago, and our corporation made a  
3 presentation there to have six hundred (600) employees.  
4 Only one hundred (100) of the six hundred and fifty  
5 (650) employees are Yellowknives Dene or Aboriginal, a  
6 very small amount.

7 I certainly hope that the Deton Cho will  
8 be part and play a big role in trying to get the  
9 contracts with the Company so that, in return, they can  
10 put many of the hunters and trappers to work. This  
11 hasn't happened with other mine companies. The hunters  
12 today are still out in the communities. They're  
13 unemployed. There was no tradeoff for them. And  
14 they're the only ones who were least forgotten. So I  
15 hope that many of the contracts will be given to many  
16 of the Aboriginal groups in the north.

17 And I hope that the Company will focus  
18 on that and try not to bring in too many contractors  
19 from the south, because the contractors from the south  
20 bring their own employees from the south. They fly  
21 over us to the mines and they fly back over us. But  
22 the money doesn't stay in the NWT. It leaves the NWT.  
23 And that's been the problem.

24 Now on the -- sometime in the future,  
25 there's going to be a closure for the mines. Closure

1 and reclamation. And I hope that the Company -- the  
2 Company will take measures to use traditional knowledge  
3 because traditional knowledge was not used in the past  
4 as a partner in science. If it was done, Giant Mine  
5 would have been a very good mine. Because they  
6 operated it alone and made some really bad mistakes and  
7 didn't take any advice, the land is useless now.

8                   So I hope that the Company will take  
9 seriously to include traditional knowledge in many of  
10 the operations, mine operation plan, wildlife, fish,  
11 and many things that require traditional knowledge.  
12 Because if the Company is going to have best practices,  
13 then it has to include traditional knowledge. Science  
14 alone can't figure everything out.

15                   Look at the caribou decline here. It's  
16 only biologists and science. They don't have all the  
17 answers. We have the other half of the answers. But  
18 they don't take traditional knowledge seriously. So  
19 that's why the caribou is in -- is in that predicament.  
20 And that's not plain, that -- that story. Even though  
21 we don't agree with it.

22                   So hopefully the Company, at the end of  
23 the day, when they do reclamation they're going to do  
24 it right: engage the community, the hunters, fisherman.  
25 Because these are the people that are going to go back

1 on the land and use it again once the -- the closure is  
2 done. These are the people who will help develop a  
3 plan for putting the mines to rest.

4                   And it's done at other mines. If -- if  
5 a mine's going to open, the mine -- the mines have to  
6 respect the land. At least to give it a prayer so that  
7 the land will be disturbed, our ancestors know that the  
8 land will be disturbed. And at the end of the closure,  
9 the Company can use traditional knowledge and use the  
10 Dene people again to put it to rest, to close it. And  
11 again we ask our ancestors, you know, that the time is  
12 done. They've done the damage, so now we have to pray  
13 to put it to rest.

14                   So traditional knowledge is very  
15 important and hopefully the Company will use it. Not  
16 everyone is a traditional knowledge holder. Indigenous  
17 people are the only people that have traditional  
18 knowledge. You're indigenous to the land, you're born  
19 to the land, you travel on the land, you slept on the  
20 land, you saw the land. You heard the stories of the  
21 land, you know the place names of the land, and that's  
22 traditional knowledge. You have to be with it.

23                   I don't believe that non-Aboriginal  
24 people who work with industries or First Nations or  
25 with governments have a in-depth of what traditional

1 knowledge is. Traditional knowledge is -- it's -- it's  
2 a knowledge that goes back thousands of years, passed  
3 down from families to families to families. And you  
4 can't learn traditional knowledge overnight. And the  
5 only traditional knowledge is taught and held by  
6 indigenous First Nations.

7                   That's why we have names of the rivers,  
8 the lakes. We have names of each animals that lives  
9 there. Even all the types of fishes there has names.  
10 And we -- if we take the fish apart in biology, we have  
11 names for each of the parts of the ter -- of the fish.  
12 Traditional knowledge is like science, but it's much  
13 more deeper and more in-depth, more information.

14                   So hopefully that the Company, if  
15 they're going to work with First Nations, then I would  
16 respectfully ask them to include traditional knowledge  
17 for a long-term of the mine operation. And this will  
18 ensure that wildlife, the land was less impact and,  
19 also, the community of hunters and trappers are part of  
20 it. And they're -- and they're making sure that  
21 there'll be less impact.

22                   If that doesn't happen, then the hunters  
23 will be over to one (1) side of the road complaining,  
24 saying this Company hasn't done a good thing yet. I'm  
25 sure everybody will be watching. Even though they're

1 hundreds of miles away, it doesn't mean it's isolated.

2 We hunt there as well. People will watch.

3 But I'm just going to close with that.

4 I think the -- the biggest part for me and my family at  
5 Gordon Lake is that we've been impacted by the winter  
6 road at Gordon Lake. And we received no compensation  
7 to this day of many of the mines, Lupin, many of the  
8 diamond mines operating, and many of the operations  
9 that are -- gold mines are going to be operating,  
10 including Kennady Lake that's going to be using that  
11 winter road. That's going to put a huge impact on our  
12 family's camp at Gordon Lake.

13 We plan to go back there this winter.

14 We plan to do the hunting and trapping there again.

15 But with the traffic it's going to be crazy. It's  
16 going to be really crazy. And we're the -- we're the  
17 most impacted.

18 But I'm going to close with that. But I  
19 also send the Company a message, that many of the  
20 workers will come from south and it won't be good for  
21 our community. But if the Akaitcho -- if the Company  
22 is very serious about getting this mine going, I would  
23 re -- request that they would look at 51 percent of  
24 Aboriginal employment, much more than just 32 percent  
25 or 33 percent.

1                   And I heard somewhere else not too long  
2 ago we can't find any workers in Dettah and N'Dilo. My  
3 wife and I sat down months ago and we put names  
4 together. We put about a hundred and ten (110) names  
5 in both communities. These are people unemployed.

6                   So there is high unemployment here, as  
7 well. And if the Company is going to proceed with  
8 their operations, then they need to look at Akaitcho  
9 Dene and possibly try to give back to the Company in  
10 the long-term at 51 percent employment. And if they  
11 did that, I think the hunters will probably be happy  
12 with that. Thank you very much.

