



MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL

IMPACT AND REVIEW BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

NICO PROJECT - EA 0809-004

FORTUNE MINERALS LIMITED

Mackenzie Valley Review Board Staff:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Richard Edjericon | Chairperson |
| Danny Bayha | Member |
| John Curran | Member |
| Richard Mercredi | Member |
| James Wah-shee | Member |
| Percy Hardisty | Member |
| Rachel Crapeau | Member |

HELD AT:

Whati Cultural Centre, NT

August 27, 2012

Day 1 of 4

1

APPEARANCES

2 Chuck Hubert

) MVEIRB Staff

3 Paul Mercredi

)

4 Simon Toogood

)

5 Shannon Hayden

)

6 John Donihee

) Board counsel

7

8 Rick Schryer

) Fortune Minerals

9 Pat Moloney

) Limited

10 Tom Rinaldi

)

11 Mike De Carlo

)

12 Bill Shepard

)

13 Charlie Jim Nitsiza

)

14 John Virgl (np)

) Golder

15 John Faithful

)

16 Ken Bocking

)

17 Lasha Young

)

18 Letha MacLachlan

) Counsel

19

20 Kimberly Balsillie

) ENR

21

22 Sarah Olivier

) DFO

23 Rick Walbourne

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1 APPEARANCES (Cont'd)

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3 Dr. Kathy Racher) WLWB

4 Brett Wheler)

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6 Louie Azzolini) AEA

7

8 Kate Witherly) Northern Projects

9) Management Office

10

11 Chief Alfonz Nitsiza) Tlicho Government

12 Chief Clifford Daniels)

13 Grand Chief Edward Erasmus)

14 Chief Edward Chocolate)

15 Chief Charlie Football)

16 Marjorie Matheson-Maud)

17 Dr. Ginger Gibson)

18 Kerri Garner)

19 Paul Bachand) Counsel

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1 --- Upon commencing at 11:47 a.m.

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: I take that we're
4 good to go. Okay. Good morning. My name is Richard
5 Edjericon. I'm the chairman for the Mackenzie Valley
6 Environmental Impact Review Board. I -- first, before
7 I go into opening prayers, I want to apologize for the
8 delay this morning. The -- the equipment was -- was
9 brought in by a plane. It was basically a contractor's
10 error. We're hoping to get that fixed the next time we
11 do this.

12 Before we do anything, it's always
13 customary that we start off a meeting with an opening
14 prayer. So I want to ask the Elder from Whati here to
15 come up, oh, he's already at the table, to do opening
16 prayer. So, Jimmy Rebesca, if you could do opening
17 prayer.

18 And also, the Grand Chief, Eddie
19 Erasmus, said that if we could say a prayer for the
20 loss of another member from Behchoko, if we could
21 remember her in our prayers. So I want to officially
22 call the meeting to order. And I'll go into my
23 comments right after that. Jimmy Rebesca...?

24

25 (OPENING PRAYER)

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10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yeah, masi, Jimmy

11 Rebesca for doing the opening prayer for us this

12 morning. I just want to -- before I go into my

13 comments and to the chief's comments, I just want to

14 officially call the public hearing to order, NICO

15 Project EA0809-004, the community meeting hearing here

16 in the Whati Culture Centre, Monday, August 27, 2012.

17 This morning, I -- I have an agenda here

18 for this session here in this community. I -- I want

19 to quickly just go into the agenda and then I'm going

20 to into my comments. And then I want to go to the

21 chiefs, the Grand Chief and the host chief for their

22 opening comments as well.

23 So on the agenda this morning, I think -

24 - I'm hoping that everybody has it here. And we're

25 going to do the opening remarks by the Chair of the

26 Review Board. Then the opening prayer. Then remarks

27 from the Tlicho Grand Chief and Chief of Whati.

28 Then we made a change this morning, but

29 because we started late, we wanted to roll in the

30 Fortune Minerals Limited presentation that was

31 scheduled at 10:30 and at 1:00 p.m., into one (1). So

32 we're going to look at doing that right after we're

33 done this -- comments. And then after that we're going

1 to go into the questions for communities to developer,
2 which is probably about -- according to the agenda I
3 have we're running behind on that. But then we're
4 going to take a break for lunch.

5 But what we're going to do is that we'll
6 -- we'll -- after our chiefs make their comments, we're
7 going to go into Fortune Minerals, and we may have to
8 take a break probably midway through. I'm going to
9 watch out for Henry Zoe to give me the nod to say that
10 the food is ready. Then if the food is ready then
11 we'll break. Then after one (1) hour, we'll come back
12 and then we'll continue on the presentation.

13 And after that, we have questions from
14 the community to the developer. And we'll take a break
15 and we'll continue on with questions from the community
16 to the -- to the developer, questions from the women
17 and youth of the community, then closing statements
18 from Fortune Minerals Limited and closing remarks from
19 the Chairman and adjournment.

20 Before I go to my comments, as well,
21 because we started late this morning we're going to
22 stay after six o'clock. Whatever time we lost this
23 morning, we're going to move it back further so that we
24 accommodate everybody and because we lost some time
25 this morning. So I'm going to proceed with that.

1 So I'm going into the Chairman's --
2 excuse me. Okay, before we start, I want to do a quick
3 introduction of the Board that's here before me. So
4 I'm going to go to my far right. I'm going go to --
5 Percy, did you want to grab the mic and introduce
6 yourself?

7 MR. PERCY HARDISTY: Yeah, my name is
8 Percy Hardisty. I'm from Fort Simpson.

9 MR. JOHN CURRAN: John Curran, from
10 Yellowknife.

11 MR. RICHARD MERCREDI: Richard
12 Mercredi. Fort Smith Board member.

13 MR. JAMES WAH-SHEE: James Wah-shee,
14 from Behchoko, Board member.

15 MS. RACHEL CRAPEAU: Rachel Crapeau
16 from Dettah, Board member.

17 MR. DANNY BAYHA: Danny -- Danny Bayha
18 from Deline Sahtu.

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you.
20 While we're on introduction, I'll go to Grand Chief
21 Eddie Erasmus to do introduction of your delegation.

22 GRAND CHIEF EDWARD ERASMUS: Yeah, I'll
23 let all the chiefs introduce themselves. I'm Grand
24 Chief. I'm from Behchoko, Grand Chief of the Tlicho
25 Government and Dogwood Nation.

1 CHIEF ALFONZ NITSIZA: Hi. My name is
2 Alfonz Nitsiza. I'm the host chief -- chief from
3 Whati.

4 CHIEF EDWARD CHOCOLATE: Hello. My
5 name is Edward Chocolate, chief of Gameti.

6 CHIEF CHARLIE FOOTBALL: Good morning.
7 My name is Charlie Football, chief from Whati.

8 CHIEF CLIFFORD DANIELS: Good morning.
9 My name is Clifford Daniels, chief of Behchoko.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. I'm going to
11 go over to Fortune Minerals. If you could introduce
12 your delegation.

13 MR. RICK SCHRYER: Good morning. I'm
14 Rick Schryer, Fortune Minerals, Director of Regulatory
15 and Environmental Affairs. I'll let the rest of my
16 team introduce themselves, I guess starting with -- to
17 my right.

18 MS. LETHA MACLACHLAN: Letha
19 MacLachlan.

20 MR. TOM RINALDI: Tom Rinaldi. I'm
21 Vice President of Operations with Fortune Minerals.

22 MR. MIKE DE CARLO: Mike De Carlo, I'm
23 Project Manager.

24 MR. PAT MOLONEY: My name is Pat
25 Moloney. I'm the Human Resources Manager.

1 MR. BILL SHEPARD: Bill Shepard, Supply
2 Chain Management and Business Development.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. RICK SCHRYER: Rick Schryer,
7 Fortune Minerals. I'd like to introduce the rest of my
8 team. We have John Faithful, Lasha Young, John Virgl,
9 and Ken Bocking from Golder Associates. And they'll be
10 speaking about -- on various technical disciplines when
11 needed. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I want
13 to go to the Review Board staff in the back here. I
14 want to go to my -- back here, Mr. Mercredi.

15 MR. PAUL MERCREDI: Paul Mercredi,
16 Environmental Assessment Officer with the Review --
17 with the Review Board.

18 MR. SIMON TOOGOOD: Simon Toogood,
19 Environmental Assessment Officer.

20 MS. SHANNON HAYDEN: Shannon Hayden,
21 Environmental Assessment Officer.

22 MR. CHUCK HUBERT: Chuck Hubert,
23 Environmental Assessment officer with the Board and
24 contact for the file.

25 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: John Donihee, Board

1 counsel.

2 DR. KATHY RACHER: Hi. Kathy Racher
3 with the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board.

4 MR. BRETT WHEELER: Good morning.
5 Brett Wheeler, Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: As well, maybe I'll
7 get the lady's name for the recording. If you could
8 introduce yourself.

9 MS. LORRAINE DOUGLAS: My name is
10 Lorraine Douglas.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Lorraine Douglas,
12 the recorder. We also have translations in the back.
13 I believe we have in the Tlicho language channel number
14 2, English number 1, and channel number 4 for the
15 Review Board.

16 Before we start I'm just going to go
17 ahead and read my opening comments, and then I'm going
18 to go over to the grand chief in the Tlicho region and
19 the host chief. As mentioned this morning, my name is
20 Richard Edjericon. I'm the Chair of the Mackenzie
21 Valley Environment Impact Review Board.

22 At this time I also want to thank the --
23 the Tlicho government, also the Grand Chief, and also
24 the Host Chief Alfonz Nitsiza for allowing us to come
25 to his community to have this public hearing. Masi.

1 Also to the elders and membership that
2 are here. We are here to listen to what you have to
3 say about the NICO project. The developer is Fortune
4 Minerals Limited. Fortune proposes to construct and
5 operate and close cobalt -- cobalt, gold, and bismuth,
6 and copper mine.

7 This mine will be underground for
8 approximately ten (10) months followed by an open pit
9 operation for a total of twenty (20) years of
10 production. Closure activities will follow once
11 production is finished.

12 The development includes construction
13 and operation of a 27-kilometre NICO project access
14 road to be built by Fortune Minerals. We have reached
15 one of the final stages of the environment assessment
16 of the public hearing. The Review Board notes that the
17 hearing dates were changed from the original schedule,
18 and acknowledge that the convien -- inconvenience that
19 the rescheduling may have caused the community of
20 Whati. Steps -- steps have been taken to ensure this
21 does not happen again.

22 Today the Board wishes to hear the views
23 and the opinions that members of the community of Whati
24 may have regarding this proposed development. This
25 community hearing is informal, and it is intended to be

1 con -- distinct from more informal hearings in
2 Yellowknife and Behchoko later this week.

3 Over the course of the day we've asked
4 that you do your best to help the Review Board to
5 understand your views about the proposed developments,
6 potential environment -- potential environmental,
7 social, economic, and cultural impacts of your views of
8 the potential significance of these impacts.

9 The Review Board will fully consider
10 these views while it is deliberating on its decision in
11 this environmental assessment file. Once the decision
12 is made the Board will write it down and report of the
13 environmental assessment and send it to the Minister of
14 Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development for his
15 consideration.

16 Again, we did the introduction this
17 morning. The Review Board is a co-management body
18 established by the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management
19 Act that makes its decision by consensus. Our members
20 are northerners nomina -- nominated by the First
21 Nations and by the Tlicho territorial and Federal
22 governments.

23 Our goal is to make decisions that will
24 benefit the north for all residents and for future
25 generation. I have some additional comments on today's

1 proceedings that I hope will make sure everything goes
2 smoothly.

3 We have a limited time and the Review
4 Board wants to hear what everyone has to say. Please
5 note that there is an agenda for the hearing, which is
6 available at the door. I ask that everyone respect the
7 time allotted for their presentation and questions, and
8 use their time effectively.

9 The Review Board will be producing an
10 official transcript of this hearing. The -- the
11 transcripts will be available through our website on
12 the public registry for this environmental --
13 environment assessment file. This community hearing
14 will be informal and will be -- will proceed as
15 follows.

16 Fortune Minerals will give a
17 presentation first. After they have given the
18 presentation, community members and the Review Board
19 have the opportunity to ask questions.

20 Parties from the federal and territory
21 governments are in the audience. They will not make
22 presentations today, but are available to answer
23 questions that community members may have. There will
24 be no questions between the developer and parties
25 during the community hearing.

1 The remaining time this afternoon will
2 be for community members to ask further questions of
3 the developer and of the parties that are present.
4 Community members here today are welcome to speak, make
5 statements, or ask questions. Please identify yourself
6 to one (1) of our staff so that they can help you.
7 Questions may be asked with the microphone so that
8 everyone can hear and the transcribers can properly
9 record it.

10 So before we begin the community
11 hearings, I just want to acknowledge, as well, some
12 people in the audience before I go to the Grand Chief.
13 Usually -- I want to recognize the former Grand Chief,
14 Joe Rebesca. He's in the back, and I just wanted to
15 say that I had an opportunity to work with Joe and --
16 when I was a former leader as well.

17 I also want to recognize former Chief
18 Joseph Judas. I believe he's in the back there. And
19 former Chief Charlie Jim Nitsiza from Whati. He's in
20 the back there. And our translator in the back, former
21 Chief Isadorre Zoe Fish (phonetic). I want to
22 recognize you as well. Masi. And also I believe we
23 have John Bezoe (phonetic) here. He's the -- was the
24 former chief negotiator for the Tlicho government. So,
25 masi.

1 And in the back we have translations
2 made by Johnny Simpson and also Isolde -- Isidore Zoe
3 Fish (phonetic).

4 So with that, I'm going to go to --
5 those are my comments from the Chair. I want to go to
6 the Tlicho Band Chief Eddie Rabesca -- so -- sorry,
7 Eddie Erasmus. My apologies on that.

8 And, also, I'm going to go to the host
9 chief right after that, so -- sorry, Grand Chief.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

14

15 GRAND CHIEF EDWARD ERASMUS: (NATIVE
16 LANGUAGE SPOKEN)...governments, the Federal
17 Governments, we speak to them. At the same times,
18 we're making our presentation to -- regarding to our
19 concerns, how it was in the past. We will not recall
20 it when there was a developments or mining was to be
21 set up in the past.

22 We have a big land. We have 39,000
23 square kilometre of lands, which is -- are the
24 government's. Over the surfaces and the subsurface
25 rights of this lands, we'll make a decision on what

1 decision we are making. It's up to us because we're
2 the government in that territory.

3 So whatever we decide, how we're going
4 to live, how we're going to prosper into the future.
5 So how are we going to live -- and live on this land
6 and we're going to use these lands? How are we going
7 to manage it? How are we going to make sure that the
8 land that we -- which we have is going to be developed
9 for the mining? What kind of regular -- regulations
10 are we going to have? What kind of problems?

11 You see, this is very important to us.
12 We'll -- when we are the governments, where that big
13 chunk of lands of which we are the government, and we
14 have to make sure that everything is ran properly
15 according to our agreement. So there are very
16 important issues to which we have to regard because
17 they are representing our people, because it is our
18 lands. It is very important.

19 At the site, the mine's called Gabmoti
20 (phonetic), Hislop Lake, which there's a roads which is
21 -- there's a road that's going into winter roads.
22 People have depended that area for many years. Hislop
23 Lake was a real major industry to us in the past when
24 it was used for harvesting the wildlife which we depend
25 on.

1 Many of our people had lived in that
2 area. Many of our people had used that land. Many of
3 our people had use of the water. Many our people are
4 dependant on the wildlife.

5 When people, they travel in and out to -
6 - to bare lands, either to go spring hunting or winter
7 hunting or fishing and trapping, highly people had
8 depended on that site. And many years ago -- many
9 years ago ,when everything was scarce -- the animals,
10 the wildlifes -- people have depended on that. Their
11 life, the hardships, they survived through depended --
12 they depended on that Hislop Lake.

13 That side was heavily depended -- right
14 at the centre of that -- centre of the Tlicho lands
15 which we are discussing today. Right in the centre, in
16 the heart of the Tlicho land that -- which we are
17 discussing today.

18 Because I highly recommended -- anyways,
19 we had to see what and make sure the protections of the
20 environments. That water that flows in towards -- in
21 Bishop when there's a 70 percent people live in the
22 community is dependant on that lake, on the water.

23 How is going to be down the road another
24 twenty (20) years after the mining has been developed,
25 after the mining has been in operations. Will the

1 water be the same? Will the environment be the same?
2 Will the wildlife be the same? Will the caribou trail
3 be the same? Highly people would depend on. How is it
4 going to be for us with the future -- future
5 generations?

6 How it's going to look like another
7 twenty (20) years from now? See, these are really
8 great and important to us. That is why we have great
9 concern when dealing with Hislop Lake.

10 So for us as the Tlicho Nations who have
11 given opportunities to voice our concerns, that is why
12 we agree for -- for having the Hearing to -- here
13 today. So how it's going to be like in the future? So
14 these are very important to us.

15 That's how our Elders will speak to you,
16 Mr. Chair. The Elders will speak to you regarding to
17 their concerns. So how it's going to be -- the -- the
18 evidence that they're showing to you regarding to how
19 the Elders had depended on Hislop Lake. Then will it
20 be the same after development had taken place?

21 So, Board, you will have a concerns, you
22 are dealing with making decision -- before you made a
23 decision, you will have to hear to the Elders speak to
24 you. When I say, "I thank you", I meant to say that
25 thank you from our -- from our heart, because can we

1 live with it? Can we live with a development that is -
2 - that's going to take place?

3 So here people -- over one hundred (100)
4 people live in this community and of Whatì. Most --
5 most of them will be here. Most of them have great
6 concerns. They have great concerns because the water's
7 been flowing in this directions, to here and also to
8 Behchoko. So listen to us, to our comments, when we're
9 briefing to you of how important -- we're dependant on
10 Hislop Lake in the past. You are listening to the pour
11 -- to -- to -- to the pour -- some people will be
12 pouring their heart out dealing with that -- that site,
13 with Hislop Lake. So you will -- you will know how the
14 people feels about the developments with Hislop taking
15 place.

16 So I want to thank you, Mr. Chair, and
17 also your Board members. But our -- bring our concerns
18 to you. You have given to us opportunity to do so
19 today. So us, as a Tlicho Government want to listen.
20 We, too, will listen to what our people have to say,
21 what our Elders have to say. All of the people had
22 depended on that site. They still got the old camps
23 there. They still got the sites, which is still shows
24 today. We want to listen to them. As a Chief, I want
25 to listen to them too. You, as a Board member, you

1 will listen to Elders too.

2 So we'll have a good communications
3 exchange today dealing with Hislop Lake, our
4 traditional part of the Tlicho Nations. So this has
5 never taken place in the past before. In the past, the
6 Tlicho Nation would never get a chance to deal with the
7 money, so today you have given us the chance to voice
8 our concerns to you.

9 So when -- after I'm speaking to you,
10 these Chiefs, they will also speak to you. So I will
11 translate into what I said into English. So I will
12 translate what he had said to the English. Grand Chief
13 Eddie Ramus -- Eddie Erasmus.

14

15 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

16

17 GRAND CHIEF EDWARD ERASMUS: It is
18 clear to me, the Board and Chair. Thank you, Mr.
19 Chair. We welcome you to our community. Maybe some
20 people around the table and in the room probably don't
21 know of our way of life and our customs and our
22 culture.

23 Aboriginal peoples know from even other
24 regions that when you come to visit a community, it is
25 a custom to go visit the Chief and visit the Chief's

1 office. That's the first thing they do when they come
2 into the community. It is still our culture. We do
3 that. When I come to Whati, I'll go visit Alfonz, his
4 office. And other chiefs that come here, they'll go to
5 his office. That's how -- it's a custom. If you don't
6 do that, you come into a community and if you don't do
7 that, it's considered as you sneaking around the
8 community. And Aboriginal people do that.

9 So I would like to welcome you to the
10 community, the Whati. It is very important for us as
11 Tlicho people, you know, to speak to you here on our
12 own lands. And I represent Chief Murphy, who
13 represented the Nation before the government came in.
14 I represent the chiefs as a chief of the people.

15 The notion of treaty was to open up
16 lands for development, because the chiefs recognized
17 government at the time, and they were treated as wards
18 of the government. Decisions were made on behalf of
19 the Indians and how and when projects would proceed.

20 This is -- this is no longer the case.
21 We have law-making authorities, and we have a duty to
22 be consulted. The old mentality has not disappeared.
23 With a Nation being overlooked, the law-making
24 authority of the Tlicho Government has to be
25 recognized, especially on our own lands. We own 39,000

1 square kilometres of land, surface and subsurface.

2 This land where Fortune Minerals want to
3 build a mine, we have a name for it: (NATIVE LANGUAGE
4 SPOKEN). That means -- it's a Tlicho phrase. That
5 means a place where we can survive, a place where
6 Tlicho people have survived for many generations.