13                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much  
14 trapper and former Chief Fred Sangris. Thank you. Our  
15 next presenter is Ora Williamson-Mercredi. Welcome.

16

17                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

18

19                   MS. ORA WILLIAMSON-MERCREDI: That  
20 might help. All right. My name is Ora. I'm from the  
21 Mercredi family, which is a Metis family who lives in  
22 the North Slave region. My dad is from Fort Resolution  
23 and our family has been here for hundreds of years.

24                   I'm a twenty-one (21) year-old student.  
25 I like the arts, history, and cooking traditional



1 foods. I know that traditional foods come from the  
2 area that is being impacted by the mining project,  
3 which is extremely unsettling to me. But on the other  
4 hand, mine development is good for young families to  
5 create a life.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Excuse me, Ora.

7 MS. ORA WILLIAMSON-MERCREDI: Yes?

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Can I get you to slow  
9 down a little bit? The translator's are having --

10 MS. ORA WILLIAMSON-MERCREDI: The  
11 translators? Okay.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thanks.

13 MS. ORA WILLIAMSON-MERCREDI: But on  
14 the other hand, mine development is good for young  
15 families to create a life, for example, acquiring a  
16 home, vehicles, and a steady income, which, in turn,  
17 gives us the means to travel, to hunt, and to do  
18 various traditional activities that we enjoy here in  
19 the north.

20 My question is: How good will this mine  
21 be for the aboriginal workforce in terms of  
22 accessibility to managerial positions and to have a  
23 real decision-making -- and to have real decision-  
24 making powers so we can manage both the negative and  
25 positive impacts the project will have on our land?

1                   Because, in my opinion, preserving  
2 traditional land use is more important to us than  
3 anybody because we are not going anywhere. People come  
4 and go as they please for opportunities, and they  
5 benefit, but who is the true beneficiary? You're  
6 looking at us. Not some kid from Australia, London, or  
7 BC. In the end, it's us who are the stewards of the  
8 land. This here is our house.

9                   Sustainability is also important to me  
10 because what's going to happen when the mine is shut  
11 down? What are you leaving behind? Not all of us want  
12 to be miners. We want opportunities for education like  
13 scholarships, not just labour work.

14                   Sustainability to us means that we have  
15 the capacity to survive after your project is done.  
16 What is the mine's approach to being different from the  
17 other mines in terms of sustainability?

18                   In coming back into family and my roots,  
19 I come from a family of hunters and trappers, and my  
20 dad is a prospector who has worked all over the north  
21 and has told me stories of his adventures. For myself,  
22 I want to be able to have all those experiences and  
23 more in the years to come, especially for the people  
24 younger than me and for the next generations that we  
25 will be sharing this land with.

1 I can only hope that this mine will  
2 respect our traditional lands and preserve the  
3 environment for us and the youth of our future. Thank  
4 you.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,  
6 Ora. Our next person is Joel Dragon Smith from the  
7 North Slave Metis Alliance.

8 MR. JOEL DRAGON SMITH: Hi. I'm Joel  
9 Dragon Smith. I'm twenty (20) years old and I'm  
10 related to the Mercredis. I was born and raised in  
11 Yellowknife, and I'm currently working for the North  
12 Slave Metis Alliance.

13 For me, personally, this mine  
14 development will be good because it's a good job  
15 possibility. And I'm not really looking for a career  
16 in mining, but it would be good to make some money.  
17 I've actually already worked at Gahcho Kue for a week  
18 fishing this summer, and that helped me out a bit for  
19 money.

20 I'm sure most of you know that some  
21 people believe the world's going to end in like twenty-  
22 one (21) days or something, but -- yeah, right, right?  
23 So we're going to be here for a long time, and I do  
24 worry about sustainability for generations to come.

25 And I think it's impertent -- important

1 to preserve land use for the North Slave Metis. It is  
2 our land, and the mine is being -- the -- that the mine  
3 is being built on. And it hurts me that we could be  
4 dirtying -- dirtying our north, which is one (1) of the  
5 most uncontaminated places left on earth.

6                   What we have here is special -- and I've  
7 been out on the land a lot myself, and my clearest  
8 memories are outside of the city and they're always  
9 good ones. I want future generations to be able to  
10 experience the north as I have, and I hope De Beers  
11 will be as economically friendly as possible for the  
12 sake of -- of North Slave Metis and generations to  
13 come.

14                   I went to Dehring Lake a lot, which is  
15 in the middle of most of the mines up north, and we go  
16 there for about a week or so. And we used to hunt  
17 caribou there, too, but we can't any more. And I  
18 haven't had caribou in years except a little bag of dry  
19 meat. My grandma got some from -- for a family.

20                   Yeah, that's all I really got to say.  
21 Thanks.

22                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,  
23 Joel. It's refreshing to hear from young people, both  
24 of you. Thank you very much.

25                   It's nearly three o'clock and I suppose

1 now we can take a break. It's going to be a fairly  
2 long break. We'll get back at quarter to 4:00, or  
3 3:45, whichever you like. Same -- it's exactly the  
4 same time. And the -- the panel is aware that we need  
5 to go past five o'clock to make sure that some of the  
6 people, particularly the Yellowknives who are working,  
7 have an opportunity to come back.

8                   So we're going to have a fairly lengthy  
9 break. It's a good opportunity to network, have some  
10 coffee, or take a look at the -- that new model that De  
11 Beers made. It's a -- it's -- it's debuting here  
12 today, so have a look.

13                   So we'll adjourn till 3:45. Thank you.

14

15 --- Upon recessing at 2:55 p.m.

16 --- Upon resuming at 3:44 p.m.

17

18                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Good afternoon,  
19 everybody. I've been going by my watch and that clock  
20 rather than that one: five (5) minute difference. So  
21 it is quarter to 4:00, and when we broke, my speakers  
22 list was exhausted. I haven't received any more  
23 indication from staff that there has been anybody else  
24 signed up to speak. So my intention now is to open it  
25 to the floor and give those people who wish to speak an

1 opportunity to do so.

2 And so the floor is open right now, and  
3 I see the President of the North Slave Metis Alliance,  
4 Mr. Bill Enge, approaching. So, Mr. Enge, you have the  
5 floor.

6 MR. BILL ENGE: Thank you, Mr.  
7 Chairman. I am indeed Bill Enge, and I am the  
8 president of the North Slave Metis Alliance. I  
9 represent the indigenous Metis people of the North  
10 Slave area who possess Section 35 Aboriginal rights to  
11 the lands and resources of which this mine is planned  
12 to be built.

13 The North Slave Metis people have a  
14 right to benefit from developments going on on their  
15 traditional lands. And this De Beers Gahcho project --  
16 Gahcho Kue project falls within the purview of their  
17 Aboriginal rights and interest.

18 The -- thus far, what we've heard from  
19 De Beers is positive. We are currently in the process  
20 of negotiating an impact/benefit agreement with De  
21 Beers with regard to the Gahcho Kue project. Many of  
22 the issues and concerns that our members have are going  
23 to be addressed through that vehicle. But,  
24 nonetheless, with respect to mining development going  
25 on on the North Slave Metis people's traditional lands,

1 we do have some concerns.

2                   It was mentioned earlier here about the  
3 impact on the wildlife of our traditional lands. I  
4 think everybody here knows that the caribou on our  
5 traditional lands has been seriously affected, as the  
6 numbers have been reduced from roughly three hundred  
7 thousand (300,000) head some ten (10) years ago down to  
8 thirty-two thousand (32,000) head on the Bathurst  
9 caribou herd.

10                  The -- the Government of the Northwest  
11 Territories, exercising its rights of the Crown, placed  
12 a restricted caribou harvesting ban on the Bathurst  
13 herd in order to help ensure that it -- it recovers.  
14 This harvesting ban is still in place, and the North  
15 Slave Metis people are very concerned about that herd  
16 and caribou and wildlife in general.

17                  Nobody, not the scientists, not anybody  
18 in particular with traditional knowledge has come  
19 forward and is able to say empirically or through  
20 traditional knowledge why -- why the herd has been  
21 reduced tenfold. But we -- it -- it definitely is a  
22 concern to us that the herd has been reduced by that  
23 significance with the advent of the mining industry, or  
24 the diamond mining industry, here in the North Slave  
25 area.

1                   It is of absolute necessity that the  
2 wildlife be protected, that this Board put in place  
3 measures that ensure the survival of the fish and  
4 wildlife here. It was mentioned earlier that when  
5 the diamond mines had to dewater some of the lakes in  
6 order to get at the diamonds, and that happened both at  
7 Ekati and Diavik, that many of the fish that were  
8 stranded after the water was removed, spoiled. We  
9 don't want that kind of disaster to happen any more.  
10 So measures have to be taken to -- better measures have  
11 to be taken to ensure the protection of the -- not only  
12 the wildlife, but the environment.

13                   Now, the -- when it comes to employment  
14 and training, one of the most serious problems we've  
15 had with the diamond mining industry is ensuring that  
16 the mines respect their employment and training  
17 commitments.

18                   And this is because we've been told that  
19 the Access to Information Act prevents the mines from  
20 divulging to the impact benefit agreement holder  
21 Aboriginal groups, who is working at the mine and their  
22 numbers. Well, not their numbers, but who is working  
23 at the mine and whether or not the very people that  
24 they are counting as IBA holders are in fact members of  
25 the IBA holder community.



1                   There needs to be some kind of  
2 mechanisms put into this process that ensures that the  
3 mining companies live up to their employment and  
4 training commitments, and that the veracity of who they  
5 are reporting as members of each of the IBA holder  
6 groups is in fact true.

7                   The -- the North Slave Metis people are  
8 not opposed to development, per se. We are not -- we  
9 are opposed to any kind of development. What we want  
10 to see is sustainable development, a development that  
11 respects the environment while at the same time is a  
12 mining process that has a -- a mine life that is done  
13 in a balanced way, so that the maximum benefit from our  
14 -- our non-renewable resources is maximized. So we're  
15 looking for a balanced approach. We're looking for a  
16 sustainable mining approach.

17                  Some of the issues that the North Slave  
18 Metis people have with the De Beers mine will be  
19 addressed through the Impact Benefit Agreement, but not  
20 all. In our view, it is the responsibility of this  
21 Board to put in measures that ensure that a sustainable  
22 mining method is put in place. And we expect to see  
23 this Board to put in the conditions that ensure a  
24 balanced approach that I just mentioned beforehand.

25                  The -- the mining method that De Beers

1 plans to use calls for extensive dewatering, but at the  
2 same time we are -- we -- we are impressed with the  
3 mine plan that calls for an ongoing reclamation of the  
4 mine while it's -- while it's being mined. That  
5 appears to us to be a -- a -- quite an acceptable way  
6 to do a mine, as the -- the least amount of footprint  
7 will be left after the mine closes.

8                   This mine does not have a long mine  
9 life. It is only eleven (11) years in duration. And  
10 what we want to see after having experience here for  
11 over ten (10) years with the diamond mining industry,  
12 is better opportunities afforded the indigenous  
13 Aboriginal peoples of this area.

14                   I -- I know that there are a number of  
15 our members who are available to be employed that are  
16 not employed. That is quite remarkable, in light of  
17 the fact that we see plane loads of Southern workers  
18 coming in, flying in and flying out of here. And that  
19 has to be addressed.

20                   And I guess what we have to do is look  
21 at how to ensure that northerners benefit from their  
22 non-renewable resources, and in particular the  
23 Aboriginal peoples whose lands this is.

24                   We've learned a few things along the  
25 way. And we've learned that there -- there's a -- a

1 great deal of room for improvement. And those  
2 suggestions are going to come forward in the technical  
3 sessions that are going to be held by this Board next  
4 week.

5 But at the same time I think it's  
6 necessary to mention it here, that we believe that this  
7 Board has a responsibility to make sure that it does  
8 the right thing by putting in conditions that the  
9 Aboriginal peoples can live with, that Aboriginal  
10 people's expectations are met. As they are not being  
11 met today in a way that we believe is acceptable.