7 It is the heart of Tlicho lands, right
8 in the centre of Tlicho lands. The trails leads away
9 from it. The trail leads away from it to get to the
10 communities. You pass through it to get to the barren
11 lands. However, when times are tough and when the
12 caribou didn't come -- when caribou don't come, this
13 was the place where people survived. Our te -- our
14 Elders will probably tell you that. And that -- that
15 proposed mine is the heart of Tlicho lands.

16 It holds the possibility of changing
17 water, the watershed, caribou, and our people. This
18 proposed mine will directly impact the Tlicho people.
19 This Environmental Assessment process is crucial in
20 discovering and dealing with impact and risks.

21 Today is our day to hear from our Tlicho
22 people. We need you to speak up today about an impact
23 of our way of life, the way you know it, that we have
24 heard it from the Elders, what is out there. Can you
25 live with this mine? Today is an opportunity for

1 people of Whati and Tlicho people to speak.

2 And, Mr. Chair, we are looking up to you
3 to do the right thing under your powers. Throughout
4 the week, we will be speaking to our concerns. We are
5 looking to the re -- Review Board to actively listen to
6 people and to the concerns of the Tlicho government.

7 And, Mr. Chair, we'd like to thank you. We are
8 thankful that the Review Board has brought us together
9 for this hearing.

10 The Tlicho government will be listening
11 in these hearings to deepen its understanding of this
12 project. And with that again, as I said earlier, masi
13 cho for coming to Tlicho community. Masi.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Grand Chief
18 Eddie Erasmus, for your comments. I'm going to go to
19 Chief Alfonz Nitsiza of the Whati for your welcome
20 remarks.

21 CHIEF ALFONZ NITSIZA: Masi, Mr. Chair.

22

23 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

24

25 CHIEF ALFONZ NITSIZA: I see Board

1 members, I wanted to make a presentation to you, Mr. --
2 Mr. Chair. This is a very important issue that which
3 we are addressing today, as you are here to listen to
4 our concerns dealing with very important issues which
5 are never given the chance, the opportunity in the
6 past.

7 As my Grand Chief have spoken to you, he
8 had briefly explained to you what our concerns are. So
9 today I feel the same as what he had -- what he had
10 said. In the past, we were never given the opportunity
11 to speak on behalf of -- of developments of the mining.

12 As with some -- never have voice or consider at
13 Rayrock Mine or Colomac mines, never given the
14 opportunities.

15 But now, today, as Tlicho -- as Tlicho
16 citizens, we never had sat in front of the panel like
17 this to address our concerns. Today you will see lots
18 of di -- lots of differences. When we did -- we did
19 settle our land claims, we settle our self-governments.
20 Today we have that. We have our land claims. We have
21 our self-governments.

22 So these are very important, major
23 issues that which we are dealt with, which are
24 negotiated with. And these are very important issues
25 dealing with the big mining developments: how to

1 protect the water for us; as the Aboriginal people, how
2 we have survived con -- continually dependent and
3 living and surviving on our lands.

4 And today, when we are talking about
5 developments of the mining, there's lots of creating of
6 jobs, opportunity, big developments which will be
7 taking place. There are lots of investments can be
8 made from -- from the developments, the economic
9 developments.

10 And lots of our people will have jobs,
11 employments, contracts. There are lots of important
12 issues to deal -- very important issues. They are good
13 issues. They ca -- they can be, if it's been taken the
14 way it's supposed to be.

15 You know that lots of people are not
16 employed today, not -- not enough job employments. But
17 when we're talking about the mining, you look at: Can
18 the Tlicho really depend on this development -- the
19 mining? How -- how much can the benefit from it? How
20 many of our people will be employed? We -- we still
21 don't know, as for the Tlicho side.

22 Mr. Chairman, as today, in the hear --
23 in the hearing, we'd like to know, we'd like to hear
24 how big it's going to be. There's going to be da --
25 damage to the dis -- dealing with the development. How

1 much of a benefit are we going to get? How much of a -
2 - how much money will be -- will be spent over how many
3 years? How much of a development will be taking place?
4 Will it be the development.

5 We know that there's going to be
6 poverties. There's was going to be -- there's going to
7 be social problems they're dealing with in every -- in
8 each communities, because every time there's a
9 development like this, like a major development
10 happens, there's lots of lo -- lots of poverty,
11 devastations of all this additions.

12 There's going to be a road that's be
13 coming into -- to our regions. There'll be all-season
14 roads that'll be coming to -- to our regions. So here
15 -- here, in Whati, for example, there's going to be
16 great changes. For -- for as long as the community
17 exists, there's going to be big changes. There's going
18 to be a big impact in these communities.

19 For example, of alcohol, all the social
20 problems we're dealing. So when we're dealing with
21 this big -- big major development, such as mining,
22 we're not saying that we don't want it to happen. But
23 what we're saying is are -- are we in the -- in a
24 position of handling the situations?

25 When the development has taken place, it

1 happens. So we want to know: How fast can we go? How
2 fast will -- will this mining be in operations? How
3 fast will we have people in -- in place dealing --
4 dealing with all the problems of which we have?

5 We know that all the deve --
6 development, what's happening every time there's a
7 mining -- mining ha -- the operation -- operations, how
8 we have our land claims and self-government, which we'd
9 deal with because we know what happened to Rayrock and
10 Colomac Mines. We said that in the past that this is
11 the reason why we settle our land claims and self-
12 government. We wanted to make sure we'll be involved
13 with the developments and want to make sure that we get
14 -- we get what we -- what -- what we should get.

15 We know that in the past that our many
16 of our Elders have spoken because they want the
17 protection of the lands, the water, the -- the
18 environments, the animals, the air. That's why we
19 settle our land claims and self-government. And today
20 we're talking about a mining.

21 The biggest concerns that which we had,
22 all of the developments which have been taking place in
23 our land. Some of them are not -- and some -- some of
24 them are nev -- never -- never been there -- dealt
25 with. You know that -- the Nanachouchi (phonetic),

1 many of our people had depended on that era for many
2 years heavily, hunting, fishing, trappings. You know,
3 that's the site of the heart of the people.

4 So these are important issues of which I
5 want to discuss since this morning, that lots of --
6 lots of time have been spent already, but I wanted to
7 thank you, Mr. Chair, for making the pre -- making the
8 presentations.

9 Wanted to sit here until we hear every
10 person that has spoken, until all this important agenda
11 has been dealt with. I know that some of my Elders who
12 will be speaking, I know that -- listen to them --
13 listen to them, because they will be speaking to you
14 with a heart and mind, because this what -- how they --
15 they dealt with when the past.

16 They have their grandchildren to be
17 concerned about. They have the children -- they have
18 the future generation. Some of them will be speaking
19 to you with their minds and their heart. Listen to
20 them. That's all I want to say to you.

21 And I will also speak to you -- in my
22 own -- I've spoken to you in my own -- I've spoken to
23 you in my language now. I'll speak to you in English.
24 Thank you. Masi, Mr. Chair.

25

1 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

2

3 CHIEF ALFONZ NITSIZA: Come into my
4 community for a public hearing on a very important
5 project next door to my community. I want to -- to say
6 also that I agree totally with what the Grand Chief has
7 said. There have been earlier projects that have
8 affected our environment: Rayrock, Colomac.

9 But we never had a voice in those
10 projects. Now we have a land claim and specific
11 authorities, and we can exercise those rights. We know
12 the impact, the damage that was done by these earlier
13 mines. We have to protect our water, our way of life.

14 Yes, there are benefits that this mine
15 will bring, including employment for some of our
16 people. And we must recognize the importance of that.
17 We do have a very high unemployment rate, so we like to
18 see jobs for our people. However, we are concerned
19 that there are very few jobs proposed for the Tlicho
20 people at this time.

21 During this hearing, we also have to
22 recognize the social impact on the community, as we
23 know that mining can bring susbis -- substance abuse
24 and negative impacts. As well, if this mine goes
25 ahead, there has be an all-weather road, or all-season

1 road. This will change our lands and, certainly, my
2 community forever.

3 We are in favour of sustainable
4 development, but we see that all the risks are being
5 taken in our lands. And we haven't seen the proof of
6 the benefits to our people. We need to assure that
7 proper protection are in place, because this mine will
8 not run for very long, but it will impact our land
9 forever.

10 What our land claim is about is the
11 recognition of one's self and the ability to survive
12 over time. This is our land, and this area we're
13 talking about (NATIVE LANGUAGE SPOKEN) or the place
14 where we can survive is a place where we will survive
15 in the future.

16 Again, Mr. Chair, I would like to thank
17 you and I hope that you Board members as well listen
18 carefully to what my people have to say. Masi Cho.

19

20 (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Chief Alfonz
23 Nitsiza, for your comments, and also Grand Chief Eddie
24 Erasmus for your comments as well. Before we go to the
25 presentations by the Fortune Minerals, I think it was

1 mentioned already in the mar -- remarks by the chiefs
2 that -- that over the next day here where -- where the
3 Board is here to listen to your views, your concerns
4 about this proposed project, and so I'm going to ask
5 that when you come to the mic if you could introduce
6 yourself and -- so that we have it on record.

7 And once we have that then we could go
8 ahead and do your presentation. Again, the Board is
9 here to listen to the issues that are here. We're
10 talking about potential environmental impacts, social
11 and cultural.

12 Those are the things that I think the
13 chiefs talked about. Those are things that we want to
14 hear. So I'm going to encourage, you know, all the
15 young people that are here, the elders, feel free to
16 come to the mic, but mention your name for the record,
17 and we'll continue on.

18 Having said that, before I go to Fortune
19 Minerals, I want to, again -- maybe throughout the day
20 I -- I always like to continue to recognize, you know,
21 dignitaries and people in the -- in the audience, and I
22 mentioned that this morning.

23 So I also just wanted to recognize two
24 (2) other people from DeBeers. We -- we have Grace
25 McKenzie and Sabet Biscaye in the back. I'd like to

1 just recognize them as well, so maybe you can stand up.

2

3 (BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. And with that
6 I'm going to go to Fortune Minerals. But before we go
7 to Fortune Mineral's presentation, if -- if -- I'm not
8 sure, maybe with Henry in regards to lunch.

9 I don't know how much time, or if the
10 food is ready yet or not, but if not, maybe a half hour
11 or an hour. I'm not sure. But -- it's ready? Okay.
12 Well, maybe what we'll do, is because I think a lot of
13 people are hungry and people had an early start this
14 morning, I suggest that maybe we'll take maybe -- maybe
15 a forty-five (45) minute lunch break and then we'll
16 continue on with the presentation by Fortune Minerals.
17 And then after that we'll go to comments by the public.
18 Okay.

19 So we'll stop and we'll come back in
20 forty-five (45) minutes. Masi.

21

22 --- Upon recessing at 11:40 a.m.

23 --- Upon commencing at 1:35 p.m.

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, I'd like to

1 call the -- the hearing back to order. We all had a
2 good lunch and -- and a short break. So because we've
3 got a schedule here we've got to maintain, I'm going to
4 continue on with the presentation -- presentation by
5 Fortune Minerals Limited.

6 And after the presentation, we're going
7 to continue on with the questions from the community.
8 And, again, I mentioned a little bit earlier that we
9 encourage all members here and Elders to make your
10 comments, statements, or -- of if you have questions as
11 well. The Board will -- that is here today will,
12 again, listen to all your issues and concerns. And
13 once we conclude the hearing, we'll get together and
14 we'll take your -- your comments into consideration
15 when we make our decision.

16 So with that, I'm going to go to Fortune
17 Minerals. Again, when you -- for introduction, state
18 your name. And at the same time, I'm going to watch
19 out for our translations in the back. If we're
20 speaking too fast, you know, just let me know. And
21 then I'll ask the presenters then to maybe slow down a
22 bit so that we hear -- we're able to keep up with them.

23 With that, I'm going to go to Fortune
24 Minerals. Introduce yourself.

25

1 PRESENTATION BY FORTUNE MINERALS:

2 MR. RICK SCHRYER: Rick Schryer,
3 Fortune Minerals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our
4 presentation this afternoon consists of actually five
5 (5) short presentations that we'll just give back-to-
6 back. So there'll be five (5) different presenters.

7 Our first presenter is Mr. Tom Rinaldi,
8 VP operations, who will be giving a summary of the
9 project.

10 MR. TOM RINALDI: Tom Rinal -- Tom
11 Rinaldi, Fortune Minerals. This presentation, as Rick
12 said, is going to just be a brief overview of the
13 project. On Thursday, Robin Goad, Fortune's president
14 and chief executive officer, will be making the
15 official opening remarks for Fortune Minerals. And
16 that'll be Thursday morning in Behchoko.

17 Since the -- the DAR was submitted
18 fifteen (15) months ago there have been a few minor
19 changes to the project, most of them for -- for the
20 betterment of the project. As with any project, as we
21 get more and more information we keep refining it. The
22 -- the latest changes were a result of the 2010
23 drilling we did on site. After we analyzed that
24 drilling and did more engineering it increased reserve
25 by about another 2 million tonnes.

1 Since the project was first considered
2 feasible in -- in 2005, there's been many of these such
3 changes. The reserves have gone from 21 million to 31
4 million to 33 million tonnes. And each time we've done
5 these design changes the overall footprint or the
6 disturbance area of the project has been reduced. So
7 we have a larger project today. And the disturbance is
8 approximately half of what it was back in 2006.

9 We understand that our project is very
10 close to Hislop Lake, which is very important to the
11 Tlicho people. We're approximately 10 kilometres away.
12 And all of our design, we take this into consideration
13 out of respect for the people. And we want to do minim
14 -- minimum disturbance in the area around Hislop Lake.

15 Also, all the water that will need to be
16 discharged from the lake -- or from the mine will enter
17 the Marian River downstream from Hislop Lake. We're
18 actually below Hislop Lake, not above it, so we will
19 have no effect on the lake from the mine activities
20 itself.

21 Just a few things about -- about our
22 project. It's -- it's a hundred percent owned by
23 Fortune. It's going to be an open pit with an
24 underground mine fro -- during -- during the first two
25 (2) years. It'll start during year 1 and be completed

1 during year 2.

2 We also have a refinery that we'll be
3 building in -- in Saskatchewan to support this project.
4 It will refine the concentrate produced here into
5 saleable metals. To date, in the past ten (10) or
6 fifteen (15) years, we've spent a little over a \$100
7 million on the project. Twenty million of that was
8 test mining, 12 million for metallurg -- metallurgical
9 testing.

10 In addition to that, we've spent quite a
11 bit on exploration drilling, in analyzing and
12 engineering the project. As I said earlier, there's a
13 total of 33 million tonnes of that. A little over 1
14 million is gold, 82 million tonnes of cobalt, 102
15 million tonnes of bismuth, and 27 million tonnes of
16 copper. If it was a single product mine, that would be
17 equivalent to 4 million ounces of gold. So it's --
18 it's a nice small to medium size project.

19 As I said earlier, we made some changes
20 in the DAR. It actually said we would have an eighteen
21 (18) year mine life. It's actually estimated at 19.8
22 years today. That's a result of getting more and more
23 information. Originally, when the project was first
24 engineered, we only thought we had about a thirteen and
25 a half (13 1/2) or fourteen (14) year mine life. So,

1 as you can see, as -- as we get more and more
2 information things are -- are constantly changing.

3 Production will be 4,650 tonnes a day
4 going through the -- going through the mill. It'll be
5 fed by both the underground mining and the open pit
6 during the early years, and for the remainder of the
7 mine life from the open pit only.

8 Early on there'll be approximately two
9 hundred and seventy (270) jobs when we're both mining
10 from the open pit and underground. But for most of the
11 mine life we'll have about a hundred and eighty-eight
12 (188) jobs. That's what we estimate today.

13 The -- the open pit mining will be
14 conventional mining, as everybody up here is familiar
15 with: trucks, loaders, shovels. And the product from
16 NICO will be a concentrate and will produce about 180
17 tonnes a day that will have to be trucked to Hay River
18 and then put on the train to go to Saskatchewan.

19 Just the different components: the open
20 pit and underground. Processing plant or mill. We'll
21 be generating power on site from a -- a diesel power
22 plant. Co-disposal facility, and this is in place of
23 having a -- a mine rock storage area and a tailings.
24 So the -- the mine rock produced from the -- the mine
25 and the tailings will be disposed of together in one

1 (1) single area. Concentrate loading. Truck shop.
2 Maintenance shop. Roads around the site. An access
3 road into the site. Offices. Camp. Explosive storage.
4 Effluent treatment for any of the water that we have to
5 discharge from the facility.

6 We'll only produce a bulk concentrate.
7 And it's a little bit different than a -- a lot of the
8 mines here in the Northwest Territories. We'll be
9 producing 180 tonnes a day, and this will require an
10 all-weather road. Because it will be shipped out on
11 the back of a semi truck, it'll require five (5) loads
12 a day, seven (7) days a week.

13 As a result of having a road, we will
14 not require an airstrip. We're -- we're closer to the
15 -- well, the community of Whati, we're close to
16 Behchoko. We're hoping that most of our workers are
17 sourced from this area so that we'll be able to bus
18 people to work as opposed to flying them in that -- as
19 some of the other mines have to do. That will also
20 allow us to have flexibility on -- on work schedules
21 for people.

22 In addition to that, we've got a reverse
23 osmosis treatment plant for the water that we have to
24 discharge. And it's kind of hard to see with the
25 lighting in here, but the photo there in the bottom

1 right is -- is the old camp on Lou Lake. Most of the
2 buildings have been removed. We started doing
3 reclamation on the site in 2011, and today it's -- it's
4 in care and maintenance. There is no active work being
5 done at the Nico site right now except for collection
6 of water-quality samples and such, periodically.

7 As I said earlier, we're going to
8 produce a concentrate which is different than a lot of
9 the mines have produced up in this area. It's kind of
10 hard to see on this photo, but the red arrow is
11 pointing to little, silverish flecks that are on -- on
12 that rock there. The -- the payable metals from the
13 Nico project are all contained in this. That's -- and
14 that contains gold, cobalt, bismuth, copper, plus some
15 other minerals that we won't be trying to get after.

16 The process of it is -- is we'll crush
17 and grind the ore, and then -- and then we mix it in --
18 in large tanks called "flotation cells." We mix it
19 with non-toxic chemicals, similar to the detergent in
20 your washing machine, and that helps us float off the
21 valuable minerals. The valuable minerals are contained
22 in about 5 percent of this, so the remaining 95 percent
23 of the ore that goes through the mill goes into the
24 tailings and is disposed of with the mine rock in the
25 co-disposal facility.

1 As I -- as -- as we said all along, that
2 we're producing a concentrate that has to be trucked
3 out. The top photo there is a typical concentrate
4 truck. That -- that's a similar size truck to what
5 we'll be using, except for that one has large bins on
6 it, and we'll be using super sacks to transport our
7 concentrate south. The lower truck shows a fuel truck
8 that'll be bringing deliveries into the mine.

9 As I said earlier, concentrate will be
10 required to be shipped out seven (7) days a week.
11 Approximately five (5) trucks a day will be shipped out
12 every day. And then backhoes and -- and other trucks
13 coming in will be bringing in consumables: fuel, food
14 to supply the camp, consumables within the -- within
15 the mine and the mill itself.

16 I was just told to slow down. Anyway,
17 the main reason for the use of the all-weather road as
18 opposed to the diamond mines in this area is our
19 shipments are large and -- and too many to be able to
20 fly in and fly out. That is the reason we need to
21 access this property from an all-weather road.

22 This concentrate will go to Saskatchewan
23 in bags similar to what's on the photo here, and it'll
24 be further concentrated. That concentrate will then be
25 brought back into solution. It will be -- it will be

1 processed even more, and then we'll separate it into
2 the -- the cobalt and the bismuth in different
3 circuits. And then that material will be recombined,
4 and then the gold will be brought out of that also.

5 So the product, just outside of
6 Saskatoon, will be -- be gold, cobalt, bismuth, and
7 copper. From here, it'll -- it'll be required to be
8 trucked to Hay River, which is approximately 500
9 kilometres. At that point, it will be loaded onto a
10 Canadian National Railway train and it will be
11 transported the remaining 1,600 kilometres to where we
12 plan on building the refinery.

13 This is just a map of the area,
14 Saskatoon here, Yellowknife up in here. The mine site
15 is right here, so we would truck it on an all-season
16 road to Highway 3 and then around over to Hay River at
17 this point. Put it on -- on the railroad and then it
18 would head to Saskatoon. And that's where the -- the
19 final metal will be refined. Over the years we've done
20 quite a lot of community consultation.

21 We're committing -- we're committed to
22 continued consultation with both the people of the area
23 and the Tlicho government. We've had community visits
24 held in March and May of 2012 of this year. Nico
25 community relations coordinators have been hired,

1 Charlie Jim Nitsiza, Joe Rabesca, and Sean Moosenose,
2 and we open a Yellowknife office this year.

3 We man it -- not full-time yet, but as
4 the project advances we plan on having it full-time.
5 Just some photos here of the different site visits
6 during 2006 and 2010. And then in 2011 we had Elders
7 tours from both Wekweti and Gameti.

8 Current -- current agreements with the
9 Tlicho government, a -- a cooperative relationship
10 agreement that establishes a path forward from this
11 point for further negotiations into an IBA. We've got
12 an agreement with them for a traditional knowledge
13 study that they are currently in the process of
14 finishing up. And we have an agreement for
15 environmental assessment analysis funding that helps
16 them hire the consultants they need to review the DAR
17 and other aspects of the project.

18 Thank you very much. And we're going to
19 start a short animation right now that shows how the
20 footprint of the -- of the facility has changed over
21 the past few years.

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 MR. TOM RINALDI: During the first

1 design of the project there was actually two (2) mine
2 rock storage areas and -- and two (2) tailings areas.
3 They were -- they were both north and south, and there
4 was tailings both north and south, and there was rock
5 storage both north and south.

6 And these changes that we've made over
7 the years have been primarily due to water quality,
8 because we're doing everything we can to -- to make the
9 water quality leaving the site just as -- as clean as
10 possible.

11 So we've -- we've gotten rid of any
12 facility here in the south that's all in a -- in a
13 single facility in the north. And then in 2012 after -
14 - after looking at our schedule and such, we've removed
15 the airport from the footprint. And that -- that just
16 has that much disturbance less than what it was in the
17 earlier part. Thank you very much.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 MR. JOHN FAITHFUL: Good afternoon. My
22 name is John Faithful. I'm going to talk to you about
23 the water quality assessment for the EA for this
24 project, or for the development -- developer's
25 assessment -- development -- start again.

1 Good afternoon, my name is John
2 Faithful. I'm here to talk to you about the water
3 quality key line of inquiry that was presented in the
4 developer's assessment report. The presentation is a -
5 - is a brief summary of -- of what we've learned from
6 the assessment, and it's going to focus on the
7 operational phase of the project. This was presented
8 in Section 7 of the developer's assessment report.

9 Since the submission of the report a
10 number of changes to the water management plan have
11 occurred. Tom spoke a little bit -- bit about some of
12 those, primarily -- well, probably the most -- most
13 important one (1) -- the most important one (1) being
14 the change in the -- in the water treatment facility.

15 Some of this has come about through
16 listening to the concerns of the communities and the
17 regulators, alterations to the -- to the general mine
18 plan, and a key focus on -- on the project being as
19 protective to the environment as it can.

20 Water quality has a hu -- a very
21 important ecological and human health value. Changes
22 to water quality can result in changes to fish,
23 wildlife, and human health. The importance of water
24 quality as an issue associated with this project was
25 outlined in the issues scoping sessions for the

1 project.

2 As a result, water quality was
3 designated as a key line of inquiry for the developer's
4 assessment report -- report. And, as such, it was
5 desig -- it was -- it was required through the terms of
6 reference to be presented as a -- as a stand-alone
7 report.

8 In order to evaluate how the project may
9 affect the environment, an understanding of the
10 environment is required. This understanding from an
11 aquatics perspective includes understanding the
12 characteristics that drive water quality in any aquatic
13 environment.

14 That is, understanding the groundwater,
15 the -- the quality and the quantity of the groundwater
16 in that -- in that particular watershed, the surface
17 water chemistry, and the quantity of -- of water that
18 flows through the surface environment, the flow path of
19 that particular watershed, and sediment quality.
20 Associated with that is a good understanding of -- of
21 what aquatic life is present in that particular
22 watershed.

23 The figure I'm going to present here is
24 a -- represents the watershed flows within the Marian
25 River watershed near the project site. Okay, my

1 animation has -- is -- is not -- is not as effective as
2 -- as it should be.

3 The Marian River starts up here, well,
4 within this particular Google map showing. It flows
5 down to the southwest into Hislop Lake, and then flows
6 -- flows down towards the southeast.

7 The project site is located here. That
8 includes lakes of the Burke Lake watershed, the grid
9 ponds, Nico Lake, Peanut Lake, Burke Lake, and then its
10 outflow into the Marian River. I must apologize for
11 the -- for the quality of this slide. It is really
12 detracting from the -- the message that I'm trying to
13 present here.

14 Just to the northwest of the project
15 site is the Lou Lake Watershed that flows into the
16 Marian River. The key point that I'm trying to make
17 here, is that the Lou Lake Watershed, the Lou Lake
18 which provides the -- the process water and the
19 drinking water supply to the camp, flows down to the
20 Marian River below the outfall of Hislop Lake.

21 Similarly, the Burke Lake watershed,
22 which is associated to the other project site, it
23 receives the drainage from the -- the project site,
24 also flows to the downstream side of Marian Lake into
25 the Marian River. So you have the Lou -- Lou Lake that

1 flows in on the downstream side of Hislop Lake, and
2 then the Burke Lake watershed that flows downstream of
3 the Lou -- Lou Lake inflow.

4 Rick has just advised me that you get a
5 very -- you get a much better impression of what I'm
6 trying to present here by looking at the models just
7 below the screen.

8 Additional to understanding the flows is
9 also understanding the chemistry within the receiving
10 water environment. It's necessary to try and
11 understand exactly how -- how the project effects are
12 likely to affect the receiving watershed.

13 What we have here is a -- is a
14 presentation of some of the key metals in -- in water
15 chemistry that have been measured under baseline
16 conditions. Each of these ticks represent a -- this --
17 one (1) of these particularly noted metals that exceeds
18 guideline concentrations within the water body for a --
19 for a consistently -- for a consistent amount of time.

20 Arsenic, for example, is measured above
21 guideline concentrations greater than 50 percent of the
22 time under baseline conditions in the grid pond, the
23 little grid pond, and Nico Lake. This comes from the
24 influence that the -- that the ore body or the exposed
25 rocks in that watershed area around the project site

1 have on the existing chemistry.

2 This information is -- is critical in
3 allowing us to develop interim site-specific water
4 quality objectives that are also used to determine the
5 potential for effects in the receiving environment.

6 Some of these parameters, as well as
7 some of -- some other metals con -- metals in the -- in
8 the water chemistry, are present above guideline
9 concentrations, not to the extent of these particular
10 ones that are highlighted, but just -- just it's a
11 point to make that metals do occur above national
12 guidelines, particularly around areas that are highly
13 mineralized or have these sort of ore bodies.

14 One (1) example, iron, is very
15 ubiquitous or occurs quite a lot throughout this
16 particular region and is measured above guidelines
17 through most of the water bodies that we have used in
18 our study area.

19 With an understanding of what the
20 baseline conditions are, in order to determine the --
21 the effects that the project will have on the
22 suitability of water quality to remain to -- to support
23 a viable aquatic ecosystem, and through it, wildlife
24 and human health, is to superimpose the project effects
25 in terms of its discharge onto the receiving

1 environment.

2 The pathways to these effects look at
3 the -- the potential for effects to groundwater, to the
4 surfa -- surface flows and -- and water levels wi --
5 within the receiving environment, water quality, and
6 sediment quality.

7 We then look at each of the project
8 activities that may have an influence on -- on the
9 receiving environment. And the blue circles around the
10 central circle reflect the key project activities that
11 could lead to an effect to the receiving environment
12 with respect to water quality.

13 They include the emissions of -- of dust
14 or -- or plant exhaust or vehicle exhaust to the -- to
15 the environment around the project site, the wi --
16 withdrawal of water from Lou Lake, the disturbance of
17 land through construction activities, spills, site
18 runoff, and the discharge of effluent.

19 The key pathways that have been
20 identified around this particular -- on this particular
21 slide that were -- that were taken forward to more
22 comprehensively assess the effects of the receiving
23 environment were the emission -- were air emissions and
24 also the effluent -- effluent discharge.

25 For the operations period, that included

1 the discharge of treated effluent to Peanut Lake and
2 the potential for any water within the seepage
3 collection ponds to make its way through to Nico Lake.

4 The next few slides just summarize the
5 findings of our assessment. For the project air
6 emissions we were -- we were hampered by a couple of
7 key issues that really didn't allow us to present
8 realistic -- realis -- realistic assessment of air
9 emissions. Due to limitations that were present in the
10 initial part of the modelling, the air emissions were
11 projected to be very conservative, that almost --
12 almost to the point where they were unrealistic.

13 We've spent a lot of time over the last
14 few months in communications with Aboriginal Affairs to
15 try and make the -- make the modelling assumptions that
16 we've carried into our assessment more realistic.

17 Even with those very conservative
18 assessment assumptions that were carried into the
19 developer's assessment report it was concluded that the
20 -- the air emissions and the de -- deposition of that
21 material was -- was limit -- limited spatially. It was
22 limited to the project site. And from a time
23 perspective, particularly that air emissions from the
24 project site typically cease once the project is -- has
25 -- has stopped. Also, there's a very strong commitment

1 from Fortune that active dust mitigation on site is
2 planned.

3 One (1) of the -- one (1) of the
4 conservatisms around the -- the dust emissions was
5 really no way to deal with the natural emissions that
6 winter provides to the -- to the site. When that was
7 taken into account, typically very little dust is
8 generated from the site in winter. And by removing
9 that component of the model, it re -- reduced the dust
10 emissions by more than a half.

11 Lake acidification is not expected from
12 the -- from the emissions of -- of plant -- from the
13 plant site. There's a low risk (sic) predicted to
14 aquatic life. And, as I said before, once operations
15 are completed the emission sources stop.

16 With respect to the treated effluent and
17 the seepage from the seepage collection ponds from that
18 -- the -- the assessment of those effects, it's
19 important to understand that from the -- the seepage
20 collection ponds, which are located at various points
21 around the -- the co-disposal facility, during the
22 course of operations the majority of the water that's
23 collected in those -- those ponds is pumped back to the
24 surge pond, and ultimately is discharged through the
25 effluen -- effluent treatment facility.

1 Any seepage that makes its way through
2 any of the bounds of those seepage collection ponds
3 will also drain through wetlands before they reach Nico
4 Lake. That and the treated effluent dischar --
5 discharge, are expected to cons -- consistently meet
6 the proposed site-specific water quality objectives at
7 the outlet of Peanut Lake.

8 As was identified in the baseline
9 studies, the water chemistry changes as it moves from
10 the upper part of the watershed, down towards the
11 Marian River. Within the Marian River, below the
12 confluence, or below where the Burke Lake outlet meets
13 the Marian River, the water chemistry, or the water
14 quality, is expected to be similar to -- to that
15 measured under baseline conditions, with local
16 communities able to continue to use the Marian River
17 resources as they traditionally do so.

18 Once the assessment for water quality
19 was complete, a number of projections were made on the
20 -- the chemistry that was going to -- to occur in Nico
21 Lake and Peanut Lake and Burke Lake and the Marian
22 River. Many conservative assumptions were made in
23 terms of the development of those water quality
24 predictions, such that the chemistry that was predicted
25 would be a lot more than is -- would reasonably be

1 expected to occur within the receiving environment.

2 These upper bound numbers were taken by
3 the risk team to evaluate the potential for effects to
4 aquatic life, through aquatic health, also through
5 wildlife health and human health. They looked at two
6 (2) specific pathways, one (1) being a -- a direct
7 exposure pathway, which is a -- which is akin to -- to
8 wildlife drinking the water, or the fish actually
9 existing in the water and the water coming into contact
10 through their gill system when they breathe.

11 They also examined the indirect effects
12 of the chemistry changes that are proj -- pred --
13 projected in the assessment. The indirect effects are,
14 for wildlife, eating a fish from the lake, that has
15 been exposed to the water.

16 In each of those occasions -- on each of
17 those occasions, the concentrations, or the tissue
18 concentrations that are expected to occur in -- in the
19 animals, were compared to specific benchmarks.

20 On the basis of the -- the operational
21 phase analysis, or assessment, as I indicated earlier
22 that the project is expected to result in negligible as
23 -- adverse effects from the deposition of air
24 emissions, or the discharges of seepage from the
25 seepage collection ponds or treated effluent.

1 As a result from the -- of the risk
2 assessment, the project is expected to result in
3 negligible, or negligible to low potential adverse
4 effects to aquatic, wildlife, and human health to the
5 Burke Lake Watershed and the Marian River.

6 Many of the projected concentrations of
7 various chemis -- chemical substances in all of these
8 receiving environments do fall within the range that
9 has been measured under baseline conditions. And
10 baseline studies have occurred from 1996 through to
11 2010, quite a substantial amount of time to generate
12 baseline information.

13 As I alluded to earlier, the changes to
14 people's opportunity to traditionally use the Marian
15 rivers as they do, from the Nico project, is expected
16 to be negligible.

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 MR. JOHN FAITHFUL: John Faithful
21 again. I've got a couple of -- a couple of slides just
22 to talk about the assessment findings based on the --
23 the closure element of the project.

24 As Rick alluded to earlier, and also

25 Tom, one (1) of the changes around the information that

1 was presented in the developer's assessment report
2 focussed on the closure options that we've -- that
3 Fortune have been asked to -- to evaluate.

4 And that is the act -- through the
5 active filling of the open pit as opposed to allowing
6 it to passively fill. The difference in that time
7 frame ranges from approximately a hundred and twenty
8 (120) years to passively refill, or passively fill the
9 open pit, compared to approximately nine (9) to
10 fourteen (14) years for -- for the active filling of
11 the open pit lake.

12 The active -- the active lake would be -
13 - the active filling of the lake would be -- would be
14 achieved through the supplemental -- supplemental
15 inflow of water, or pumping of water, from the Marian
16 River to the pit.

17 An assessment was completed that
18 evaluated the -- the closure scenario for the receiving
19 environment for Nico, Peanut, Burke Lakes, and also the
20 Marian River, on the basis of the open pit -- or the
21 filled open pit overflow through to Peanut Lake, and
22 also the overflow of water from the seepage collection
23 pits into Nico Lake.

24 It followed a very similar assessment to
25 -- to that conducted for the operations phase in that

1 water quality -- water chemistry was modelled under the
2 scenarios of expected overflow volumes from both the
3 seepage collection ponds and also the open pit.

4 Under those scenarios, it was also
5 considered the -- the water -- a treatment wetland
6 could achieve in terms of improving the water chemistry
7 to those environments. Under the baseline conditions,
8 it was very obvious that the -- the wetland that is --
9 currently exists between the grid pond system and Nico
10 Lake is very effective at removing some of the key
11 metals that have been identified as existing in the
12 upper watershed of the Burke Lake system.

13 Using that sort of understanding, and
14 also looking at the site-specific water quality
15 objectives, each of those -- each -- each of the
16 projected chemistry for the - - the receiving
17 environment was assessed with or without wetlands.

18 Without wetlands under the closure
19 scenario, specifically for the initial overflow and
20 also for the far future once steady state had been
21 achieved in the open pit, chemistry within the
22 receiving environment was identified for the most part
23 to remain below site-specific water quality objectives
24 by Peanut Lake.

25 Where there were those exceedances to

1 site-specific water quality objectives for in -- within
2 Nico and Peanut Lake, it was identified that in those
3 scenarios they - - those concentrations were still
4 below the maximum baseline concentration that will be
5 measured in the baseline condition.

6 Under that scenario, and also various
7 other assumptions, the risk assessment determined that
8 the potential for aquatic health effects was
9 negligible. With the use of wetlands to treat those
10 flows before they reach the Nico and -- and Peanut
11 Lake, the chemistry results all resulted below the
12 site-specific -- the proposed site-specific water
13 quality guidelines or objectives.

14 So in fact, the wetland system provides
15 that -- that extra layer of protection to the receiving
16 environment. In the closure scenario with the open pit
17 overflow and the overflow from the seepage collection
18 ponds, that chemical change as you move through the
19 Burke Lake system, that reduction in chemistry, or that
20 reduction in water quality still exists, as it does so
21 for the baseline conditions.

22 And most importantly, the changes to
23 water quality in the Marian River under the closure
24 scenario are expected to be negligible in terms of its
25 potential to affect aquatic life.

1 And then just reiterating some of the
2 points that I made earlier. Without the -- the
3 constructed wetland treatment system the negligible --
4 negligible adverse effects to aquatic health, wildlife
5 health, and human health, from changes in water
6 chemistry as a result of the project, negligible
7 adverse effects are predicted in Nico, Peanut, and
8 Burke Lakes, and the Marian River.

9 The constructed wetlands also provide an
10 added level of protection in the closure and post-
11 closure condition. And that people's opportunity trad
12 -- traditionally use the Marian River from the Nico
13 project is -- will be negligible. Thank you.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 MR. RICK SCHRYER: Rick Schryer,
18 Fortune Minerals. Thank you, John. John talked a
19 little bit about water quality, both during operations
20 and closure. I'm going to discuss a little bit about
21 the strategy that we will use in order to reach those
22 water quality objectives.

23 Long-term impacts related to closure and
24 reclamation of the Nico project have been identified as
25 a high priority item for most interested parties. In

1 fact, Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus and Chief Alfonz
2 Nitsiza both mentioned the long-term use of the area by
3 the Tlicho people and whether or not, you know, that
4 would be something that could be maintained.

5 Fortune Minerals developed a conceptual
6 closure plan for the DAR and we have continued to work
7 on it. We received a letter from the Board last month
8 requesting a more detailed closure analysis for the
9 project in order to look at likelihoods and scenarios.

10 We provided a response to the Board on
11 August 20th to that letter. One (1) of the greatest
12 concerns that was identified by the parties was the
13 length of time it would take the open pit to fill, and
14 consequently the length of time it would take in order
15 to reach a final closure condition. So it was the
16 uncertainty tied to that that was one (1) of the larger
17 concerns.

18 Fortune's objective is to release the
19 property in a manner that is safe for wildlife,
20 aquatic, and human health. In order to meet that goal
21 we looked at all of the cl -- the different project
22 elements that would be involved in closure, which are
23 the co-disposal facility, the flooded open pit, the
24 constructed wetland treatment system, and the other
25 aspects of the infrastructure, the mill, the camp, and

1 so forth, of the project itself, and looked at how
2 these elements would interact and how we could best
3 deal with them at closure in order to be able to walk
4 away from the project in a safe manner.

5 Just to remind everybody what those
6 elements look like, this is the co-disposal facility
7 here. This is the surface of it. At closure, 85
8 percent of the water that touches the CDF (phonetic)
9 will flow towards the open pit, 15 percent will come
10 out as seepage from the toe of the CDF. The open pit
11 is here and water would flow out of it. Once it
12 reaches capacity it would flow out here.

13 For the CDF, water -- the -- the cover
14 would be placed over a portion of the surface. We'll
15 use locally available glacial till, which is a mixture
16 of sand and -- and rocks and gravel. This will
17 minimize the ability for wind and water to erode the
18 surface, it will limit the amount of water, the
19 infiltration that will go into the CDF, and it'll
20 provide an adequate -- what's called a "store-and-
21 release capacity" in that water will come in and come
22 out without actually going down into the CDF. That's
23 an important consideration when trying to gauge how
24 much seepage is actually going to come out of the CDF.

25 Fortune Minerals acknowledges that the

1 seepage coming -- the small volume of water coming out
2 of the CDF will likely require some level of treatment.
3 In order to deal with this potential eventuality, we
4 have always said that we will use constructed wetlands
5 to treat this water. It is a scientifically sound
6 solution that provides a long-term solution to water
7 quality.

8 In order to demonstrate that this system
9 will work, we have submitted a plan that has four (4)
10 stages. The first would be an indoor pilot study,
11 which would then -- once that is successful, move on to
12 an outdoor pilot scale study, which would be allowed to
13 freeze, same as it would at Nico. We would then build
14 a demonstration-scale treatment wetland at Nico. And
15 then, finally, we would build the full-scale model, but
16 only after the demonstration-scale model would be shown
17 to be successful.

18 This is all going to be done early in
19 operations. We want to be able to demonstrate this
20 technology just when the mine starts up, so that we can
21 actually run it for the life of mine and be able to
22 demonstrate that the technology is viable.

23 These systems are built specifically to
24 deal with the water chemistry at the site and the
25 flows. So if there's a problem with aluminum, you can

1 build a cell to deal with aluminum. If there's a
2 problem with arsenic, you can build a cell to deal with
3 arsenic. So they're very much site-specific.

4 Later in operations, as I mentioned
5 earlier, the greatest -- one (1) of the greater
6 concerns we had was the extended period for -- period
7 for open fill -- open-pit filling. Fortune is ready to
8 commit to actively filling the open pit in order to
9 reach its final closure condition earlier. This would
10 take approximately twelve (12) years, and the water
11 would come from the Marian River.