12 "Sustainable development" is a big -- is  
13 big two (2) words. It means not only respect for the  
14 environment, but it means sharing in the prosperity of  
15 the mining of the non-renewable resources - in this  
16 case, diamonds. They're rare, they're valuable, and  
17 they're -- and they're leaving us by the truckload.  
18 And there's no coming back after this.

19 I understand that this will be the last  
20 diamond mine that is feasible here. And we would like  
21 to see all of the best practices and experiences that  
22 we've learned come to bear on this mine to make sure  
23 that we benefit -- the North Slave Metis people and our  
24 First Nations counterparts -- benefit to the degree  
25 that we should be. And we're not.

1                   So, having said that, I would like to  
2 say again that the North Slave Metis people see this  
3 mining method as -- as a good and sustainable one, but  
4 we certainly have some ways to go in terms of ensuring  
5 that the Metis, the North Slave Metis people, benefit  
6 in a -- in a more acceptable way by this mine. Thank  
7 you.

8                   THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,  
9 President Enge. The floor is still open for anybody  
10 else who wishes to make a presentation.

11

12                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14                   THE CHAIRPERSON: I don't see anybody.  
15 I indicated earlier that we were alerted by the  
16 Yellowknives Band that some of their membership were  
17 working and wouldn't have an opportunity to present  
18 until after -- after five o'clock. I intend to -- and  
19 -- and the panel intends to honour and respect that --  
20 that concern. And, therefore, we will adjourn until  
21 5:30, with the intention that we still finish the day  
22 when -- when the agenda called for, or slightly earlier  
23 if we have no -- no speakers.

24                   So there -- we're -- we're in for a long  
25 break, and I'm going by that clock. So an hour and a

1 half break, and then at 5:30 we'll see if we have any -  
2 - any more speakers. And we'll take it from there. So  
3 we're -- we're adjourned until 5:30. Thank you.

4

5 --- Upon recessing at 3:57 p.m.

6 --- Upon resuming at 5:00 p.m.

7

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good afternoon,  
9 everybody. Thank you very much for your patience. It  
10 is five o'clock. And I understand we have one (1)  
11 speaker. And the speaker has some time commitments.

12 So would you please come up and identify  
13 yourself? Good afternoon. Please identify yourself  
14 and then you can go ahead. Thank you.

15 MR. BOBBY DRYGEESE: Hello. My name is  
16 Bobby Drygeese; I'm from here. Actually my house is --  
17 where I grew up was under this building here, then they  
18 moved it and built this new building here, so.

19 About this Gahcho Kue project -- like,  
20 over the years we were growing up here, we were  
21 travelling the land and all that too. And a lot of  
22 people talk about certain areas and certain -- certain  
23 things that need to be protected and certain rights  
24 that need to be protected as well too for -- for all  
25 people.

1                   And when I was younger I always helped  
2 out in the community. I always took care of the  
3 gymnasium, took care of the community hall. And every  
4 time there was meetings and stuff like that, I had to  
5 clean up of people and stay in the background and all  
6 that. And a lot of times I listened to a lot of Elders  
7 talking and a lot of people making presentations and  
8 stuff.

9                   And when was that? '94 or '95 there  
10 this -- they're talking about the diamond mines coming  
11 in and a lot of people had concerns. A lot of Elders  
12 were talking about -- about what kind of effects it's  
13 going to have on the -- on the land, what kind of  
14 effects it's going to have on the caribou and the  
15 migration routes of the caribou and the birds and --  
16 and what sort of precautions the mines will take.

17                  And I remember the mines talking about -  
18 - the one (1) guy was talking about making sure that  
19 the mines will -- will slowly shut down or -- or keep  
20 the caribou and -- and change -- change the caribou's  
21 route another way so -- so the -- the mines won't have  
22 to shut down or they won't have to disturb the animals  
23 as much.

24                  And I remember a few of the Elders were  
25 saying that will never happen. They say the mines are

1 there, they're going to -- want to make money as much  
2 as possible as soon as possible and as fast as they can  
3 and get out. So, a lot of those mines are talking to  
4 us about the benefits and all of this stuff. And a lot  
5 of Elders were saying -- like, what benefits can you  
6 give that -- that will help us for future generations?  
7 Like, how are you guys going to help us with the  
8 caribou when the caribou have to -- to migrate to  
9 somewhere else? Because they will migrate somewhere  
10 else because those mines are -- that are up there now,  
11 they're on that migration route.

12 And for us here in Yellowknives Dene  
13 area -- Yellowknife people here we'll have to go  
14 further to the east and further to the west to hunt, to  
15 gather our food and everything like that. And that's  
16 what those Elders were talking about -- like, twenty  
17 (20) years ago, thirty (30) years ago.

18 And like, the mines and the government  
19 people and the federal government people said that will  
20 never happen, you're -- you'll have animals, you'll  
21 have food, you'll -- everything will be protected as  
22 much as possible. But look what happened in the last  
23 three (3) years here, there's a caribou ban on us. And  
24 a lot of people went hunting and people were -- took  
25 meat -- took the meat right out of their sleds, took

1 the meat right out from the people.

2                   And Elders were talking about -- like,  
3 these -- they're working -- all these government  
4 people, they're working for -- for the mines because  
5 the mine pay their taxes and all that too. So the  
6 mines have to -- or, the government has to help out as  
7 much as possible with the mines. So that's kind of  
8 a little bit disturbing, for me anyways because we're  
9 from here. We don't have a house down in Ottawa. We  
10 don't have a house down in Ontario or anywhere else in  
11 the south. We live here, we're from here. So all  
12 these mines have to think about the people here, think  
13 about the environment that's -- that they're in.

14                   So a lot of things that Elders spoke  
15 about was that -- was protecting what we had with --  
16 through our trees, we always have our agreements with  
17 the governments. And a lot of the Elders -- like, they  
18 were talking about when I was growing up, they keep  
19 talking about -- like, what does -- what our rights are  
20 and what we need to do to protect the land and protect  
21 our way of life, the Dene way of life.

22                   So, like I -- I know you guys probably  
23 heard this all day today, like about what kind of  
24 benefits our First Nation will have, what kind of  
25 opportunities our First Nations will have. And the few



1 of us that were in leadership before, we always tried  
2 to help people to get them to understand too that the  
3 jobs are here for a bit and then they have to move on  
4 to something else, they have retrain for something  
5 else.