12 The Marian River is the only real source
13 of where we could get water. The other lakes in the
14 area are too small. And the reason it would take
15 twelve (12) years is that we can't pump any more water
16 out of the Marian River without actually causing it
17 harm by reducing its water levels. And this pumping,
18 of course, would be done according to DFO guidelines.

19 The process would then be to actively
20 fill the open pit until it's almost full. Then we
21 would stop and let the water settle out, and we would
22 look at the water quality of the open pit and see if it
23 needed treatment or not.

24 If it still needed treatment, there are
25 a number of in-pit treatment options that we can use,

1 such as the introduction of nutrients or addition of
2 salt. There's a variety of things you can do.

3 If that still doesn't work, then you
4 would have to build the -- the second -- a second
5 treatment wetland to deal with the flow from the open
6 pit.

7 You -- you need, though -- you need to
8 wait before you can build the second wetland because a)
9 you need to know the water chemistry, because that's
10 vital in the correct construction of the -- the wetland
11 if it is to perform correctly, but also you need the
12 water. So you can't build it ten (10) years in
13 advance, because you need flow through it. Our
14 security bond will cover both those options in terms of
15 having money in place for the second wetland, and for
16 active filling of the open pit.

17 As requested, Fortune Minerals examined
18 the likelihood of the various components of the -- of
19 the closure being in the range -- or, the events
20 occurring according to what we had predicted them to
21 be. We are very confident in the chemistry of the CDF
22 won't be worse than predicted. And we're very
23 confident in the flow volumes from the CDF.

24 We're also very confident that the cont
25 -- the constructed wetland system can perform at the

1 levels that are required. This is a technology that's
2 used, actually, in the North. A lot of the
3 communities, the Tlicho communities, use wetland
4 treatment systems to deal with their own municipal
5 sewage. And so it's a technology that's used across
6 the world.

7 Fortune Minerals is confident as well
8 that adverse effects on the receptors are not likely to
9 occur in Nico, Peanut, and Burke Lakes, and the Marian
10 River with the current closure plan. The addi -- the
11 inclusion of the wetland treatment systems provides an
12 added measure of assurance that adverse effects on
13 surface waters from the open pit will not occur during
14 closure or post-closure.

15 Fortune Minerals also went out and
16 sought a second opinion on the volume of water that
17 would come out of the open pit. The results of the
18 second opinion were that they -- the second consulting
19 company thought the flows would actually be
20 considerably lower than was first estimated. We used
21 the higher of the two (2) numbers in our estimate, to
22 be conservative.

23 We'll be providing more detail on the
24 constructed wetlands in our session on Wednesday, when
25 we address water quality. But if anybody has any

1 questions today, they're more than welcome to come to
2 talk to me or any member of my team.

3 Just to deal a bit with some other
4 aspects of closure quickly. The site infrastructure
5 would be removed and the ground would be recontoured.
6 The -- and allowed to revegetate. The fate of the Nico
7 project access road would be up to the Tlicho
8 government. The road is on their land, and they would
9 need to instruct us on how to move -- how to deal with
10 that road. I'm sure we can deal with that in further
11 negotiations.

12 Fortune Minerals is committed to
13 involving Tlicho people in the dem -- determination of
14 the vegetation cover on the CDF, and also for the
15 infrastructure components where it needs to be
16 revegetated. We fully expect that traditional
17 knowledge would be incorporated into the closure
18 planning as the Nico project moves into operation.

19 And progressive reclamation will be
20 carried out during operations so that we can measure
21 our success in reclamation techniques, so that when we
22 reach closure we are in a position to effectively close
23 the site.

24 John mentioned earlier the flow of water
25 from the site below Hislop Lake. I again encourage

1 people to take a look at the models that are presented
2 up front. The larger of the models has a light showing
3 where the water flows. And I think you'll find it in -
4 - and it will give you some clarity, in terms of water
5 flows in relation to the project and the location of
6 Hislop Lake. And with that, I'll invite Dr. John Virgl
7 to come and talk about caribou.

8

9 (BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11 DR. JOHN VIRGL: Good afternoon, and
12 thank you all for coming here to join us in talking
13 about the -- the Nico project. My name is John Virgl,
14 and I'm here today to talk with you about caribou.

15 Caribou is identified as a key line of
16 inquiry in the del -- in the reference -- or, sorry, in
17 the terms of reference for the del -- Developer's
18 Assessment Report. This presentation is a summary of
19 the -- of that key line inquiry, and also a summary of
20 additional information that was provided by Fortune
21 through the Information Requests, through the
22 undertakings after the technical sessions, and the
23 information at the technical sessions itself.

24 The presenting -- the presentation is
25 meant to provide an overview of the effects from the

1 Nico Project and the cumulative effects from the
2 project and other developments on both woodland caribou
3 and barren-ground caribou, particularly the Bathurst
4 caribou herd.

5 Fortune understands the importance of
6 caribou to the Tlicho people, the Yellowknives, and the
7 Metis and recognizes the impact of caribou harvest
8 reductions to the Tlicho way of life, to the
9 traditional and cultural use of caribou, and to the
10 economies associated with caribou. Fortune is aware of
11 these issues and intends to proceed in the most
12 respectful manner in the construction, operation, and
13 closure of the Nico Project.

14 This slide doesn't show it, but on top
15 of it, it says "Woodland Caribou." And so, first of
16 all, I would like to talk about effects to woodland
17 caribou and the Nico Project. Nico Project is on the
18 eastern edge of the woodland caribou range in the
19 Northwest Territories. It basically lies in the Taiga
20 Shield eco -- ecoregion, which is just beyond the Taiga
21 Shield, Taiga Plains boundary. This boundary is the
22 proposed boundary of the range of woodland caribou,
23 specifically the Northwest Territory south herd range.

24 The thing about woodland caribou is that
25 they occur at low density. They often occur in very

1 small groups of one (1) to a few individuals, and they
2 space themselves out. And this is all a strategy
3 around hiding from predators. And the Wek'eezhii
4 Renewable Resources Board latest publication that
5 contained a traditional knowledge section stated this
6 quite clearly. Traditional knowledge also indicates
7 that woodland caribou are secretive and they camouflage
8 themselves in the forest.

9 So there is a number of years of
10 baseline studies done at the -- at the Nico Project in
11 the regional study area and the local study area, and
12 along the proposed winter -- or not winter access, but
13 the -- the access road corridor. And several people
14 from Whati were involved in those baseline studies.

15 And during those baseline studies, we
16 recorded no woodland caribou. This is not surprising,
17 given the -- the low densities that they occur at and
18 the fact that they're secretive and camouflage
19 themselves.

20 Now, this does not mean that they are
21 not there. The -- the traditional and local knowledge
22 from that same Wek'eezhii -- Wek'eezhii -- sorry for my
23 pronunciation of this word -- Reserve's Renewable Board
24 also has stated that there has been traditional hunting
25 of woodland caribou in the region, and woodland caribou

1 are more common to the west of the Nico Project area,
2 beyond Whatì.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 DR. JOHN VIRGL: The assessment to
7 woodland caribou was primarily focussed on impacts to
8 caribou habitat. As I mentioned, the density of
9 boreal, or woodland, caribou in the region is low.
10 It's about one point four (1.4) caribou per 100 square
11 kilometres.

12 To put this into context, the Nico Mine
13 itself is going to cover an area of 4.9 square
14 kilometres. The -- the project access road is going to
15 be about 27 kilometres long and about 10 metres wide.
16 So there's going to be very little habitat removed for
17 -- for individual woodland caribou from this project.

18 Within the woodland caribou range
19 itself, the predominant disturbance factor currently is
20 fire; 99 percent of the disturbance to the woodland
21 caribou range right now in the NWT is related to fire.
22 The remaining 1 percent is from human development.
23 This is the same situation that we have where I come
24 from in Northern Saskatchewan, that -- in that most of
25 the disturbance in Northern Saskatchewan is from fire

1 and not from human development. And there's a number
2 of factors that influence woodland caribou as the
3 habitat changes, and it's not well understood how
4 caribou in the NWT respond to that change in fire.

5 This figure here shows the location of
6 the Nico Project in relation to the current woodland
7 caribou range, and as you can see it's on the eastern
8 edge of the herd's range. When we assessed the effects
9 of -- of the project on woodland caribou that was
10 recommended to us in an undertaking from Environment
11 Canada, we included the -- the Nico Project, the
12 complete Nico Project, in the woodland caribou range.
13 We also included other types of development, such as
14 the proposed Tlicho road route and some other access
15 roads, or -- or winter roads, in the -- in the area.

16 When we added all that disturbance up
17 across the landscape from development, it came out that
18 the Nico Project makes up less than 0.1 percent of the
19 woodland caribou range. We added everything up
20 together, all the different types of development; it
21 did not change the actual proportion of disturbance to
22 woodland caribou habitat from development. It is still
23 -- and -- and fire. It was still within the 36 to 38
24 percent of the current disturbance to woodland caribou
25 range. So the Nico Project is really adding very

1 little disturbance to woodland caribou range. It would
2 affect very few individuals of woodland caribou.

3 Sorry for this slide. I kind of think -
4 - thought this was going to happen from watching over
5 there. Basically, it says that with -- with the ana --
6 with the analysis and the assessment we did for
7 woodland caribou, that changes to people's opportunity
8 for traditional use of woodland caribou from the Nico
9 Project will be negligible.

10 Part of this conclusion is based on the
11 mitigation strategies that Fortune will use while
12 constructing, operating, and closing this project, and
13 I will go through these -- these mitigation strategies
14 at the end of the presentation, as they apply not only
15 to woodland caribou, but also to the barren-ground
16 caribou.

17 Okay. I don't like this. For the
18 Bathurst caribou herd, we did a similar analysis as for
19 woodland caribou in that the -- the effects were really
20 concentrated on changes to habitat, and this included
21 not only the direct changes to habitat or the physical
22 removal of the habitat from the project, but also on
23 the indirect or the changes to habitat that occur
24 because the project is there; and it makes noise, and
25 it makes sounds, and it has people and machinery around

1 it, and that can disturb animals, too. So we looked at
2 how those changes could affect caribou.

3 We -- we looked at it on both the -- for
4 the winter range of barren-ground caribou, and also for
5 the annual range. It's important to point out that the
6 Nico Project really cur -- is really going to only
7 affect habitat in the winter range.

8 The -- the seasonal and annual ranges
9 that -- that were -- that we determined were based on
10 ENR's satellite collar data from 1996 through 2010. So
11 it considers the herd when -- when the herd was very
12 large and used a large area, and also when the herd has
13 decreased more recently and has shrunk its -- its use
14 of the winter range and the annual range.

15 This figure shows the -- the winter
16 range of the Bathurst caribou herd basically extending
17 from Great Bear Lake in the northwest to the Southern
18 Saskatchewan in the southeast. The Nico Project is --
19 is located within on the -- on the edge of the -- of
20 the winter range. And the winter range is roughly
21 about 200,000 square kilometres. And Nico Project
22 makes up less than 1 -- less than .1 percent of that
23 range.

24 Now we didn't just look at what the Nico
25 Project does to the winter range, but we also looked at

1 all of the other previous, existing, and reasonably
2 future, foreseeably future developments that could
3 impact habitat in -- in -- on the -- on the winter
4 range. We also did that for the annual range.

5 So here's the annual range of the
6 Bathurst caribou herd, and this includes the calving
7 range, the post-calving range, the -- the fall re --
8 rut range, and the northern migration range plus the
9 winter range. And as you can see, the Nico Project is
10 on the edge of this range because it's on the edge of
11 the winter range, which makes up a portion of this
12 annual range. Of course, the annual range is even
13 larger than the winter range and, therefore, the Nico
14 Project makes up even a smaller percentage of the
15 annual range.

16 When Fortune was asked to analyze the
17 effects to the annual range for the Nico Project and
18 all the other existing and previous developments, the -
19 - the results of that analysis were similar to what was
20 presented in -- in the DAR, in that -- that really
21 there was a very small amount of habitat taken up
22 within the annual range and the winter range. And this
23 largely because of the small area of development within
24 these ranges relative to the size of the winter and
25 annual range.

1 This slide here summarizes the
2 assessment of caribou habitat. So we looked at what
3 the change would be from the Nico Project on the
4 physical habitat itself, and that's less than 1
5 percent.

6 In addition, the project site is to be
7 reclaimed. Most of the project site will be reclaimed
8 at the end, revegetated.

9 We also looked at how the project itself
10 will influence caribou around the project area, or what
11 we call a zone of influence, where -- where caribou may
12 actually avoid the project. But this -- this avoidance
13 is reversible, in that at the end of the project, when
14 there is no activity there anymore, caribou will likely
15 continue to use that area around the project.

16 We also looked at all of the
17 developments in the annual and winter ranges and how
18 they influenced the -- the movement and behaviour and
19 avoidance of caribou. And the overall conclusion was
20 that is was low. Again, this is because of the low
21 number of developments in the overall large area of the
22 annual and winter ranges.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 DR. JOHN VIRGL: In addition to
2 habitat, we also looked at what the project could do to
3 caribou while caribou are wandering through the area.
4 Does the project directly influence caribou mortality
5 or caribou health? And the conclusion here is that the
6 Nico Project would have a minimal effect on caribou
7 direct mortality and caribou health. This applies both
8 to barren-ground caribou and woodland caribou.

9 And the evidence for this comes from the
10 results of monitoring and mitigation at other operating
11 mines in the NWT, such as the Ekati Mine, the Diavik
12 Mine, and the Snap Lake Mines. These mines have been
13 in operation for over ten (10) years, and the number of
14 caribou that die from direct mine-related mortality is
15 extremely low. In some cases, at some mines it has not
16 been observed.

17 The -- the wildlife risk assessment also
18 concluded that there would be no measurable adverse
19 health risks to caribou. The assessment also predicted
20 that the increase in access for harvesting due to the
21 Nico access road would have a moderate impact on
22 caribou abundance in the area. And this largely
23 because although the access road will in -- increase
24 the duration of potential caribou harvest, it really
25 doesn't ex -- extend the geographic extent of hunting

1 into the winter range. It has a very localized effect.

2 So in conclusion, the -- the EA, the
3 undertakings, the Information Requests, looked at
4 direct habitat loss from the project and other
5 projects, changes in the habitat quality or caribou
6 distribution around the projects, increased access for
7 hunting, caribou reproduction, and direct mine-related
8 mortality. And all of these assessments tell us that
9 changes to people's opportunity for traditional use of
10 the Bathurst caribou herd from the project should be
11 negligible.

12 As I mentioned, the negligible effect,
13 or low impact to caribou and people from the project
14 are also partly due to the mitigation Fortune will use
15 at the project, and this slide shows the key mitigation
16 strategies that Fortune will use to limit effects to
17 caribou. And they include a layout of the mine
18 footprint, which has been much reduced to limit the
19 area that is disturbed.

20 Fortune is recommending a no-hunting
21 policy on the Nico Project access road. This would
22 basically remove the effect of harvesting caribou from
23 the road. Watering of roads to suppress dust
24 production. Speed limits will be established and re --
25 and enforced; this is to limit the vehicle collisions

1 with caribou and other wildlife.

2 Road berms will be covered with small-
3 sized granule material. This is to allow wild --
4 caribou and wildlife to move easily through the site.
5 The entire site will be recontoured at closure. This
6 again will facilitate movement through the area.

7 Wildlife occurrences will be monitored
8 and communicated to site personnel. All employees will
9 be provided with environmental awareness training. And
10 a Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program will be developed
11 for the Nico Project to test the impact predictions and
12 to monitor the success of these mitigation strategies
13 that are put in place to limit the effects and risks to
14 caribou and other wildlife. Thank you.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Can I interrupt for
16 one (1) second here? You have one (1) more
17 presentation to go through? Okay.

18 MR. RICK SCHRYER: Rick Schryer,
19 Fortune Minerals. Yes, we have one (1) remaining
20 presentation on the socioeconomic assessment.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. What we'll do
22 though is that we -- we kind of scheduled fifteen (15)
23 minutes for this. So if we could maybe get through it,
24 and then what we'll do is after that we'll take a
25 break. And then we'll take questions from the -- the

1 public, from the community of Whati.

2 And so if you can make it short if we
3 can. Thank you.

4 MR. RICK SCHRYER: Thank you.

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 MR. PAT MOLONEY: Pat Moloney, Fortune
9 Minerals, with the socioeconomic. With regards to the
10 impacts of the project, we recognize that there are
11 both negative and positive impacts.

12 From the negative perspective we do
13 recognize that there's the potential for an increased
14 demand for public infrastructure and services. There's
15 a possibility of temporary in-migration of workers,
16 particularly to Whati, simply because it's the closest
17 community to the site.

18 With work opportunities comes reduced
19 time in the home and community. Being outside of your
20 home community can also result in a reduced use of
21 traditional languages and other cultural values.

22 Increased vehicular traffic, trucks on
23 the road, increases the risk of accidents and public
24 safety. And the down side of having a mine site that
25 doesn't last forever is that at some point post-

1 closure, there's decreased jobs and revenues.

2 On the positive impacts of the project,
3 there is an increased tax base, more money in people's
4 pockets, more money in the community, increased
5 employment opportunities, and also contracting and
6 procurement opportunities.

7 Job opportunities also turn into the
8 promotion of education and training. Jobs turn into
9 increased family and disposable income. And more
10 trained and skilled people increase the community's
11 capacity for future opportunities.

12 The project, it is expected to have a
13 positive impact on -- on sev -- several different
14 levels. From an individual level, it's going to
15 increase income opportunities for the people working
16 there during construction, operations, and in closure.

17 At the communities level, direct
18 payments to the Tlicho communities will add to local
19 economy, and secondary benefits will include better
20 infrastructure and more consumer spending.

21 At the business level, there's the
22 potential for increased revenues and profits for both
23 local and regional businesses. And finally, at the
24 government level, the mine would contribute to
25 territorial GDP, or gross Domestic product, taxes, and

1 royalties.

2 From an operations perspective, for the
3 -- the life of mine, just from direct employment it's
4 estimated to be about \$343 million. From a goods and
5 services, that contract and procurement, 1.4 billion,
6 and a total direct gross domestic product of 1.8
7 billion. So the revenues to the Territorial Government
8 would be 156 million over the course of the -- of the
9 mine life, and at the Federal level, 363 million.

10 Talking about jobs, we're estimating
11 it's going to be in the ballpark of about three hundred
12 (300) jobs during construction. I know that Tom talked
13 earlier about the -- the jobs during operations. When
14 the underground is peaking during year 1 and year 2,
15 all together it's going to be about two hundred and
16 sixty-nine (269) jobs at the mine site. It's expected
17 that the underground will be contracted out.

18 Once the underground is done, the mine
19 side of the operations is going to peak at about a
20 hundred and eighty-eight (188) jobs. If we were to
21 estimate the number of jobs that would be Tlicho, based
22 on what the diamond mines are successfully doing right
23 now, they're averaging between 30 and 40 percent of
24 their workforce being Tlicho.

25 So if we take, you know, 30 percent of a

1 hundred and eighty (180) jobs, it's probably sixty (60)
2 jobs. If we're talking seventy (70) -- or, sorry, 40
3 percent, it's closer to seventy (70) jobs as a
4 ballpark.

5 And the -- the -- one (1) of the great
6 things about the mining industry is that it pays very
7 well. The average annual wage, before you're getting
8 overtime and -- and all the other benefits that come
9 with it, is -- is well over seventy thousand dollars
10 (\$70,000) a year.

11 So far, in the last four (4) to five (5)
12 years, you can't quite see it, but at the top it's
13 talking about work opportunities during the exploration
14 process, when we've cu -- when we've had our camp at
15 Nico for -- since -- from 2007 to 2011. And we stopped
16 counting at 2011 because the last year, we haven't
17 really had anything going on except care and
18 maintenance. But we had sixty-nine (69) opportunities
19 to hire people to work at site, and of those sixty-nine
20 (69), fifty-two (52) were filled by Aboriginal people.
21 So we were working at about three quarters (3/4s) of
22 the people at site were either Tlicho or -- or local
23 Metis.

24 We also used the Tlicho Investment Corp.
25 to bring in extra people when we needed them. And we

1 also used Tlicho Air to get people to and from the
2 communities to site or from Yellowknife to site. And
3 that's another three hundred and eighty-two thousand
4 dollars (\$382,000) spent on that.

5 And just during the exploration phase --
6 sorry, exploration phase, we invested or injected
7 another four hundred and sixty-seven thousand dollars
8 (\$467,000) into the local communities by hiring all
9 those people just during the exploration.

10 Some of the -- the mitigation strategies
11 that we're looking at to -- to maximize getting Tlicho
12 people in the workforce: providing transportation from
13 home communities to work; providing extra training for
14 supervisors and also those people that are being
15 promoted during the -- the life of the project; giving
16 extra training for people coming in to entry-level
17 positions, including Aboriginal women trying to
18 increase their skill set, the ability to -- to get in
19 and successfully remain in the workforce with us;
20 opportunities for apprenticeships.

21 Some of the feedback from the
22 communities was -- and we were trying to use some of
23 that feedback -- was that candidates weren't getting
24 any opportunities at all for the diamond mines because
25 of criminal records. And one (1) of the things that we

1 wanted to be open about was that we wanted to be as
2 flexible as possible at -- at reviewing candidates'
3 criminal records because we felt that if we could
4 successfully incorporate that person into our workforce
5 without it being a risk to other people's health and
6 safety, we wanted to give that person an opportunity to
7 work. So we wanted to be more flexible on that.

8 We wanted to consider equivalent skills
9 and qualifications, so taking into account the fact
10 that someone shouldn't necessarily be screened out of
11 the opportunity to work because they haven't graduated
12 from high school if they've got the ability to do the -
13 - the core part of the job is somebody else that we
14 wanted to do to try and maximize the Tlicho hiring.

15 We wanted to be able to let people work
16 -- speak their own language in the workforce if it
17 didn't cause any kind of risk to -- to safety in -- in
18 the -- on the job site. And I've been working with the
19 Mine Training Society to start to prepare for
20 developing training programs when we get to that point.

21 Bill...?

22 MR. BILL SHEPARD: We believe the
23 project and we know the project, so we wanted to be
24 inter -- incremental increases in procurement levels
25 and strategy.

1 Bill Shepard, by the way, Fortune
2 Minerals.

3 We looked at this approach as more of a
4 behavioural-based approach, as far as where we're
5 looking now. As we mentioned earlier, the mine is
6 currently in a care and maintenance state. So we're
7 not doing a lot of business, as far as new business in
8 the community. So we looked at our old business model,
9 or how we're doing business currently in the community.

10 I reported before that we have developed
11 relationships within the North and within the community
12 with our supply base; currently, about a hundred and
13 fifteen (115) suppliers, the majority of our suppliers
14 being from the North. So we like to keep our money
15 spent in the Northern communities. And we do make an
16 effort -- we do make an effort to look for Aboriginal -
17 - Aboriginal-based businesses as well.

18 One (1) of our things we're doing is
19 trying to increase opportunity for Northern businesses
20 and Northern First Nation businesses. So we're
21 developing our procurement strategies and policies to
22 focus on Tlicho businesses first, Northern Aboriginal
23 businesses next, businesses from the North in general,
24 before we go outside of the communities.

25 We've done this very successfully,

1 because we have a very strong relationship with the
2 Tlicho Investment Corporation. A lot of our supplies
3 and services currently come from Tlicho Investment
4 Corporations or joint-venture cust -- joint-venture
5 companies from the Tlicho Investment Corporation. And
6 we're looking -- we have performed many seminars and
7 workshops within the community, and will continue to do
8 so, to build up that capacity, preparing for the mine
9 site to open.

10 To do so as well, as Tom had mentioned
11 earlier, we've also opened an office here in
12 Yellowknife so that myself and my team are here
13 locally. And we are here more and more often all the
14 time. We have a -- a business place -- a place of
15 business to operate out of to make sure that we can do
16 our supplier development within the community in a
17 professional and visible way.

18 Thanks. Oh, that's my slide again? I
19 thought they moved it. We also looked to -- for future
20 business opportunities. What you can see from the
21 logos on the side there, mainly are Tlicho companies,
22 Tlicho Investment/TIC companies we are already
23 currently doing business with. So as I mentioned
24 earlier, we already have a very strong relationship
25 with Tlicho companies and companies from the North.

1 So our strategy is not to do anything
2 different, but to strengthen our current behaviours and
3 our current business strategies. We've looked at the
4 future contracts that are available, and we find that
5 they are well within the skill set of Northern
6 companies and Northern First Nation companies --
7 meaning Tlicho -- for food services, trucking, labour,
8 environmental support systems, communications, and so
9 on.

10 So we thought our strategy was mainly
11 to, as I say, continue or strengthen with the Tlicho
12 Investment Corporation. But as we bring on new
13 businesses and new entrepreneurs, how do we teach
14 businesses to be better suppliers?

15 So our second strategic relationship
16 that we've developed here is with the Canadian Council
17 for Aboriginal Business. And they've partnered with
18 Fortune Minerals to help us develop new companies or
19 new emerging companies, so they can make sure they have
20 the proper business strategies in place, so they can be
21 successful in bidding for contracts.

22 We know that not all local businesses,
23 especially new entrepreneurs, can do a contract in its
24 entirety. So we've already made provisions to have
25 set-asides and things available for people to do

1 portions of contracts while they develop the capacities
2 locally. And with the partnerships we developed with
3 the Tlicho Investment Corporation and the CCAB, we
4 think we will be very successful.

5 If we have to use a company that is
6 outside of what I've mentioned because we cannot find
7 the capacity here in a Tlicho company or a Northern
8 Aboriginal company, once again, the CCAB is going to
9 help us manage that and look for companies that have
10 positive First Nations strategies and abilities. So
11 we're really happy with the relationship we developed
12 with them to help us be successful.

13 MR. PAT MOLONEY: Pat Moloney, Fortune
14 Minerals, again. With regards to in-migration, some of
15 the mitigation measures that we want to implement in
16 anticipation of that potential, again, transporting
17 people from their home communities to the work site
18 itself.

19 The fact that our mine camp itself is
20 going to have all the necessary facilities to sustain a
21 workforce will also take some ease off of the services,
22 with people in the work site not having to go back to
23 their community for medical services, for -- for
24 eating, for a lot of those kinds of things.

25 We're also proposing to conduct an in-

1 migration risk analysis, and that would include
2 conducting, through literature, a literature review;
3 coming into the communities and meeting with people,
4 interviewing people; determining what their -- their
5 awareness or their insight can be; and using those
6 results to refine an in-migration strategy.

7 At the end, in summary, we believe that
8 there will be positive socioeconomic benefits and very
9 limited negative socioeconomic impacts from this
10 project. Thank you.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you.
12 Thank you for your presentation. Would the -- we went
13 a little bit over our limit, in terms of time, but I
14 think you guys went through your presentation as best
15 you can.

16 We're going to take a fifteen (15)
17 minute break, but before we take a fifteen (15) minute
18 break I want to ask -- the next part of the agenda is
19 that we're going to get questions from the community to
20 the Developer.

21 And I mentioned a little bit earlier
22 today that the Board that's here today, we want to hear
23 from you. We want to hear what the people in the
24 community have to say. What are your issues? What are
25 your concerns in areas of potential environmental

1 impacts, socioeconomic impacts, culture impacts?

2 And we want to listen to the Elders and
3 the people in the community. And I encourage them to
4 come up to say what -- what's on their mind. And
5 again, when they do come up I'd like you to introduce
6 yourself just so that we have it on record as well.

7 So what we'll do is we'll stop there.
8 We'll come back at 3:15, and we'll continue on. And as
9 I mentioned this -- this morning, because we started
10 late, I'm willing to continue on into the evening until
11 we are able to hear from everybody in the community as
12 best as possible. Because we lost two (2) hours this
13 morning, I'm willing to go two (2) hours after -- after
14 six o'clock.

15 Thank you. And we'll stop for fifteen
16 (15) minutes.

17

18 --- Upon recessing at 3:03 p.m.

19 --- Upon resuming at 3:22 p.m.

20

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, get everybody
22 back in here and we could start. The -- this morning
23 we'd -- okay. This is going to be for interpreters.

24

25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. We're waiting
2 for the interpreters.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you.
7 Before we took a break, we just had a little side
8 discussion, and the issue came up about the agenda and
9 time. And again, this morning we had mentioned that
10 the -- because the equipment came in late to technical
11 errors, the time has been quite important here. And I
12 guess we went over our time limit in regards to the
13 presentation made by Fortune Minerals.

14 However, this morning we -- we condensed
15 those tw -- two (2) presentations into one (1), but
16 we've -- there were some questions from the community
17 through the Developer that was missed out this morning.
18 So again, we're going to stay as long as we can to hear
19 from the people in the community. And there's some
20 logistical issues that I think we could try to work
21 through; I'm hoping we will.

22 But right now, at this point in time, I
23 want to listen from the -- the community questions to
24 the Developer. And if we're not able to get through
25 all of it, I'm hoping that what we could do is -- is

1 put down your questions that you may have and we --
2 what we'll do then is that -- again we need to get that
3 into the public registries so that we are able to -- in
4 case we are not able to hear from everybody.

5 So we're going to go to the Grand Chief
6 Eddie Erasmus, questions from the community to the
7 Developer. Again, if you could mention your name as
8 you speak and so that we have it down for the record.
9 So I -- I want to go Grand Chief. Did you want to
10 comment on it?

11 GRAND CHIEF EDWARD ERASMUS: Grand
12 Chief Eddie Erasmus. First, I would just like to say
13 that the allotted time available for Developer to speak
14 was fifty (50) minutes, and when you add both
15 presentations, but they end up speaking for an hour and
16 twenty (20). It doesn't give us enough time. Our
17 Elders were -- were suppose to start speaking at eleven
18 o'clock. Now they're tired. The time's all taken up.

19 And I want to tell our Elders to try to
20 make it short when they speak, so that we have -- they
21 all wanted to speak, but now our time is taken up. So
22 I just want to -- to let you know that if there's any
23 questions, you should just jot it down. And if we have
24 time left, maybe you can answer, because you already
25 taken up all the time.

1 We don't need anymore from your side to
2 speak. It's just so happened that -- that the airlines
3 -- you know -- and that kind of stuff. But our Elders
4 are -- are tired, so I'll just let them know how -- how
5 they can speak. Make it short and sweet. And if
6 there's any question, the Developers will jot it down.
7 And you don't need to answer the questions as they
8 speak, because time is of essence for us.

9

10 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

11

12 GRAND CHIEF EDWARD ERASMUS: This
13 person be speaking on behalf of this -- of this Nico
14 Project. Just like a time is consuming and making a
15 speech or -- or making a presentation take a long time.
16 This person starts -- starts -- be speaking at 11:00,
17 but that ha -- that -- that hasn't been like what we've
18 been waiting for a long time.

19 The -- the Elders are kind of tired, and
20 we wasted almost about four (4) hours. Nobody has
21 spoken yet. But again we're going to set time -- again
22 so we're going to be asking questions and -- and to ask
23 questions. We'll know -- we're don't have that many
24 time, but we're going to try fill as many people as
25 possible.

1 If the Elders can speak first -- so
2 maybe if Elders can speak first and keep your questions
3 to very limited, because we want to fill as many people
4 as possible. We have Elders from Gameti. We have
5 Elders from Whati, Behchoko, and -- and this include
6 any woman and children who wish to make comments.

7 So now the floor is going to be open for
8 people to ask questions and to make comments. So now
9 that the almost four (4) hours has been wasted, we
10 wanted to have -- we wanted to have more time, but it
11 doesn't seem like that's going to happen because people
12 are travelling by -- as a charter.

13 But we have microphones for anybody to
14 make comments or to ask questions. So if anybody wish
15 to make comments, make sure you introduce yourself
16 before you ask questions or to make comments. So I
17 just wanted to let you know that. The floor is open
18 for comments or questions.

19

20 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

21

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: I want to open up
23 the floor now for -- for members from Whati to come
24 forward to ask questions to the Developer. And if we
25 could, as mentioned by the Grand Chief, that we could

1 make it short but to the point. Okay.

2 If you come up, just introduce yourself.

3 Sorry? John -- okay. John B. Zoe.

4

5 QUESTION PERIOD:

6 MR. JOHN B. ZOE: I'll try to keep it

7 short. I just want to tell -- thank the Chairman and

8 the Board for being here.

9 What I wanted to talk about was the sig

10 -- significance of the Hislop Lake area, that it's not

11 something -- the development is not something that's

12 small. We're talking about a form of impact that's not

13 going to -- that's going to be the -- probably the

14 biggest one (1) in our own history, but it's also going

15 to alter the kind of life that we know today.

16 It doesn't mean that we haven't been

17 impacted before. But most of the impact from the past

18 has been minimal, so there was a lot of time to adapt

19 because of the time and of the period where things were

20 a little more primitive in the development area.

21 We know that the -- that the area is

22 rich in fishery and wildlife, lots of good wetlands,

23 and it's a place that people could survive. And what I

24 want to stress again, other people have mentioned it,

25 is that this is one (1) of the major arteries of the

1 Tlicho people in their movement, in their seasonal
2 movement.

3 It's not somewhere in the bush. This is
4 a major, major artery. It has the trails, winter
5 trails, the summer trails, and now eventually the
6 winter road that continues to go through the area.

7 Our first impact was the -- was the fur
8 trade, and people adjusted themselves to provide
9 provisions for the early fur trade with wild meats,
10 fish, so that those things can be used for the
11 transportation of goods in the North.

12 It not only had the ability to sustain
13 the people in their natural environment, but it could
14 also provide food sources for the -- for the people,
15 for the trade to move their goods around.

16 And people have made adjustments, and in
17 their adjustments they created -- made villages where
18 there could be for -- for harvesting and living. And
19 those villages run all the way from Klaiti (phonetic) -
20 - I'm not sure what the English words are -- and Senati
21 (phonetic), Kagoti, and Tameti (phonetic), and further
22 down the -- towards the Marian Lake. And these
23 villages are still -- the remnants of those villages
24 and the buildings are marked by the fallen stone
25 chimneys that exist; they still do today.

1 And the people that lived there had
2 names and they had families, and where they're buried
3 and their relations to the people that are here today.
4 That's all in their memory.

5 And one (1) of the things that we're
6 trying to do with the traditional knowledge is to try
7 to capture that, but with the time frame that we have
8 with the TK study, we might not capture all that. So
9 there is a -- would be a gaping hole to some degree.

10 But as the Grand Chief mentioned at the
11 treaty, the lands were opened up, but the opening up of
12 those lands didn't include the -- the will or the
13 wishes of the Tlicho in this area.

14 We know that the early exploration, they
15 just followed the trails of the people and most of the
16 abandoned sites that we -- we -- that we presently are
17 being cleaned up or contemplated on being cleaned up
18 are near those sites.

19 And most of the history books that I've
20 read so far, they don't talk anything about the people
21 that were living there, that contributed towards the
22 development of those mines, mostly in wood-cutting,
23 mostly in harvesting, and mostly in doing things that
24 were not necessarily written down.

25 But we -- the Elders, we know, have

1 those stories. There was no recognition of people
2 doing that work, but we've adjusted to that. The
3 development of Kwe Tia, Rayrock Mine, is where the rock
4 goes into the lake, but that rock continues northwest
5 into the Lou Lake area, where in our language we call
6 Qui -- Quiantiiti (phonetic), where the water goes in -
7 - goes and -- in between the -- sits straddled in that
8 same rock.

9 So I kind of take exception to saying
10 that there would be a neg -- negligible effect on the
11 traditional usage, because that same footprint and even
12 buffer zone around it is the area that would be totally
13 removed from the traditional usage.

14 Because -- because it's on a corridor,
15 the Quiantiiti name is there for a reason that it was
16 used, including Burke Lake, which in our language is
17 Deto Tia, which is named after ducks.

18 And there are similar names attached to
19 different parts of the artery trails among the Tlicho
20 landscape. Those are special harvesting sites that are
21 known to be there and are used on the seasonal basis,
22 and so that there is an impact.

23 The Tlicho are the biggest investors
24 here. We know that the landscape, in our memory and in
25 our being, that those are on Tlicho lands, that

1 anything underneath used to belong to the Tlicho lands,
2 to the Tlicho people. And so our investment of the
3 resources and the surface usage is what we are being
4 asked to put on the table. It's huge, if you think
5 about it. Very, very huge.

6 And we know that, even though numbers
7 are shown on the screen about some of these benefits so
8 far to the Tlicho people in different areas, it's very
9 minimal to the amount of money that it's taken to get
10 here, to this point of the hearing, which is millions
11 and millions. And we have to remember that the TK
12 study that we're doing now, it's not for profit based;
13 it's because we want to show what we have there, at
14 least before the -- this process is over.

15 Part of the landscape of the Tlicho,
16 like, we have our biggest investment of the resources
17 and the land, is not without its stories, the stories
18 of how the lands were used, the genealogy of the people
19 that were there, the stories of the trail and how we
20 came to be where we are today, that it's a long history
21 that goes back to our own beginning of time, which can
22 be recounted by many Elders if there was enough time,
23 and enough time to do the study. But in this process,
24 we know that the traditional knowledge study that we're
25 doing today, it's not going to meet the deadline for

1 the full consideration of the Board in making its
2 decision. It's -- it's still a grey area, for me
3 anyways, how that's going to be used.

4 But the land is not without its stories.
5 They come together; they can't be separated. And in
6 this process there is a separation that would not do it
7 justice.

8 We're at a point in time where the
9 challenge that we have in front of us is bigger and
10 probably the biggest than the challenges that we had in
11 the past, like I mentioned. It's huge. It's sometimes
12 mind-boggling to try to look so close into the future
13 in the next few years, or when the mine is developed,
14 when the shovel is dug into the earth, that the changes
15 would be -- would not be measurable in Tlicho human
16 terms.

17 Yes, there will be benefits, but the way
18 of life would be altered forever, and the adjustments
19 would even be greater than the best socioeconomic plans
20 would not be able to address. So, in some ways, we
21 need to address it quicker than to wait for some
22 eligible -- eligibility for some programs later on to
23 address them. It needs to happen right away.

24 So this new development -- this new
25 developing mine site should have some sort of oversight

1 into further collection of TK knowledge in how the mine
2 is managed. Because even though we're being asked to
3 make those lands available, the language, culture and
4 way of life has to be complete with it; we don't see
5 how we can be left behind.

6 And one (1) of the things that we're
7 talking about or what was brought up was the -- was the
8 -- the new stockpiling or co-management of how the --
9 the stockpiling of the waste rock would be made, the
10 capping and the runoff into Lou Lake, and Lou Lake
11 eventually running back to the Marian River. And then
12 the runoff on the other southeast side would eventually
13 go into the wetlands and go back to the Marian River.
14 But I think that's running through the Duck Lake that I
15 was talking about. So there will be an -- an impact.

16 And then today we've hearing that rather
17 than filling up the eventual excavation site, that
18 rather than let it fill naturally, that it would be
19 speeded up in approximately a ten (10) year period on a
20 summer basis, that what would it do to the water levels
21 downstream during that time. I know, conceptually,
22 they're just maybe moving it through a 6 inch pipe, or
23 even larger, for the whole summer. But it's more than
24 just a natural taking a piece of it, like a noodle, and
25 removing it where it won't have an impact.

1 But this is pumped. It's forced removal
2 of water faster than the natural rate of the river.
3 It's going to have an effect on the water levels
4 upstream, because the water will be removed faster than
5 the natural flow. And what effect would that have on
6 the fishery upstream and all the other natural animals
7 that are up there in that area?

8 So this new method of stockpiling is a -
9 - is a fairly new method that may have been used in
10 other northern places in other parts of Canada. But
11 here we're talking about the -- in this area, where
12 it's unique in some ways, the -- the water; the
13 terrain, the soil. Trees are a lot different than
14 where the application may have been done before. And
15 the treatment of the water, using wetlands, we're not
16 even sure if it will work, because we're talking about
17 two (2) big experiments. So there are fears on what
18 effect it may have in the future when these things are
19 not working.

20 And comparing it to a community human
21 waste water filtering system is not the same. We're
22 talking a big, big area. We're talking about a lot
23 more water and we're talking on the large, large scale,
24 which has nothing to do with peoples waste, but the
25 waste that are harmful to the environment should

1 something go wrong.

2 So we don't think that the -- we're not
3 convinced that the wetland treatments will work. It's
4 experimental. So we think that the nat -- we think
5 that the active treatment of water forever may still
6 have to happen. It might not be a choice, we don't
7 know, because everything here is something that, as
8 different parties, we would believe in our way.

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 MR. JOHN B. ZOE: A lot of the -- a lot
13 of the things about the -- about the caribou was that
14 in the early fur trade this area was also used as a
15 caribou harves -- harvesting area; it still continues
16 today. We -- we know that any impact -- even though
17 those impacts were not necessarily the same in the --
18 in the old sense, in the old world, in historical
19 sense, that the impacts here are very quick, and the
20 usage by more people in new methods are the reality of
21 today.

22 Even though the footprint of a road
23 might be minimal, it's the access and human management.
24 The management of how -- how those roads might be used
25 for harvesting is a greater risk than measuri --

1 measuring it in the terms of its nat -- natural usage
2 and how it's been done today. There is no comparison.
3 There is none at all.

4 One (1) of the things that we have now,
5 which we didn't have before, is a Tlicho lands and
6 governing body, the Tlicho government, which has land
7 and management and jurisdictions over those areas. We
8 know that by settling a claim it doesn't matter that --
9 whether -- it doesn't make -- seem to make a difference
10 on governments and -- on how they do business, and
11 implementing -- the way they've been implementing
12 before the agreements.