6                   So we're trying to tell people just to  
7 make sure you guys keep showing up to these training  
8 opportunities, keep showing up for work that you have  
9 and be a proud worker and do things -- like, as  
10 professional as possible and -- and -- but in that way  
11 too you have to try to -- try to keep our traditions  
12 and our cultures alive and -- and it's hard for a lot  
13 of people because they have worry -- now they got some  
14 money and all that. They have to worry about their new  
15 toys: their Ski-Doos, their trucks, mortgages, and all  
16 these fancy iPhone 5 thingamajiggers and all that new  
17 things that come around with -- with having money.

18                   A lot of people are forgetting about how  
19 they were raised and not going out on the land, not  
20 bringing their kids out on the land. So a lot of this  
21 stuff that happens that are going into these mines and  
22 going into these projects and stuff, you have to  
23 consider -- you have to be considering the people's --  
24 people's lives that were here before -- before you.

25                   And the people that is still going to be

1 here after you -- after you guys are gone. So you got  
2 to think about things like that. Like, you know, the  
3 other mines that they -- they have agreements with us,  
4 they have agreements with other First Nations around  
5 the area and all that. And those agreements are -- I  
6 don't know how you say it, but they didn't benefit much  
7 to -- to what the people need.

8                   And a lot of it -- some of that -- that  
9 money that -- that we had we paid for some of this  
10 building here so we could have opportunities to have  
11 meetings like this and big large conferences and  
12 gatherings for our own people and stuff. But what else  
13 would it -- would it do? Like, would it help fix our  
14 roads? Like, our roads -- you guys drove here -- the  
15 government promised us money to fix it, they don't have  
16 enough money to fix the roads

17                   And a lot of the things like the -- the  
18 gymnasium here, next door to us here, is the smallest  
19 one in Canada, I checked it out. A daycare in Inuvik  
20 has a bigger gym than ours. But little things like  
21 that that have to be addressed and have to -- have to  
22 be thought of.

23                   Even like, right now there's a --  
24 there's a few families that did work in the mines, but  
25 then they got lots of money and they have -- like,

1 social issues and social problems because of the  
2 effects of residential school and stuff like that. And  
3 they got into the drinking and drugs and all that too.  
4 And because they have so much money they wasted their  
5 money on a lot of stuff like that.

6                   With all these mines, with all these  
7 projects and all these government officials and stuff  
8 like that, would they put more money into social  
9 programs for the First Nations. And like, if there's  
10 mines coming up here -- like, this mine here -- like,  
11 there has to be a way to put -- put the programs in  
12 place and put legacies in place from -- for the mines.

13                   Like -- like even -- I'm on the board of  
14 directors for BHP. They're talking about the building  
15 before for our First Nations, a culture centre or  
16 something like that. But I was -- like, since I've  
17 been on that board for like four (4) or five (5) years  
18 now they kept talking, talking, but now they sold out  
19 and now they said we're not talking to anybody else no  
20 more. Little things like that happen. And we're  
21 saying, Why does this need to happen? You guys made an  
22 agreement. You guys shook our hands. You said yes.

23                   So a lot of times little things like  
24 that should not be overlooked. And I know, like, a lot  
25 of times when people are in leadership and all that,

1 they always have to try to -- try to do what they say.  
2 Like, for me, I -- I was on council and I tried to do a  
3 lot of things. And I had thirty (30) things on my list  
4 of what I wanted to do while I was on council; I got  
5 twenty-eight (28) of them done.

6 But -- like, a lot of people didn't  
7 notice it, because it was -- some things were big, like  
8 a building like this and -- and a few programs that we  
9 started in Dettah and N'dilo and all that -- that are  
10 working now. But the little, small things too: talking  
11 to more people, getting -- getting these people to go  
12 into this -- this job because they -- they'll fit  
13 there, getting these programs done to fit these people  
14 here. Little things like that -- that we tried to work  
15 on and stuff like that, so.

16 We're trying to build on things like  
17 that, but from these projects that happen on this land  
18 here, we -- we still need to -- to remind all the mines  
19 that -- that they're not going to be here for long.  
20 And, plus, we're going to be here, our kids are going  
21 to be here, our grandkids. And -- and we don't know  
22 about the rest of the future and all that too, but our  
23 families and our legacies and everything are here. So  
24 we have to try to work together, prosper together.

25 Like, even some of the Elders were

1 saying that about the trees. Like government was  
2 telling people that --whoever comes to this land here,  
3 you help them out; you help them out to survive, you  
4 help them out to -- to prosper and all that, and  
5 they'll help you prosper. And a lot of it didn't go  
6 that way.

7                   But if we start working together with a  
8 lot of these projects and all these people and these  
9 governments and these -- these ownership groups or  
10 whatever, like, we should try and keep -- keep our  
11 words. Because even our youth today, they're looking  
12 at us. They're watching us. They're watching our  
13 leadership. They're saying, These guys said this and  
14 said that and now they're not -- they're not following  
15 it -- like, ten (10) years from now, fifteen (15) years  
16 from now.

17                   Like you guys -- everybody is  
18 representing their family too, like, wherever they are.  
19 They're working. You guys got your names on this -- on  
20 these board things here and all that, and you're  
21 representing your families. So if you make an  
22 agreement with people, you work for the right people,  
23 you want to do things the right way, you have to make  
24 sure you follow up with your agreements. That's the  
25 main thing that I -- I try to work with all the time as

1 much as I can.

2                   A lot of things I want to talk about was  
3 -- was opportunities for the First Nations. All these  
4 mines coming up, all these jobs that are supposed to be  
5 happening. What kind of agreement can you give us that  
6 will guarantee employment for our First Nation people?  
7 What kind of agreements -- like, this new word that the  
8 government put on us, put on everybody, was  
9 "Aboriginal".

10                   But then -- like, all the other mines  
11 that started having -- hiring Aborigines from the  
12 South. None of that money that's made from this --  
13 from these mines are staying in the North. None of  
14 that money that that -- that goes -- like, into the  
15 people's pockets that are flying from the mine to  
16 Edmonton, from the mine to the South.