13 We know that there is no implementation
14 plan that has been adopted by any government yet. The
15 only way to raise these issues is through forums like
16 this. To get recognition for the jurisdiction and even
17 to the point of traditional knowledge, usage, is -- in
18 forums like this, so that presidents can be set, which
19 is really an implementation of rights that we have in
20 our agreements. There is no other way right now, and
21 governments try very hard to just continue things at
22 the -- as the are today, as if the agreements did not -
23 - did not exist.

24

25

(BRIEF PAUSE)

1 MR. JOHN B. ZOE: So I know that this
2 hearing is very, very important, that this project is
3 going to have an impact. We don't know what that
4 impact is. And the decision that the Board makes in
5 its consideration of all the information is going to
6 set a precedent, setting a bar for any other new
7 development in the area. And the lower the bar, the
8 more -- the less we're able to implement provisions in
9 our agreement to make that a reality.

10 So we need to also ensure that because
11 it's a big question mark on whether the new method of
12 stockpiling and the new methods -- experimental methods
13 that are proposed on using wetlands, we don't know if
14 it will work. So we need to ensure that there is some
15 form of a monitoring body to follow and review how
16 these things might kick in, or review and come up with
17 new ways of making sure that the outflow from the site
18 is kept to a minimum.

19 And even the feds, they have a
20 monitoring plan, which only runs on the corridor on
21 each side of the river system. And because a lot of
22 this water flows into the river system from the mine
23 site, especially Deto Tia, which is Burke Lake, where
24 we have Elders here if they're willing to speak, who
25 have used that area before, have been on that lake

1 before, and practised their traditional act --
2 traditional harvesting activities.

3 We know that the place name that it has
4 is part of our language, culture, and way of life. And
5 so the feds should expand that corridor to include the
6 monitoring at Burke Lake, or as we know it, Deto Tia.

7 And I want to say to people here that
8 this is the biggest impact being proposed on the Tlicho
9 people and the landscape as we know it today. It's
10 very, very huge. It cuts pretty close to the
11 traditional-use arteries. We haven't told all our
12 stories and the -- or even collected all the
13 traditional knowledge in that area. And the thing to
14 remember is that we're the biggest investors in this
15 thing. But the things that we have to offer is -- is
16 rounded off as being negligible, there's not going to
17 be much impact.

18 And so we need to ensure that we give
19 definition to what that "negligible" term is. We need
20 to give some light beyond that. So I encourage the
21 people here to talk about their experiences and what
22 they might -- might have heard, or how they think their
23 lives are going to be altered forever. Masi cho.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, John B.
25 Zoe, for your comments. If further people that want to

1 come up to the table to give a presentation, just
2 introduce yourself again.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Also if there's
7 Elders that doesn't want to come to the mic, there's a
8 -- we have a staff in the back. Just put up your hand,
9 and she has a roving mic as well we could bring to the
10 Elders. Go ahead, and introduce yourself.

11

12 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

13

14 ELDER LOUIE WEDAWIN: My name is Louie
15 Wedawin. I live in Whati. I want to speak -- when I
16 speak -- sometime when I think about it when I speak it
17 seems like my heart cries out -- my heart cries out
18 because of all the Elders that -- who had lived here
19 for the past, and when I remember them I remember how
20 it has spoken.

21 Because of the words that have spoken,
22 they used, it brings me kind -- kind of a sorrow and I
23 feel -- I feel really bad remembering what they -- what
24 they had said.

25 I know in the past we had so many

1 different mines, but ours was a Tlicho one (1). We've
2 never been questioned. Everything was done behind a
3 closed door. Department of Indian Affairs was giving
4 out licences to open the mines, but we never been given
5 the chances. And this is the first time we've been
6 given the opportunity to voice our concern.

7 When I think about my Elders, I know how
8 much they suffered -- alive with us today, but I
9 remember, and I thank them very much with what they --
10 how they have done. In 1921 -- Monfwi made the first
11 treaty with the Federal governments, or the Crowns, and
12 he didn't knew about anything about minerals, oil, gas,
13 any kind of minerals. They didn't knew anything about
14 them.

15 But because of the traditional
16 knowledges (sic), it was given the chances, as my
17 grandfather Monfwi, and Jimmy Bruno, all the Elders who
18 became our leaders, even though they had white hairs,
19 today they pass onto us the generations. Today we
20 survive. Today -- with their courages, with their
21 words, and the message which has been passed onto us,
22 with the traditional knowledges which have been passed
23 onto us today we survive because of the -- the --
24 because of the way they have spoken for us.

25 And they have taught us how to work well

1 together, how to -- how to unite -- unite together.

2 And they said, One (1) day -- if you work under the
3 unity, one (1) day you will survive. One (1) day you
4 will own the lands. One (1) day you will be the
5 government of your land. Today that's where we are.

6 That's the reason why I say when I --
7 when I -- when I listened to -- remember -- my heart
8 cries is because I remember what the Elders have said.
9 As a Grand Chief has stated, he said, We can survive if
10 we live in -- if we live in K'ia Goti. We know that
11 there's lots of minerals on the Tlicho lands. We know
12 that there's lots of minerals around on -- in our
13 territories, in our land.

14 But today as I looked up, I said I think
15 that we are getting much more poorer when we look at
16 our riches, or the minerals that's come out of our
17 land. And today when all of the damages have been
18 taken place in our land, or our land some of them were
19 -- were left contaminated, some was cleanup, but we
20 should have water that close in -- that close in from
21 that -- from the lake through -- passing through to
22 Whati and then close to Marian Lake.

23 We talk about the big, major issues. We
24 are not given the chance to voice our concern regarding
25 the minerals that have been found at the Fortune

1 Minerals mines. As I think today, as our Grand Chief
2 says, are we going able to live with -- with what the
3 development that will be taking place within our
4 territory?

5 To me, I think, of -- but as long as --
6 us Dene people continue to live and survive, I want all
7 this, the flowing of the cashflows close to the Tlicho
8 -- to the Tlicho nations, the Tlicho governments, in
9 order for us to be more -- more stronger, to do more,
10 to prosper more, to -- to have a better development
11 system set up.

12 That's the reason why, today, when I
13 think about my Elders and the past, how they survived
14 through the hardships, and today we have all the people
15 working together, and we're all working well together.
16 The developments, the governments, different agencies,
17 the companies, if we all work well together to develop
18 -- towards the developments in the land, we will
19 prosper. We will gain more, we will be stronger, we --
20 we will be healthier.

21 You know, sometimes, if we walk around
22 town, we see some people houses around in our
23 communities. It's so pitiful. You can see it. You
24 will feel maybe depressed just by looking at it. So
25 when we're talking to our governments, listen to us.

1 Listen to us about what we say about the situations are
2 with us today, what we're facing today, where we are
3 today, how we are today, and the living standard.

4 So we cannot be allowed to speak too --
5 too long because of the -- the times, but as my chief,
6 my grand chiefs, and my -- my -- Alphonse and -- and
7 grand chief, my governments, when they're speaking on
8 behalf of us. So sometimes I think about it. I know
9 that they've not done very much for me, and our
10 community but still I thank them today, because they're
11 sitting down in the chairs in a respectful way. They
12 don't -- they don't really -- could get themselves into
13 all kinds of problems, and they respect themselves.
14 That's the reason why I kind of thank them for that,
15 for -- for respecting themselves and their positions.

16 So today, if we're all working well
17 together, we'll be much more stronger position. We'll
18 be strong. We know that all the social problems that
19 we have in our community, we're not -- it's pretty hard
20 to mention everything else. We know that, maybe me, I
21 don't speak English or -- or read or write, but I'm
22 still using my head just to think, to think what --
23 what's better for myself, for my community, for my
24 children, for my tradition and my youth, and know --
25 know that, in the past, we never been questions

1 regarding -- that mine's going to be open but today is
2 the first time we have, because of the Tlicho
3 governments, because we settle our land claim, that
4 it's our government that we -- makes us a stronger per
5 -- people to -- to address our problems and to deal
6 with this kind of mining. And -- and here's all the
7 things that -- the reason why we are speaking today is
8 because we think about our future generations.

9 I always think that we'll be strongly --
10 we'll be much more stronger if we work -- work
11 together. I know that -- I know that you're going to
12 be speaking again probably in Behchoko because at
13 Behchoko, that's where there'll be -- will be -- the
14 next hearing is going to be after Yellowknife.

15 So today, we're all passing on to you
16 our traditional knowledge of how important that -- that
17 site is, and today, when we think about it, our Elders,
18 our grandparents who -- how difficult times they had in
19 those days, in the harsh days, but they -- they have --
20 want us to survive, no matter how tough it was, but
21 they continue to survive today.

22 We will do share some of this
23 traditional knowledge with you, because them, the
24 Elders that have worked so hard for me, for us, for
25 this day, for this generations, and today, us, we will

1 place in them, we're talking about the -- we're talking
2 about our future generations. We're talking about our
3 children and grandchildren. That's all I want to share
4 with you. Thank you.

5

6 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

7

8 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

9

10 ELDER PIERRE BEAVERHO: Yes, I thank
11 you. Yes, and my name is -- yes, I -- as I hear,
12 everybody has spoken. As I hear the Elders and the
13 leaders, the gentleman's name is Pierre Beaverho, the
14 one (1) of the Elder in the communities, one (1) of the
15 Tlicho Advisory Elder Committee.

16 As we're talking about the Hislop Lake,
17 but about opening the mines at the -- at the Hislop
18 Lake. That's -- that's the general things of which we
19 had to address today. I think that we should speak
20 towards -- to that Hislop Lake about this Fortune
21 Mineral, we're talking about the lake.

22 So everything in this world depends on
23 the water. The animal that lives on the surface of the
24 earth, they depends on the water. Even the fish that
25 lives under the water depends on the water. Even the

1 birds that flies up in the sky still depends on the
2 water.

3 For us, human beings, we depends -- even
4 beavers, muskrats, all of it depends on the water.
5 Every animals we can -- we can imagine depends on the
6 water, even the plants. That's why the water is so
7 important to us.

8 If the water ever get damaged or
9 contaminated, how -- all this going to survive. How
10 are the environments going to survive? So for us, as
11 the Dene -- as -- as a Dene people, even our childrens
12 -- even our young -- young ones, they all depends on --
13 they all drink waters.

14 And all the animals, the environment,
15 they depends on water. If the water's been damaged and
16 contaminated, what's going to happen to us? What's
17 going to happen to our future generations? So how are
18 they going to survive? How are they going to survive
19 after we all gone?

20 That's the reason why the water is so
21 important to us. There's so many reasons why we love
22 water so much. Even the birds that live -- even the
23 birds -- the water that lives under the -- under the
24 water, under the surface, under the grounds, all these
25 animals that depends on the water.

1 We know that it's going to be
2 devastating when -- if the water has been damaged, be
3 contaminated. So Hislop Lake, the water goes and flows
4 into Marian lake. The -- the water -- the water -- the
5 people that test the water, the environments, almost
6 every month, when the mine's open, the water has to be
7 tested almost every month just like a doctor or
8 scientists. They have to make sure that they check all
9 the water everywhere often to make sure that the water
10 is safe.

11 So once the mine is open we'll have to
12 be informed but in an honest way. They -- they have to
13 continually checking the water to make sure the water
14 is safe because the water -- all the fish on the river
15 -- creatures are living along the ri -- along the
16 river. Want -- ha -- want to make sure the water is
17 safe for them to -- to survive because we love our
18 land.

19 And all the animals that live on the
20 surface of the land -- under -- under the lands, to
21 make their nest, to grow their youngs, to raise their
22 youngs, that's the reason why we love our land. We
23 love our land because of our animals.

24 If the earth even been damaged, what are
25 we going to do? How are we going to -- how are our

1 animals going to survive? This are the things of which
2 we are -- we are thinking about with our future
3 generations.

4 So, well, now, for example, when you
5 talk about the mines, all the gravels has been crushed,
6 all been -- the minerals have been crushed out, be --
7 will be dumped into one (1) site. You know, you're
8 talking about all the contaminated site. You're
9 talking about the -- all the area that's going to be --
10 has to be cleaned up.

11 So all the minerals of the deposits with
12 the chemicals that's in it. When you -- when you make
13 -- when you make piles there, you know, every time --
14 you go find a place, you go find somewhere where it
15 could be dumped and the site where it's not -- where
16 there's no -- no animal that would get close to it. So
17 you could find a site that we could dump it so that we
18 think about the chemicals that's in the crushed
19 materials that you have there and the site should be --
20 as opposed to somewhere in -- in a better site.

21 As was some -- me and Louie Zoe
22 (phonetic), we went down to -- went down to visit the
23 site. We went -- we went to the land sites, we went to
24 that -- that -- the site of where -- we don't want the
25 same thing to happen because of where there are

1 disposing of all this materials, the waste materials
2 that -- this site it should be -- it should be disposed
3 somewhere further away from the lake so that -- so that
4 the seepage or -- or the rains or the snow will not
5 carry it away.

6 We know that about this time of the
7 seasons up when every time it rains and that the rains
8 will get into it. We know that the rains -- the rains
9 will drain out all the chemicals that was in the water,
10 that -- that's in the disposal gravel sites and also
11 the things with them in the springtime the snow melt,
12 the rain -- rains.

13 You know, it's -- it's going to go
14 through. We don't know how deep it's going to go. We
15 don't know how heavy the rains fall some time, how many
16 gallons of drops in one (1) site.

17 So, for example that as the mine will
18 open in our regions, we wanted to make sure that this
19 is -- everything is being taken care of, making sure
20 that the site has been -- has been cleared, the caribou
21 trails have been cleared. We want to make sure that
22 all these areas have been cleared.

23 When the wa -- when the chemicals come
24 to be disposed, we want to make sure it's been -- it's
25 been cleared up, because all the Elders in the past

1 have lived here, have used -- or lived among the site,
2 on the Hislop site. We know that there's so many
3 animals, small game that lives there, like for example,
4 beavers, muskrats, all these big animals that lives
5 there. What's going to happen to them? What's going
6 to happen to -- to all -- all of this environments?

7 So that is why I want to make sure that
8 you ma -- you make sure the water's been protected,
9 making sure that the water has not been -- that -- that
10 contamination has not been dis -- disposed into this
11 clean water.

12 To -- to ask, you know, ask Tlicho --
13 Tlicho people they want to make sure to con --
14 continually visit you, visit your sites to make sure
15 that both side of our people are continually checking
16 the water to make sure that the water -- there's no --
17 there's -- there's disposed soil of a contaminate water
18 being -- being left out or being left in the water
19 which it's not supposed to be.

20 So I want to be sure that Fortune works
21 side by side together in an honestly way, in a
22 respectful way so that we can continually -- continue
23 to check on that -- the water that is there and then
24 make sure that the contaminants doesn't overflows.

25 So we want to make sure that traditional

1 knowledge is continued. We want to make sure that we
2 have the mine opening in the traditional ways so that
3 the traditional ways would be -- would be respected.

4 During this operations where all our
5 young people working employed on the -- on the mines --
6 when our young people are working there, I want you to
7 have respect for them. I want you to make sure they
8 work with them. We know that BHP and diamond mines
9 there are so many of our young people -- people has
10 been fired from their jobs and not able to get their
11 job back because they have a criminal records and that,
12 but the ones that you continue to communicate with and
13 work with, the only reason that why that there's people
14 who gets a criminal records is not able to work at a
15 mine site again.

16 So I wanted to make sure that this --
17 this mines it -- it's different, dealt with
18 differently. I want to make sure that we have the
19 people there are dealing with the social issues and
20 work with them, counsellors working with them. These
21 kinds of things could be set up, could be established
22 in order for our young people to continue to work side
23 by side with you where -- or -- so all the young people
24 will -- could work better.

25 We know that in different mines, mines

1 we know that not very much of our people -- Aboriginal
2 people are working there. It's not supposed to be that
3 way, because at these mines have been okayed by our
4 people that -- that it should be given respectful way
5 to continue to employ most of our people at the mine
6 site, which is not, because today we don't hardly work
7 -- used to -- go trapping like they used to.

8 Most of our people depends on mining in
9 order to -- to feed the family. Because we had to
10 watch our time with speaking, that's all I want to
11 share with you so when Elders talk to you, respect
12 them, listen to them, because this is what our Elders
13 will say. They used to say, Listen and be patient.
14 That's what they used to say, our Elders. That's why
15 one (1) of -- my Elders used to speak to us, we always
16 stop, listen and -- and respect -- respect them.

17 So this is -- this is how we have
18 continued to grow and respect. That's what I want to
19 share with you. Thank you.

20 ELDER JOE BLACK: Yes, I want to speak
21 to you. I'm from -- I'm from Gameti. I'm seventy-
22 seven (77) years old. Yes, I have -- and this is Joe -
23 - Joe Black.

24 So, all these years, you know -- I'm
25 seventy-seven (77) years old and I have survived and I

1 have lived through the hardship. I have seen the way
2 my -- my Elders and my Fathers have continued to live
3 in the sites -- in the Hislop Lake. We know how hard
4 it was, no.

5 And Hislop Lake -- it -- from Gameti, so
6 many people used to live out on the land. Mostly
7 people live off the land. One (1) camp -- camp towards
8 Gameti and then towards Rae. They didn't have really
9 good dog teams. Some of them maybe have one (1) dog
10 team -- one (1) dogs or two (2) dogs, and they used to
11 go to Rae. You know how hard it was in those days.
12 And that people, they had to survive. You know, they
13 depended on -- only on the wildlife animals. They had
14 no metals or anything and -- that -- that -- that
15 people used to survive with. But through the hardships
16 the people survived because no matter how hard it was,
17 no -- some people they had no food but they always
18 shared. They always shared no matter what, how -- even
19 if it was the last -- last one (1) for the meal for the
20 day, but they still shared. This is how people they
21 shared.

22 And in His -- Hislop Lake, we're talking
23 about opening a mine site because you find the minerals
24 over there. And you know that the people that used to
25 use that sites, they didn't knew about that minerals

1 was there and lived through the hardship. They had
2 worked so hard to survive through the hardships. If
3 they knew that the mineral was there, maybe they would
4 -- maybe they could have more money than us today. I
5 guess that's the reason why they didn't knew.

6 Now today we are here -- here while they
7 are all gone, and today we say that a mine is going to
8 be open. So when we are thinking about, you know, it's
9 just like -- it's just like a -- a big place where
10 everything is there cause all kinds of animals: the
11 fish, the wildlife animals, like beavers, muskrats,
12 fish -- all kinds of animals is there.

13 So what, the animal doesn't move. It
14 doesn't goes anywhere. It stays where they are. So,
15 for example, caribou continue to use that sites. Like,
16 no matter what the caribou will go barren lands and
17 continue to travel the same trails or go back at the
18 same trails. That's how the animals live all year
19 round and dur -- during -- during the circul --
20 circulation of lifes.

21 So today, that's how people -- the same
22 way as people. If the water's been damaged, who's
23 going to replace it? Who's going to repair damages?
24 If the land has been damaged, who's going to repair it?
25

1 So if we go there and one (1) day do you
2 think we're going to clean up the -- the sites? No,
3 it's not going to happen. That's the reason why we
4 have respect for the lands and the animals, the waters
5 and the -- and the airs and want to make sure that
6 these are continually saved for the future generations,
7 even though after it's been used.

8 In respects for our way, we have -- our
9 ideas, our concerns for our future generations because
10 they have given us a chance today to voice our concerns
11 by which I never had that happen in the past. When a
12 mine was opened in the past, like Rae Rock Mine,
13 Colomac mine, all been the damage. Renumeration's
14 being done, so -- so as long as we work well together,
15 we'll -- and we'll prosper together and then in the
16 future generation all the money that's been taken out,
17 the minerals that have been taken out, we'll have
18 benefit from it.

19 Our children, our future generations
20 must survive with it. So four (4) communities -- we
21 work -- work side by side in order to establish our own
22 self-government communities, and here we can have other
23 regions that can work with us, other companies, other
24 agencies that can work with us side by side. We can
25 survive, even no matter how hard it is, we can survive

1 if we work well together into the future. That's what
2 I want to thank you for.

3 I know that most of the people here in
4 this room today are thinking, as -- as Tlicho nations,
5 will tell you we have so many trails, we have trails --
6 trails from North Pole to the south, all traditional
7 trails which one (1) day we'll visit one (1) another,
8 year by year, season by seasons, side by side, we -- we
9 work together. We share together. That's how a Tlicho
10 nation, we share. This is how our unity, our strength,
11 that's what keep us going. That's what kept us
12 surviving, no matter through the hardships.

13 Because I can't speak too long, these
14 are the priorities which I want to share. We know that
15 there's so many things of which we want to say, but
16 we're not able to say because of time is limited for
17 us.

18 We know that this -- want to -- want to
19 make sure that it's safe of the environment for
20 everybody. That's what I want -- that's what I want
21 you to respect, I want you to work with together
22 because we're limited times. So thank you for now.
23 Thank you very much.

24 ELDER JIMMY B. RABESCA: Masi cho.
25 This is Jimmy B. Rabesca from Whati, one (1) of the

1 Elder with the Tlicho Elders Advisory Committee. As --
2 as the Elders, one (1) of the great concerns,
3 especially when we're thinking about Hislop Lake mine
4 opening, we want to speak about so many things.
5 There's so many concerns which we have. You know, when
6 you're talking about the -- our communities, the
7 problems that we have in our communities, how it's
8 going to be when we have the all season roads open into
9 our communities.

10 I want to talk about so many things.
11 We're talking about the safety of the water, that's
12 true. We all drink the water. We all live by water,
13 we all live for water, we all love our water. So when
14 we talk the effects you have on it, we're not saying
15 that you do -- you're no good, you're not doing the job
16 right. We're not saying that, because we know that
17 we're all human beings. We'll -- we'll all have --
18 have our differences.

19 But, us as a people, ever since our --
20 our birth, and we live in this tradition, where we
21 survive by living a traditional way of life. As today
22 I see some young people. Some of them, they go
23 hunting, they take the wife out in the lands, they go
24 by boats or skidoo rides, or -- or a truck to go
25 hunting, fishing and trapping. That's how they -- some

1 of the middle aged, young people in the communities,
2 they do.

3 But if they -- when we talk about the
4 mines on Hislop Lake, when -- if it's going to be open
5 then we're talking about protection of the wildlife,
6 animals, the waters, want to make sure that you work
7 for us. When we're talking about ptarmigan, we're
8 talking about rabbits, we're talking about chickens,
9 grouse, all these grouse of which our people depend on.
10 We -- we live -- we're getting for it every day.

11 We know that we depend -- it depends on
12 the plants, it depends on the -- on the roots or trees,
13 barks, and all these kind. If -- some animals that --
14 that us, if the human beings, if we eat those -- the
15 plants, the trees and that, for us, you know, you see
16 all these trees where you walked. You see all the
17 trees that all over the place, you see plants. For us,
18 as aboriginal people, we know that we use them for our
19 medicines.

20 There's all kinds of different plants
21 that produce different kinds of things. We don't use a
22 -- a medicine, mostly medicine from a nurse's station,
23 because our Elders have taught us to find a new herbs,
24 use it for different -- different type of medicines for
25 different type of sickness. So that is why we love our

1 plants. That's the reason why we continue to live and
2 depend on the traditional way of life, as we say.

3 No matter how cold, even forty (40)
4 below, fifty (50) below, if we had to sleep outside, we
5 sleep outside without a tent. We know what to do, as
6 the trees -- we'll cut down the trees, we'll make a hut
7 for ourselves. We sleep in there, we keep us warm
8 which have -- these are the ways that which we have
9 survived. Today, as some of the Elders, we still do.
10 If we don't have a tent, that's what we do.

11 If you find a very nice trees, brush,
12 and if you have no waters, that mix that with those dry
13 woods and everything, which they do -- sometime we
14 would not have enough, sometime we could get sickness
15 from it. You know, these kinds of things that we knew
16 how to prevent ourselves from be getting sick.

17 These are the things that which --
18 there's so many ways that -- that -- reasons, as I
19 said, us as a people who depends on the lands, who live
20 -- live off the lands. We know all our lands, the
21 scape of the lands, our landscapes. And we know, for
22 example, if it's snowing, as soon as the spring comes,
23 when the -- when the water comes -- when it becomes the
24 water, we know what happen, we know where it goes.
25 When the rains -- when the rains pours so much so we --

1 we know what happens and we know where the water goes.

2 This is how we know about our lands. We
3 know about the landscapes. We know about the -- the
4 environments of our lands. That's why we're saying we
5 don't want no damages in our lands, our water and our
6 lake. No matter how difficult it was, how our people
7 have survived, sometime we catch only one (1) fish.
8 And we will catch only one (1) fish, but we'll all
9 share it. No matter how -- how small it was, we'll all
10 share it. This is how we survive. This is how our
11 people have taught us to survive, how to share and
12 respect.

13 This is why we're saying that we don't
14 want the animals to be -- to be completely wiped out.
15 We don't want -- we want to make sure all the animals,
16 the species, being protected and saved. So people --
17 some of our people, our young people, they do -- they
18 go muskrat hunting, beaver hunting on Hislop Lake.

19 For us Elders, we love to taste
20 different kinds of animals at different times of the
21 seasons. Like when season -- when a -- when a mu --
22 muskrat hunting comes, we like the taste of beaver --
23 of muskrats. Beaver, the same thing.

24 Or sometimes some people, they go down,
25 and they test different kinds of fish. When they bring

1 back different kinds of fish, everybody in the
2 community share it. That's how we do in this community
3 (NATIVE LANGUAGE SPOKEN) we know there is so many of
4 our people, it's not going to happen only once.

5 But now most of the people go back to it
6 because the memory is there. The history of survival,
7 the heart of the Tlicho nation is there. This is how
8 important it is to us. That is why we are continually
9 talking about -- what we're talking about today is for
10 our future generation. That's where we are. And
11 that's why we want it.

12 We don't want nothing to be damaged,
13 because once they damage the lake, the water or the --
14 or -- or the lands, that's not going to be clean. How
15 -- who's going to replace that? Are you going to repair
16 it? Are you going to replace it?

17 We know that there's so many things of
18 which we want to talk about. But the time we are
19 limited, it is limited for us, but this is not the time
20 but the chief is taking into consideration about what
21 will be said. So I'd like you to give us a -- give us
22 a chance, have respect for us. Maybe you might see
23 some -- some sort of informations regarding dealing
24 with all this environment protections.

25 You might see -- be surprised about what

1 kind of news we might have for you, what kind of media
2 news we might have for you. But us, as the Elders, we
3 might get together to talk about these things. We
4 might tell -- tell you why -- why we want you to see
5 all this mine. These are the kind of things that I
6 think that you should take in because you are the
7 people who are doing development in our land.

8 And when you are working on our lands
9 you have to tell us, This is what I'm doing on your
10 land, be honest and respectful way. I think that this
11 is the proper way to do it, even for you to tell us
12 that this is what you're doing on our land. And we --
13 we will respect you for that. But if you don't tell us
14 and do what you're doing, that's not a respectful way.

15 So I guess the things -- we're not in
16 the past. We're hurt. We know -- we learn from each
17 other. We learn about what the minerals of mining
18 companies do, we know about prospectors they do. We
19 know that we learn from them.

20 So today we think about the safety of
21 the animals and the wildlife. We know that today
22 there's so much water on our lake right now. For
23 example, the water -- there's so much water. When --
24 when we're going into a snow because after the snow
25 melt there's -- there's so much water on top of the ice

1 that some of our skidoos get stuck because of the slush
2 on the wa -- on the ice. So some right now, there's so
3 much water that some of the dock, it overflows because
4 of the wind comes in, and it blows up all the -- all
5 the rocks right up to the dock. They will have to be
6 repaired.

7 So when the mine is opening, we want you
8 to make sure -- number 1 is to make sure the water is
9 safe. Make sure that all the environment is safe.
10 Make sure that there's no contamination being left
11 behind. There is safety of the environment. This is
12 what the message I'm giving to you. I want you to
13 remember it so that this way we can work well together,
14 not only you and not only your company, but there'll be
15 other companies that maybe want to come along, deal
16 with us the same way, manners.

17 So I wanted to make sure that all of the
18 developments that happen in our land, and then
19 protected. I wanted just to make sure. Be honest wi -
20 - about it. And one (1) of these days we may address
21 the same way, but we might see something better, better
22 plants.

23 As I say, the plants we have, we use it
24 for our own medicines. Our herbs we use for own
25 medicines. Wherever the sickness we have, we use it to

1 cure us. These are the things of which we do not share
2 with you because we don't -- we have very limited talk.
3 Maybe sometime in the future we'll -- we'll talk again.

4 But as -- as the Mackenzie Valley Water
5 Board maybe some day we'll back together, we may
6 address our -- more important concerns in the future.
7 So this is what -- part of what I wanted to share with
8 you. Thank you.

9

10 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

11

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Jimmy. (NATIVE
13 LANGUAGE SPOKEN).

14

15 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

16

17 ELDER LOUIE ZOE: Yes, thank you. My
18 name is Louie Zoe, from Gameti. We know that with
19 histories about K'ia Goti, Hislop Lake, and all of the
20 family. All the lakes around the sites there, those
21 gravel sites, there are some clay -- made -- made out
22 of clay. There's a chimney made of clay. This is how
23 -- this shows the sites, how our people survive.

24 In the springtimes in Hislop Lake, right
25 in the bay, there's birds. All kinds of ducks, all

1 kinds of ducks comes alive. There's all different
2 kinds up there: longtail, pintails, geese, swans, all
3 this. You could see -- you could see grouse dancing up
4 on the grounds. Like there's chickens. You see
5 chicken dances on the grounds, that this is what they
6 do early in the springtime, no matter what. Even
7 though they don't have the skills, any kinds of gears,
8 equipments to survive, but they use their own
9 traditional gears and equipments to survive.

10 But today at that site they want to open
11 that mine -- mining. So when we charter back --
12 charter back to Gameti on the -- on the lake, I'm
13 thinking about, will -- will we have safe water?

14 So the water that flows to the Marian
15 Lake, Behchoko, because we don't have much times. It
16 just seems like we're always been limited of times
17 every time that something really important comes. For
18 example, there's a blasting that's going to go, it's
19 going to happen. That blasting at the mill -- at the
20 mines that which is going to bring to the surface the
21 gravel pits. It's going to be -- it's going to be a
22 pileup.

23 When the wind is going to come, it's
24 going to blow it away. It's going to blow into
25 different directions. When it rains, the rains will

1 drain it down, and -- and evaporation of the rain will
2 carry it. The same thing with the -- the same thing
3 with the snow. That will flow in towards the river.
4 When the -- when there's overflows, it will flow into
5 the river.

6 The water that we're talking about is
7 really important to us. Not only for us, for us, for
8 environ -- environment, our lands, our water, geese,
9 animals. We want to make sure it's safe.

10 But whenever you take the minerals out
11 of the land -- under the -- under the pic -- under the
12 ground, you cannot -- you cannot dispose your waste
13 into different -- into a site which is closer to --
14 closer to the lake. You have to make sure you -- you
15 do it away -- away from the -- away from the so -- lake
16 so that doesn't seep into the lake.

17 So I want to make sure that you are
18 being careful about -- remember we -- remember what
19 happened at Rayrock Mine. You remember what happened
20 at Colomac Mine. We don't want the same thing to
21 happen again. You see all dispose they did, you know,
22 so many people have lived in that area, and both area
23 our Elders have, and none of them are still alive with
24 us today.

25 So I want to make sure that these things

1 doesn't happen again. That's the reason why we have
2 our land claims and self-government for. Whenever we
3 had the mines open, we want to make that these are
4 safety. The water has been safety. We want to make
5 sure we work -- work together for the future
6 generations to keep everything for ourself -- ourself,
7 future generations so that we can be a strong people.
8 We can work side by side together.

9 I want to give other people a chance to
10 speak, so that's all I have to say for now, and thank
11 you.

12

13 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

14

15 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

16

17 ELDER JIMMY KODZIN: This is Jimmy --
18 Jimmy Kodzin from Wekweeti. I just wanted to speak to
19 you -- speak about several things that some of the
20 people have already spoken about. But I just want to
21 say that as native people here, a Dogrib person from
22 Whati, like, we have done -- gone through some hardship
23 already. I read that our Elders, when they used to
24 travel, then how they travel throughout on the land or
25 in hardship to go try caribou hunting. They've been

1 travelling long ways all on the old trails, where they
2 have their graveyards and everything.

3 And even though they lived on the barren
4 land as a caribou -- caribou country -- and even though
5 as far up in the barren land, but Jimmy lives in
6 Wekweeti and is a Dogrib. And he lived in the -- in
7 that community for a long time, but now that he has
8 kids living in Rae now and in Wekweeti.

9 Just by listening to the other speakers
10 -- depending on what they say, it made me really think
11 and that's why we're saying like if we're having a talk
12 like this, we must listen to each other. Talking about
13 developing this mining industry and how that thing is
14 going to affect us in the community and just as people
15 here.

16 Once that -- once that mine is
17 developed, how is that going -- going to work with the
18 resident people in -- in the future, because that --
19 that mine set is -- is on the hunting land. It's on
20 the trapping land. And it's a very useful area for
21 both people and the caribous and other animals.

22 That the Hislop Lake is a very -- is --
23 is a very fortunate area for everyone, as people have
24 survived there, lived there, and worked there. One of
25 the things that -- one of things that I'll worry about

1 is to develop a year -- year-round road. When -- when
2 and if the road is to be built, what might happen, how
3 the people might use the road if it's built, and what
4 might happen to our future?

5 That's why we're talking to each other
6 and telling each other to -- to listen to each other,
7 because we don't want anything to go wrong during
8 developing this year-round road to -- to create this
9 mine.

10 We're also talking about this water.
11 It's very important. As -- as people we -- we use
12 water. Animals use water. And today, we talked about
13 this whole thing for hours now and saying what's
14 important to us.

15 So I think that people have already
16 talked to you about what's important to them, and it's
17 -- I think you already heard some good -- good stories
18 already. And I'm just adding to what's important to
19 me, so I just wanted to let you know.

20 Thank you for listening to me.

21

22 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

23

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Jimmy

25 Kodzin.

1 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO TO ENGLISH)

2

3 ELDER JOE MANTLA: I'm from Gameti, and
4 I'm -- I'm over seventy (70) years old. And this Joe
5 Mantla from Gameti.

6 When we're -- when I -- when I have
7 something on my mind, I usually talk about it and try
8 to express how I feel about it. But in my experience,
9 like I use to travel over there in the area where the
10 mine is going to be developed, because I used to live
11 there. I used to trap there. I used -- I used to hunt
12 there. And I used to travel this way here to -- to
13 travel here to hunt and to trap. And I also travel in
14 the area where the mine -- where -- where the Nico
15 Mine's going to be at -- located.

16 And I spent three (3) seasons -- two (2)
17 different seasons in that Hislop Lake area to trap and
18 to hunt. And I also travel -- travelled there with
19 people by boat with Johnny Chocolate and his family. I
20 made a living there at the -- at the village.

21 But if -- but if it's time to make a
22 decision, then what I thought about is that like how
23 come it always seems to be left -- left behind, like
24 we're not getting what we need to have?

25 I remember when -- when I was young,

1 when I used to travel by boat and I used to travel by
2 Ski-Doo, by dog teams, and that's why I know that --
3 that area very well. And thinking about our past
4 Elders, like there -- there used to be a lot of them,
5 there used to be a lot of Elders working with us and
6 travelling with us.

7 And -- and during the -- and these
8 people, they -- they used to travel that far. They
9 used to travel up towards the Sahtu Region, and they
10 used to travel that far by dog teams.

11 There wasn't much to use, but throughout
12 the -- the hardship they -- they went through some
13 very, really hard times. Just from the old history,
14 people didn't have much. They -- they didn't even have
15 traps. But they used traditional traps, and that's how
16 the Elders of the past used to work.

17 Today we only travel on the old
18 traditional trail that -- that we still use and are
19 still seeing what -- what they've done and what they
20 may have used. Like, for instance we see some wood
21 that's being cut. But what -- but what -- what did
22 they use to cut these with, because in the old days
23 there was no metal materials. So he still wonders how
24 they -- how the people cut wood without using an axe.
25 So these are the kinds of questions they have,

1 themselves, too.

2 But now that the -- they're dealing with
3 these mining industries, they -- they were really
4 confused about how they worked with the -- the people
5 from the mining industries in the old days, because the
6 people back then didn't know anything about what a mine
7 was or what "mineral" means.

8 So during their -- their travel, the --
9 it was pretty hard, because using dog teams was not
10 easy. It was cold. And -- and talking about the --
11 the mining industries, he -- he's been up to a couple
12 of mine sites, at the Diavik and -- and Ekati. And he
13 -- he knows what's going on at the mine, because he
14 knows that they use explosives, and he saw some -- some
15 of the smoke that was rising up after the explosive,
16 the kind of smells that -- that gets around you. He's
17 afraid that using those kind of explosive and using
18 water with it can contaminate not only the grounds, but
19 the -- the -- the water sites.

20 There's a wed -- so, now that I'm
21 talking about our Elders, I know that they're -- that
22 they're being through -- through the hard times. And I
23 know some of the Elders, they used to travel there
24 through, helping dogs to push the sled. Like it was
25 not -- it wasn't easy and the kind -- and in the kind

1 of condition that they lived in. But in the -- in the
2 little towns, they're trying to -- they make little
3 huts using the spruce. And this is the kind of the
4 places that we saw.

5 So whoever was fortunate enough to kill
6 maybe a -- a couple of furs, they'll just -- there's
7 just enough to get a few things for the kids to eat.
8 So that's the kind of a living condition that our
9 people has been through.

10 So these are just the stories that --
11 that I heard that I'm sharing with you. Thank you for
12 -- for listing. Just sharing the story is big enough
13 to -- to make you think what -- what can be good for us
14 and what might be good for the -- for -- for the mine.

15 Talking about the -- the -- the -- the
16 Fortune Mineral mining site right now is it -- there's
17 other sites were been around where they feel the people
18 may have lived during the geological research. So
19 that's how the -- they been around in that area.

20 Because travelling along those river
21 lines, they're -- it's a -- it's a trapping area. So
22 there's not much there, but if the mine's going to go
23 ahead, then there -- there might not much be left for
24 the animals to survive on too.

25 And today -- today we have children

1 speaking, not our language, but English. It's like --
2 it's very -- kids are not speaking Dogrib anymore, but
3 it's like we're -- we're living like two (2) people
4 nowadays because our kids speak English and at -- at
5 Joe's age, he speaks Dogrib. So he says that now that
6 -- now these -- we look like -- like two (2) people.

7 Thank you. I can't speak too long, but
8 this is all I can say.

9

10 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

11

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Joe Mantla.

13

14 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

15

16 ELDER MELANIE WAYLLON: Talking about
17 Hislop Lake, that's where I grew up. This is Margaret
18 (sic) Wayllon from Behchoko. I grew up in Hislop Lake.
19 I'm over eighty (80). I'm going to age eighty-two (82)
20 now. We used to live at the Hislop Lake at the camp.
21 That's where we lived. We -- we hunt because we -- we
22 trap -- we trap all year round and then we -- we go
23 spring hunting in the spring.

24 And we lived there until winter time, so
25 we would also harvest fish for our dogs and for food.

1 So we spend our time at -- at the Hislop Lake, at the
2 camp there. I lived there when I was very young. My
3 brothers would kill caribous. We would harvest lots of
4 dry meat.

5 We would travel back to Behchoko by
6 boats and back to Hislop Lake in the fall time. So
7 when we get back there in the fall time, we also
8 harvest fish again for winter. And then we travel back
9 to other camps, but our living site was the Hislop
10 Indian village.

11 When the winter comes, usually our
12 family would travel to Wekweeti and -- and lived there,
13 because my dad went hunting and trapping. And then in
14 the springtime we would travel back to Hislop Lake
15 again, because we travel up towards Gameti and to Hart
16 Lake (phonetic).

17 So because my families were always
18 hunting, trapping, and fishing, and most of my families
19 were hunters and trappers, so would have to do a lot of
20 harvestings when we lived in Hislop Lake at the
21 village. That's -- that's the place that historically
22 is where my dad and my mom raised us really good.

23 And not long ago, I -- I been to the
24 village just to check around. I found that things
25 seems to be the way they were. I checked out the --

1 the old houses where the people used to live, and all
2 places seems to be okay, windows not broken. But in
3 some of the places, like a few things broken, but
4 things are still just the way they were left.

5 So all of my sisters grew up at that
6 village, and that's where they all got married. We
7 never grew up saying, We don't have this. When -- when
8 we lived at the Hislop Lake there, we lost two (2) of
9 our Elders. And that's how things were. We always
10 travelled on the land, and that's how we spent our time
11 in the area there.

12 After we left there, we lost many, many
13 of our people, even my own family, my sisters,
14 brothers.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 ELDER MELANIE WAYLLON: They say the --
19 my -- my uncles lived in that area there, but as a
20 young girl, I -- I don't remember meeting them. But
21 knowing that I have spent many, many times in that area
22 there.

23 This is the area between Hislop Lake and
24 Marian lake. My dad travelled in that area a lot with
25 us, and that's where we grew up. There was no mo --

1 boat motor. We travelled through a lot of portages.