17                   Like, if you hire more First Nation  
18 people that are from here, from -- from the North and  
19 from these communities and all that, like, all that  
20 money will benefit -- benefit that Northwest  
21 Territories and benefit our communities.

22                   So -- like, for me, I want guarantees, I  
23 want people's words, and I want people to -- to live by  
24 those words, because you have to think about the future  
25 as well too. Like, opport -- opportunities for our

1 companies as well too, Deton Cho companies, there's a  
2 few individuals that have their own -- their own jobs  
3 here and there and -- like opportun -- opportunities  
4 for them to -- to benefit from these -- from these jobs  
5 as well too. Because we -- we still have to feed our  
6 kids. And even though we don't work in the mines and  
7 stuff like that, we still have to -- like, provide for  
8 our children too, so that's why there's -- that's why  
9 all these jobs and all these benefits should be staying  
10 in the North, that's what I think anyways.

11                   And all things on the -- on the land.  
12 When you go out on the land there and you guys walk on  
13 the land, you guys -- like -- like, feel the energy  
14 from the land. There's lots of animals that went  
15 through there. There's lots of people from history  
16 that went through that area. And a lot of times you're  
17 always -- we're always -- like, you're having to blast  
18 this rock, you're having to -- to hurt the land or  
19 you're having to move these hills to get into the  
20 ground and all that. Like, it's -- it's destructive  
21 and it's -- and it -- it bothers wildlife.

22                   So you guys got a lot of engineers that  
23 have experience for over the years, and years, and  
24 years of experience, so we should try to work on  
25 alternative ways to get these engineers to -- to get to

1 those -- those pipes, get to those diamonds, or  
2 whatever else you guys are looking for, to make sure  
3 that -- that things are better for the future and --  
4 and limit that destruction of our lands, limit the  
5 contamination of our waters.

6                   Because even where those lakes are where  
7 the -- where the waters flow downstream and all that  
8 too -- like, the animals will get sick downstream and  
9 then the people will get sick downstream from -- with  
10 those animals as well too. So it's kind of -- it's  
11 hard for people to -- to think about being on the land  
12 and being safe on the land when there's not much places  
13 where it's safe to go still, so little things like  
14 that.

15                   Like even with the fisheries and the --  
16 the rivers and stuff like that there's always --  
17 there's certain plants and certain medicine that people  
18 gather every year. A lot of times the -- some of the  
19 plants and medicine that are on these rivers here,  
20 they're getting less and less because of all the  
21 contaminants that are going on the land, going in the  
22 air and all that.

23                   And a lot of the migratory birds as well  
24 too, there's lots of birds that fly through there --  
25 like, what if there's -- there's contamination they



1 bring it down to the south and they -- the south is  
2 blaming the people from the North saying there's  
3 contamination, so people get sick down south and then  
4 we get sick here from their contamination down there.  
5 So little things like that we have to watch for and we  
6 have to have regulations on.

7                   Noise pollution and all that too. You  
8 got to think about all that noise pollution that  
9 happens around that areas and you scare the animals  
10 away, scare the wildlife away. It's just -- it's a lot  
11 to think about, a lot to compromise for. We  
12 compromised so much is -- there's a limit to what  
13 people have to compromise to.

14                   And you guys are starting up this mine  
15 here and it looks like you guys are moving forward with  
16 it. And -- like, our First Nations, a lot of people  
17 are saying no. a lot of people are saying -- like, to  
18 help out if we get benefits and stuff like that, but  
19 when will enough be enough. There's lots of diamonds  
20 all over the place. You guys got another mine already.  
21 And how -- like -- when will it be time to slow down  
22 and rest and -- and go home and take care of your own  
23 families and stuff like that.

24                   It's just that it's -- it's hard to  
25 think about -- like, for our future. Like, even my

1 son, he's working up at Snap Lake right now and it's  
2 not a bad job, he likes it over there, he likes the  
3 people working over there. But he says it's -- it's a  
4 lot of really quiet time too, but he's -- he's writing  
5 stuff and he's working on -- on exercising and all that  
6 kind of stuff too, which is good over there. But it's  
7 -- he said he misses -- he misses his brother, he  
8 misses his sisters. And like it's -- it's kind of hard  
9 for him, but it's -- it's good money he was saying.

10 But it's just little things like that.

11 Like, even when I worked in the mines I couldn't -- I  
12 couldn't handle it there. Like, I missed my kids and  
13 all that too. And plus, like -- like for me it was  
14 just breaking apart the land just to -- for somebody  
15 else to make money. And they paid me what they could  
16 and all that but...

17 Well, on the first day I got there that  
18 -- they were doing that -- they were giving us a tour  
19 of that -- that process plant and all that. And that  
20 big boss there was there and -- and he went through all  
21 the job listings and he asked everybody question --  
22 like, any question -- anybody had any questions? Me, I  
23 said, Like, okay how long before I take your job? And  
24 he started laughing at me. And everybody was starting  
25 to say, Holy smoke, you can't -- you can't say that to

1 people.

2 I said, Why not? Like, he's from the  
3 south, or wherever he's from and he's not going to stay  
4 here forever, so how long would it take for me to  
5 train, and for you to train me to take your position,  
6 your job? And he was one of the superintendent guys  
7 there, I don't know -- Ziggy or whatever his name was.  
8 But he was saying, ten (10), twelve (12) -- no, fifteen  
9 (15) years -- no, twenty (20) years. Like, he was  
10 thinking about his age and how long he's going to be  
11 there and things like that.

12 But people -- like, are too afraid to  
13 ask -- like why? Because even when I was working at  
14 the primary crusher there and there was -- like, four  
15 (4) people already working there and I was the fifth  
16 (5th) person. And these two (2) other guys were  
17 aboriginal, and the other guy was -- was -- those two  
18 (2) other guys were there for -- for about three (3)  
19 weeks, they just started there, they were from the  
20 south and all that.

21 And those two (2) aboriginal guys who  
22 were there working in that primary crusher for two (2)  
23 years. And every time they asked for training, they  
24 asked for the next position, the next step-up, the next  
25 step-up they were denied. So all these training and

1 all these apprenticeship stuff that's going on, it  
2 should be a guarantee for the people from -- from the  
3 North.

4                   Because even when I asked that big boss  
5 there -- like, he laughed. Like, he didn't expect --  
6 like a, you know, brown guy like me to talk to him like  
7 that. And that was my first day at work there. So --  
8 like, for me I want to -- if I say -- if I want to say  
9 something I say it, I don't really waste time around --  
10 around not talking about it and stuff like that, so.

11                   What else was I -- there was lots of  
12 things that I was trying to say, but I was -- I was in  
13 a rush too because I have to be somewhere at 6:00 and I  
14 have to -- I just finished class too. And it was hard  
15 for me to get all this stuff done.

16                   But all the effects that the mines are  
17 going to have, all the -- all the things that the --  
18 the projects are going to be on, it's -- there should  
19 be a benefit to the First Nation that live up in the  
20 North here; whether it's Dettah or n'Dilo, or Lutsel  
21 K'e or Fort Res or wherever. Like, the people that  
22 live in the North here should be given that opportunity  
23 to make sure there's guaranteed jobs, guaranteed --  
24 like, benefits for -- for businesses, guaranteed -- how  
25 do you say, guaranteed -- like, whatever else comes

1 with guarantees.

2                   Like, even with our IBA's you should be  
3 more respectful. Like, that BHP one they said sixty  
4 (60) days, you make a deal or nothing. And that was --  
5 that's what the Elders said that -- that's what  
6 happened with that thing there, so. And -- and I know  
7 that -- that lawyers and all that, they were talking to  
8 you guys for a while now, they're talking about that --  
9 that IBA thing there, that Impact Benefits Agreement.  
10 I think the people that are closest to the mines there  
11 should be -- should be more compensated, and people who  
12 are -- travel that land there should be respected and  
13 compensated as well too.

14                   Because even like -- even growing up in  
15 the North here we've always seen like -- oh we -- we  
16 can't do this because these guys are there, we can't do  
17 that, we can't do this, we can't do that -- like, I  
18 kept hearing that. A whole bunch of years and years  
19 and years people keep saying that to me and -- like, I  
20 don't understand why. Like, me, I just -- if I want to  
21 get something done, I -- I get it done. And a lot of  
22 times people are saying, you can't do this, can't do  
23 that.

24                   Like, we always push forward and say,  
25 No, you -- get this done. You can find solutions to

1 every problem. Every problem that people have in the  
2 North, we can find solutions. Once people work  
3 together, governments work together, mines work  
4 together, the Federal government works together,  
5 whoever.

6                   It's like with that Dene Nation meeting  
7 they had here that past week, they're trying to find  
8 solutions to work together and -- and trying to make us  
9 -- everybody stronger, but the government keeps pulling  
10 each -- each First Nation apart, each region apart and  
11 that's not -- not benefiting the North.

12                   Because once Harper and all those guys  
13 are gone, like, the people who are learning from them,  
14 they're going to say, no, as well too. So we have to  
15 keep strong with our views and our -- our values.  
16 They're saying -- like, the First Nations should be  
17 upfront and centre with negotiations for -- for  
18 everything -- like, these mines and for these projects.

19  
20                   We can't waste time in -- like,  
21 everywhere in Canada, everywhere you go in the States  
22 there's First Nation people there that were there  
23 before you, that were there before these government  
24 guys, we were there before anybody else was there. And  
25 why can't these government people respect the -- the

1 laws and the views of our First Nations? Why can't the  
2 government or the mines respect the -- the laws and  
3 views of -- and the values of our -- our Dene people in  
4 the North here?

5                   So hopefully everybody would work  
6 together and hopefully everybody would find solutions  
7 and make -- make solutions work together because that's  
8 what the -- that's what the people need right now.  
9 Because we have all these policies and all these things  
10 that -- that restrict people from saying something or  
11 doing something or -- we can't go protest the mines and  
12 all that too because Parliament is going to stop giving  
13 us that -- that funding for our negotiations and all of  
14 this kind of stuff, and little things like that.

15                   Like -- and it's not right the way  
16 people work. And you guys should be helping us as much  
17 as -- as much as possible too. And there's things that  
18 are on the land, things that are done wrong and all  
19 that, you guys should be saying -- like, it's -- okay,  
20 it's our fault, we did this wrong, help us to find  
21 solutions.

22                   Because we do that -- like, we -- we try  
23 to do that most of the time too. I do that a lot. If  
24 I make a mistake I say it's my fault, I did that, I did  
25 that. I'll fix it, help me fix it. I didn't

1 understand this, so help me fix it. So little things  
2 like that you should be talking about and those things  
3 like that, you should be making sure that we find  
4 solutions and make things positive for people.

5                   And I got to go feed my puppies right  
6 now before I go home. So I'm going to say masi cho for  
7 -- for being here and listening. And -- and make sure  
8 -- like, you guys have a good journey -- a good safe  
9 journey home. And make sure you think about what --  
10 what everybody said today, all of our leaders, all of  
11 our -- our people. Because -- like, it's hard for --  
12 for them, a lot of people, different people to speak  
13 because -- like, there's so much repression that has  
14 been happening from residential schools, from all the  
15 effects of all these things, and all these leaders that  
16 are -- that are -- have been stirred -- steered to the  
17 wrong way sometimes without guidance from other people,  
18 without listening from other people too.

19                   So -- but people like the young -- young  
20 people that are trying to help out as much as possible,  
21 we're trying to make sure we're involved as much as  
22 possible. So whatever the Elders say, whatever that  
23 leadership says, we'll try to push forward as well too.  
24 For us, when we take over and then for our kids when  
25 they have to take over.



1                   So I hope everybody is good with that.

2   And masi cho.

3                   THE CHAIRPERSON:   Thank you very much.

4   Appreciate you coming and presenting to us. And we --

5   and we know that you have other -- other commitments.

6   I wanted to say that in addition to your talk and

7   presentation, your vest and mukluks are the envy of the

8   room. They're very nice.

9                   Is anybody else prepared to make a

10   presentation at this time?

11                   It's 5:30. We know that it takes at

12   least half an hour to get from Yellowknife to here. If

13   there are any Yellowknife members who are working and

14   so that would make us at about now. Usually people

15   have to get home and get organized before they come

16   here.

17                   My suggestion is that we break for

18   fifteen (15) minutes or so, fifteen (15) to twenty (20)

19   minutes. We'll reconvene and see if anybody else is

20   here. And if not, then we'll -- I'll begin to close

21   the session. So between quarter to and ten (10) to on

22   that clock, okay. Another -- another break.

23

24   --- Upon recessing at 5:28 p.m.

25   --- Upon resuming at 6:21 p.m.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for your  
2 patience. I understand that Counsellor Paul Betsina  
3 has arrived and he wants to make a presentation to us.  
4 So Councillor Betsina are you ready to come to the  
5 table and talk to us? Thank you.

6 The Panel and everybody has been here  
7 all day. We understand that you've been working and  
8 just got here. I'm hoping that you could make your  
9 presentation in about ten (10) minutes. Would that be  
10 fair?

11 COUNCILLOR PAUL BETSINA: That will be  
12 -- that will be sufficient.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you very  
14 much.

15 COUNCILLOR PAUL BETSINA: Well, I thank  
16 you for inviting me here to speak to you people about  
17 the project that you're about to embark on.

18 As a community member, I -- I have a lot  
19 of influence in the mining area because that's where I  
20 -- that's where I started my career. And if it wasn't  
21 for the mines actually I probably wouldn't be where I  
22 am -- where I am now. So as a -- as people here, we're  
23 not totally against development.

24 We like the fact that we are more  
25 heavily involved with the regulatory process and the

1 way the business is conducted, not necessarily on a  
2 day-to-day basis, but the long-term effects that it has  
3 on our -- our land and how it benefits our people,  
4 that's what -- that's what we really -- really strive  
5 for.

6                   We've come along -- along leaps and  
7 bounds since Giant mine and Con where we had nothing  
8 and we're not going back to that again, so we -- we've  
9 been getting better and better with each mine that  
10 comes up on our land. And if it wasn't for -- if it  
11 wasn't for that, we wouldn't have a lot -- a lot of  
12 things that we have in our community right now.

13                   But in saying that, we don't -- we -- I  
14 know personally that it won't -- you guys won't be able  
15 to restore the land totally to its pristine environment  
16 that it once was but, like I said, the benefits and the  
17 impact has got to come to us first and foremost.  
18 Priority one is what we're looking at.

19                   And this caught me off-guard. I wasn't  
20 a whole -- thinking a whole lot about it driving here,  
21 but that's the gist of it. And we -- we want -- we  
22 want our environment to be looked after as much as  
23 possible, as many rel -- resources and regulatory  
24 processes that we need to be to help you guys develop  
25 this.

1                   And this is -- this is really good that  
2   you guys are here because it shows that you guys are  
3   doing your due diligence, that you want to do business  
4   with us and that's the way it should be -- like, you --  
5   you here. Because it really benefits not only us but  
6   it'll -- it'll have a ripple effect if you don't  
7   because it'll effect your creditors, your sh -- star --  
8   your shareholders, your stakeholders if -- if they know  
9   that you're not dealing with us, it -- it's just going  
10   to go worse for you than not having working with us.  
11   It's just the bottom line, that's the way it goes these  
12   days.

13                   And with the guidance of our Elders and  
14   our community members we -- these are the things that  
15   we really want, is our environment looked after, our  
16   land, and our people to be -- to benef -- to benefit  
17   the most from this project.

18                   And I'll be seeing you guys a lot more  
19   since I've been elected the new community negotiator on  
20   this project. So this is a good -- good meet right  
21   now. Sorry, I wasn't here more often, but -- and  
22   that's about -- that's pretty much it for now.

23

24   CLOSING COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRPERSON:

25                   THE CHAIRPERSON:   Thank you very much,

1 Councillor Betsina, very much appreciate it. It's been  
2 a long day and, again, I thank everybody for their  
3 patience.

4 I'm going to make some closing remarks  
5 and draw attention to a few things for -- for today. I  
6 think I want to begin by thanking Chief Edward Sangris  
7 for -- for hosting us in this marvellous and wonderful  
8 building, and even taking the time to show that lovely  
9 drum table. I thought it was absolutely great.

10 We want to thank the Elders and  
11 community members for their attendance and  
12 participation. The staff -- the facility staff for the  
13 Chief Drygeese Conference Centre, they -- they're the  
14 ones that do all the work behind the scenes, very much  
15 appreciated.

16 We need to recognize and thank our  
17 interpreters. The people who are doing the  
18 interpreting for the Tlicho Language are Peter Husky,  
19 Verna Martin, and Margaret MacKenzie. Thank you very  
20 much.

21 For the Chipewyan Language Anne Biscaye,  
22 Bertha Catholique, and Tom Unka.

23 We want to recognize the hard work and  
24 support we got from Trevor Bourque of Pido Productions.  
25 We did have a bit of a glitch with -- with hearing the

1 translation and you addressed and fixed that problem  
2 admirably, so thank you very much.

3 We are very much in debt to Adalaine  
4 MacKenzie and her husband Paul for providing such a  
5 good banquet of traditional food and it was very, very  
6 good. And I particularly liked the fried bannock, but  
7 everybody else has different preferences, but it was  
8 excellent. You looked after us superbly.

9 And I want to recognize and thank De  
10 Beers and their staff for making their presentation and  
11 contributing. It was very -- very good of you.

12 Panel staff, thank you very much. Our  
13 trans -- Lorraine Douglas does the transcript. Thank  
14 you so much. I know it's been a long day.

15 So with that is basically my closing  
16 comments and thank you to everybody. I hope I haven't  
17 missed anybody. And so I'll close now. And as it is a  
18 tradition to start our meetings with a prayer, we want  
19 to conclude with a prayer. And Chief Edward Sangris  
20 has kindly volunteered to lead us in closing prayer.  
21 So please stand.

22

23 (CLOSING PRAYER)

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

1 That concludes and closes the Dettah Community Hearing.

2 And we will see many of you in Lutsel K'e on Monday.

3 Thank you.

4

5 --- Upon adjourning at 6:33 p.m.

6

7

8 Certified Correct,

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14 Lorraine Douglas, Ms.

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