2 And we travelled many miles on the lakes.

3 It's a very -- it was a very difficult
4 time, because in those days when we used dog teams,
5 like things weren't easy. So when I was young, like I
6 didn't get to see much; but when I look back right now,
7 I feel I'm younger than where I am now.

8 But during those times, like when we
9 were -- when we lived down those rivers where -- where
10 I was meeting with other people, both day and night,
11 and that's how things has been. So I tell you like...

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 ELDER MELANIE WAYLLON: And I know that
16 people used to use the site traditionally. But as an
17 example, how the animal is used in that sites, they
18 used to travel in the same roads, the same trails that
19 carries families, the beavers that go on the same
20 trail, but this is where they raise the family.

21 The same thing with every animals:
22 beavers, woodland caribous, moose. When there --
23 whenever there was family they were -- they were there
24 when the spotted the moose and they shot the moose.
25 There's all kinds of different small size of critters,

1 like rabbits, grouse, chickens, ptarmigans. You could
2 see -- you could see -- you could hear in the morning -
3 - in the early spring, you could hear the chickens or
4 grouse dancing on top of the hills.

5 You could hear them flapping their wings
6 and just their body, and you could hear early spring
7 birds. That comes back. Even this -- even the -- the
8 loons, when they come back. They say they needed to
9 shoot a whole bunch of loons in order for them to use
10 it for the -- on the -- on the hunting or different
11 journey.

12 Some of these journeys, they are hard to
13 -- hard to explain because of it is something that was
14 the people used to survive. You know, on Hislop Lake
15 it's really a beautiful site. There's so many of our
16 people have survived. They use it just like their own
17 freezer. It's storage, everything for them. All kinds
18 of animals that I've mentioned it was for -- for them.

19 Some of us may think that we're not --
20 we are just making up a story to you, but this is the
21 truth, because if you see the site geologically, you
22 will find it -- you will see it at the other sites, how
23 these animals was used.

24 No matter how large the size of the
25 family they have -- or some time they'd take us -- my

1 father would take us -- would take us to Behchoko and
2 would bring us back in the fall come again, because
3 another seasons -- were another seasons.

4 For years we lived there before --
5 before I got married, there's so many people that were
6 coming to our communities. Luka Dalrhi (phonetic) is
7 one (1) of the Elders that used to always travel with
8 us.

9 Because of the way we prosper, some
10 people prosper richly because of they're -- they're
11 fortunate to have all kinds of hunting, fishing, and
12 trapping gears to use, and so they're always like atop
13 -- on top of everything. Like they're kind of leaders,
14 like -- like Chief Tonts (phonetic), so they -- so they
15 have -- fortunate.

16 So sometime -- only Christmastime
17 they'll go back to -- go back to Rae. So sometime we
18 don't go to Rae with them because there's too many --
19 too many of us in the family, so they have to be kept
20 separately. We had to kept -- so whatever our fathers
21 say -- if they say, Okay, we're going to travel this
22 way, we're going to travel that way, that's what we do,
23 which -- which direction ever they want to go, which
24 way.

25 So my father was an Elder. But my

1 father, even though he's Elder age, he still shoot lots
2 of different big games, caribous, woodland caribous and
3 moose, even ducks, some geese, when he used to shoot
4 them -- you know.

5 No matter what age these -- in those
6 days our Elders -- over eighty (80) years, so it's just
7 like the young people. They carry the pack on their
8 back and they bring to the -- back to the camp.

9 So I don't think that I went through
10 anybody else's -- even that was living in two (2)
11 tents, because there's nobody else to ask, only -- only
12 two (2) tents. There's no -- so everybody share what
13 they have, whatever they catch, whatever they ca --
14 they get.

15 So when -- when I asked my dad to buy me
16 whatever I needed, he will buy us -- he'll buy it for
17 me. He says, Whatever you need, he'll get it for me
18 because I was part of the family. I do my own share of
19 hunting and fishing. I didn't see my mom. I know that
20 I heard my mom speaking -- spoken, but I only heard his
21 voice.

22 But when I was a child only my dad
23 raised me. My dad raised us -- sometime he had to --
24 beside us. When he was speaking to us nobody answer.
25 Nobody talked back to him. So even though if we put

1 the kettles on top of the stove he cannot bang the
2 kettles against the stove. You have to be soundless
3 because he has a visitor with him, somebody's listening
4 to him. So there's about twelve (12) of us. All of us
5 -- all of them that survived -- five (5) of them had
6 died by different kinds of sickness.

7 So sometime he has to wake us up early
8 in the morning. No matter how tough words he used to
9 raise us, I will never answer back. So today, when I'm
10 speaking to you, I'm not talking to you -- to -- now
11 because you are just too young. But when you get
12 older, then you will know. You will use my words. The
13 words I've given to you is the words of wisdoms. And
14 one (1) day you will use it. One (1) day you will
15 acknowledge it. One (1) day you will know what exactly
16 I'm referring to.

17 That's what he said to us. And today I
18 remember what -- what he has said to us. Today I
19 believe what he has said. And today, even all this
20 different -- I receive, last year I lost my husband,
21 Eddie Whalen (phonetic), but I'm okay -- but I'm all
22 right. I got over -- I'm getting over it.

23 I guess these are the reasons why my
24 father has shared with us the words of wisdoms, which
25 has given us the courage to be strong because I have

1 lots of large family. And my kids -- just like my
2 husband, they -- they have respect for me. I respect
3 with them.

4 And I -- when -- when we speak at this
5 we speak for our childrens, and their childrens, and
6 their great-childrens. Whoever is -- steps, whoever
7 listen to our words of wisdoms, they will survive, the
8 same way as we listened to our Elders. We survived.
9 They will survive.

10 And today you're talking about dollars,
11 the same way. And we talk about dollars -- find a way
12 to save the dollars, to do better and to do good for
13 the dollars, and we'll be okay. We're talking about
14 for your childrens, your grandchildren, your future
15 generations, your wives, your kids and their home. All
16 of you have fathers.

17 So I don't want to talk against anybody.
18 I don't want to be bashful or talk against anybody's
19 wishes. That's what -- that's how our -- our Elders
20 have taught us: respect. Don't talk harshly against
21 others. Respect others. One (1) day, your children
22 will depend on it, so it is true.

23 So I was thinking about when that -- at
24 that age, how can I have children? Because I was so
25 young. I thought about it in those days, and today, I

1 realize I have so much of children and so many
2 grandchildren. I remember the words. The words of
3 wisdom is very strong. It's just like they call it the
4 bones of the beaver. The beaver bones is very hard to
5 break.

6 This is the same way. The words is like
7 -- I have lots of grandchildren -- grandchildren,
8 children. We think we're speaking for them. Today,
9 the same way for you. When you're talking about money,
10 you're talking about dollars, you're talking about your
11 family, you're talking for your family. Every human
12 being have to have their loved ones, have relatives,
13 have brothers and sisters or fathers and somebody with
14 him which you had to talk for.

15 So today, when we were talking about
16 Hislop Lake, it is true. So many Elders have survived.
17 Some of them have brought us today to raise our family,
18 to be where we are today. Some of their stories we're
19 sharing with you, we call it Temesake One Lake
20 (phonetic), people -- it's not a -- it's not quite a
21 distance where Chief Gahti Zimyowis (phonetic) used to
22 live there, Jimmy Ogar (phonetic).

23 So all of us were speaking for one
24 another when we're talking about the water, and the
25 springtime when the water rise up. On top of that, the

1 rains, snow, waters all rise, and the water keeps -- it
2 rise up. But the water doesn't really flow directly to
3 Marian Lake, but it also goes into Great Slave Lake.
4 From Great Slave Lake, it goes into the Mackenzie
5 River. If it would be contaminated, water will be
6 flowing in that direction, too, so these are the
7 safety, not only for ourself, our environments, but it
8 will go around Mackenzie River, will flow right down to
9 Mackenzie River into the oceans, into the Beaufort Sea.

10 So every person that will have a family,
11 care about their family, that want safety for the
12 family, these are the reasons why we are sharing with
13 you. We want safety for our family, so that is what
14 I'm thinking. I'm thinking about every human being.
15 You have to think about safety for the children. We
16 don't want death -- death of -- for the children, the
17 wife or the kids. I think safety for them.

18 So everywhere around Mackenzie River,
19 the same way. They're talking about this, using the
20 same words, the same message as what I say my husband
21 used to tell me when I went to Inuvik. He said that
22 they took all the minerals out of the ground and left
23 the old abandoned -- abandoned mines, and nothing was
24 cleaned up. They had no -- did not do anything, no --
25 no remediations. Today, when you think about it,

1 there's whole lots of stories which just adds up. It
2 doesn't make any sense of having the mines if you
3 cannot clean it up after you, after you make a mess.

4 So only -- I know that you are familiar
5 with what happens within that region in the past, what
6 the people, every human being, some of them would know
7 how to die with cancers and all different kinds of
8 infected diseases, sicknesses. So how can we make a
9 safe way for them? As Elders, as our Chief here,
10 sitting at our table, are saying the same thing, giving
11 you the same message. One (1) is safety, water safety,
12 not contaminated. So they are here with you and
13 sharing with you.

14 For me, I'm one (1) of the Elders. I'm
15 eighty-two (82) years old right now. So this is not
16 the only table we're going to meet. One day, we will
17 meet again in the future, and we will continue to talk
18 where -- where we left off, what we'll do to follow up
19 on. So that's what I want to share with you for now.

20

21 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

22

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Melanie
24 Wayllon.

25

1 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

2

3 MR. ALBERT NITSIZA: Yes, thank you.

4 Albert Nitsiza. I'm from Whati. In 2005 when the
5 first effective day of the Tlicho governments, I was
6 there. At that time, all the Fortune mineral mines
7 were talking about, were thinking about -- Chief, it's
8 Grand Chief, assembly members, there were eight (8) of
9 us together, over thirteen (13) of us. He was the
10 first member of the Tlicho government at that time, so
11 I was still with him. I seen him -- the thirteen (13)
12 of us when we -- we were there.

13 About 5,000 feet down under the ground,
14 they dug under the grounds to 5,000 feet. So about ten
15 (10) of us, we went under the grounds. One (1) of the
16 Elders said he doesn't want to go underground. Only
17 when I'm under the ground -- I'll be under the ground -
18 - only 6 feet under; because of that I'm not going
19 under the ground, he says. Sometime it's good to
20 laugh, and to have a joke about it among -- while we're
21 discussing -- while there's Elders, when they spoke.

22 And as I want to say, Yes, to them, I
23 want to say, Thank you, to them because they did --
24 they lived -- they lived in the sites. They lived at
25 Hislop Lake. When they talk about -- when they say

1 it's like be -- it's like a beaver bones, beaver --
2 hind bones, it's really tough to break. It's just like
3 -- ours is the same as the beaver bones. That's what
4 they say -- Elders used to say.

5 So one (1) day if you are survive in the
6 future as a -- as the lady has spoken just before him,
7 he said some one that didn't speak English, they don't
8 have no write -- they can't read nor write, but they
9 still -- they -- what our Elders have survived to save
10 us, to have our land claims -- today.

11 When I was thinking about when the -- I
12 heard the first time that there's going to be a road --
13 a road -- all-season road, it's going to be open. How
14 large a damage that we're going to effect our land, our
15 communities? I was thinking about this.

16 That's not something small. That's
17 something huge, major issues that -- which we are
18 talking about today. If we're going to have the road
19 that's going to open -- if the road is going to open to
20 this community, yes, because it's the money -- because
21 there's large money that's going to be flowing to us,
22 well I agree, or some do agree with one (1) another. I
23 know that.

24 But it's going to be big devastation
25 when right now there's no road in. We have nice, clean

1 water. We have nice -- we don't have -- we have nice
2 good fishings. We have a -- we have a river safety
3 community. But if you have a window open before the
4 winter -- before the all-seasons road open, but you
5 should look around.

6 You should compare it. For four (4)
7 years, when I sat down at a table, we travel around, we
8 look around, we see -- I seen all the devastation --
9 like for example Pine Point Mine, what happen, Fort
10 McMurray, Fort Chips (phonetic), Fort McKay (phonetic),
11 all the people suffering today because of devastation
12 of what's affected the communities.

13 When I went to visit the Fort Chips, as
14 a Chief, spoke to us for -- for twelve (12) months --
15 in twelve (12) months eleven (11) of my people died
16 because of the water. Because of contaminant. So look
17 around. If I don't believe me, look around. Look at
18 the grave sites.

19 When we look -- when we travel in the
20 communities we seen a brand new cross. There's a whole
21 bunch of 12-years-old kids are sickness because of the
22 contaminant in the water which has been seeped into it,
23 the drinking water -- I want you -- would go -- the
24 Dene nations. And Fort McMurray -- the chief of Fort
25 McMurray came to Fort Good Hope, even though he was not

1 a part of the Northwest Territory by what he was asking
2 for support, but nobody seems to have spoken to him
3 about it.

4 But then first in Norman Wells, there's
5 a -- tailing ponds seep into the water. Maybe that's
6 what the damage is to the -- to the fish, some of the
7 fish. They -- look at the fish, what the contaminant
8 water done to the fish. By those who were there --
9 some of them were sitting at the back of the seats, but
10 some of them sit on the table, it may be some of the
11 trouble with us. I know that because I seen this with
12 the two (2) eyes.

13 And then they're going to say that I'm
14 lying, because when I tell you I -- because of this
15 Fortune mines want to open the Fortune mines, well look
16 at, for example, where Rock mine, it's not been cleaned
17 up yet completely. And we cannot say yes to this -- to
18 this Hislop Lake Fortune Mines. Lots of my people
19 live, and my friends live, and then my uncle's mom --
20 mother lives in Behchoko. The lake, the water's going
21 to flow direction to their -- to the communities.

22 So what do you think about this? What
23 do you -- in considerations about what we're -- how
24 it's going to be. If we have the roads open, yes,
25 what's going to happen? As I said in -- in the past,

1 what's going to happen to us?

2 But right now ev -- even though the
3 winter road is not -- the all-season road is not open,
4 look at what's happening today, still. Last week we
5 were sitting here and we seen what happened. I'm not
6 talking about other people, I'm talking about myself.
7 I'm talking about my kids, my grandchildren, my
8 children, too.

9 So, for example, if the road -- the all-
10 season road is going to be open, everyone's going to
11 share our tears. Many of us are going to have a share.
12 If we talk and we say, we can't say yes to the -- to
13 the mines because, you know, we have to take -- we're
14 not going to take everything out to say yes to it.
15 We're not going to take the minerals out today. We
16 cannot take all the minerals out today. Because we
17 have to think about our future generation for young
18 people.

19 And today, you know, we're talking about
20 some of the people which we don't see. How many of us
21 are going to have grandchildren and their
22 grandchildren? So leave -- look at that for example.
23 If we have a all-season road open, there's going to be
24 a lots of effect that's going to affect our
25 communities.

1 One of the -- lots of the people that
2 we're going to see, we're going to see lots of fish
3 that will be missing from Arco Lake (phonetic). Lots
4 of people be fish out -- you know that all the
5 environment, the hunting, the fishing, the trapping,
6 everything will be changed. That was -- look what
7 happened to Behchoko -- Yellowknife, for example.

8 We have three (3) different mines that's
9 in operation now. Some of our people who are working
10 at the mine sites, at different mines, some of our
11 Elders who has spoken to -- towards that -- towards
12 that mine, before the mine is open. Some of the Elders
13 who has spoken, you remember what they have said? They
14 said to be patient, they said to be -- take one (1)
15 step at a time to make sure that all this mine -- it --
16 make sure it's running the way exactly you want it.

17 So be -- be patient with everything with
18 what you do, they used to advise us. Today, as you
19 Board members, whatever you may be -- whenever you --
20 whatever we say to you, listen to us, hear us, take a
21 message back to Ottawa. Make sure you communicate,
22 make a good recommendations.

23 Where -- when you have mining, you
24 talking about the minerals, you talk about different
25 kinds of ores, because I know that if the government is

1 in favour of it, or GNWT, they be in favour of it
2 because the royalties.

3 So I -- I am greatly concerned. But the
4 most important -- most important thing I'm concerned
5 about the all-season road coming to this community,
6 because I have my children. I have my grandchildren.
7 I know my friends who are not here, but some of them
8 who work at the mines, some of them are working here in
9 town. But this is kind of -- for me, it's kind of too
10 rushed. I think we should be patient, take it really
11 slowly and make -- be sure that all our differences be
12 sorted out.

13 It's just like in my backyard, we're
14 talking about the mine is going to be open in the
15 backyard, not only for us. So if the mine's going to
16 be open, as our chief, who is sitting at this table.
17 He got a house there. His uncle has a house there,
18 too.

19 So what does he thinks -- what does he
20 thinks about this? And for me, too, wintertime, I'll
21 go there. I'll go (NATIVE LANGUAGE SPOKEN). I had to
22 go hunting. I've been there with John B. (phonetic),
23 went by canoe. We seen all the site, all the grave
24 sites, we've seen all the empty abandoned house. And
25 you see, he should talk about all the -- all of our

1 leaders, for example, they used to travel with us over
2 there. And like -- like anyone who was there with us,
3 you should tell us about it.

4 Lots of people say a thing about this,
5 yes, but then it's not that way. But we have to think
6 about our children, because we know that there's so
7 many of the Elders have spoken. It's not the last time
8 it will be spoken -- again. So, thank you.

9

10 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

11

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

13

14 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

15

16 ELDER LIZA MANTLA: This is one (1) of
17 the Elder lady from Gameti. Yes, Ms. Liza Mantla is
18 from Gameti, one of the Elders. And she says: As
19 Melanie has spoken, it's true, because lots of us, we
20 know. We all showed up and knew each other. We didn't
21 go further to a different country. We always lived in
22 the same regions. We know about how every one (1) of
23 us live, how we will survive by our Elders. How our
24 Elders had taught us. So many people talk about Hislop
25 Lake, was a great -- was a great value to anybody. So

1 as our Elders that have liv and -- and -- and saved us
2 by living through the hardships and today we gained
3 strength and the courage by using the words of wisdom.

4 Some of use have been the leaders, some
5 been a chief, some of them been band councillors. I
6 know that some of them cannot read and write, but they
7 know exactly what to say, because they experienced it.

8 So whenever one (1) of the camp leaders
9 says everybody -- everybody follows it. Everybody says
10 follow the camp, or the leader says, everybody follow.
11 Nobody oppose it. So they didn't have all kinds of
12 gears and equipments to hunt, to fish, and trap, but
13 they gone through a tough time, but they survive no
14 matter what.

15 They don't -- they don't in the log
16 cabins, because a log cabins where means that you have
17 to have a proper trees to build the log cabins. So
18 some people don't -- only some of them -- only some --
19 most of them still have their own tents, or some sort
20 of a living condition shelter to live in.

21 So this is how our Elders had brought us
22 up to raise us. So we didn't buy all this fashion
23 foods like -- like today you have, you know, in those
24 days you don't. You have only travel meat, moose meat,
25 beaver meat, all those things, but this is -- but

1 people mostly dependent on the fish. Fish was a
2 resource to feeding their dog teams, also for themselves
3 if they don't have any other source of -- of meat. So
4 we will remember, every one of us -- I wish our Elders
5 would set up example for us, we will follow that
6 example, will continue to follow that example.

7 This is how the strength of our nation
8 is. Using a wise, stronger words message, which all
9 depends on everyday to survive. The words of wisdoms.
10 Use -- use -- traditions, cultures, and also for the
11 wisdoms. And today there's a pride and dignity of our
12 people who has some -- who have a chimney that was made
13 of clay and rocks -- tiny pebbles, rocks.

14 You see some of the bay -- some of the
15 river run across from one another, or they have some
16 grave -- grave sites, some of the Elders who are -- who
17 have passed away. But our people have lived and saved
18 us. We didn't -- we didn't live dependent on the food
19 from the stores. We dependent on the land food. The
20 food comes from the lands.

21 So that is how our Elders have brought
22 us up. So as Melanie -- Melanie said, she is right.
23 We knows that this is the truth and this is how the --
24 some of the people that live in there, Hislop Lake --
25 my grandfather who has said that no matter how old he

1 was, everyday he tried to make it better for us.

2 That time we got to Behchoko, and
3 Melanie's father, he was so old that he could no longer
4 have the strength to continue to -- what he was doing
5 for us. He lived up to the old age, passed away, dying
6 of old age on Hislop Lake last two (2) summer -- summer
7 ago.

8 Charlie -- what the -- Charlie chose to
9 -- the whole point about travelling to communities --
10 Charlie -- they came to visit me in my house, that
11 brought papers, letters that -- or -- or -- came in,
12 just ask me: Want to ask you a questions about --
13 there is a mine -- there's a mineral that's been found
14 on the Hislop Lake. What are you going to do with it?
15 Would you want it to open?

16 So I said: Okay. You want ask the
17 questions, sure, ask the questions about it so we can
18 share with you what our experiences was dealing with
19 that site.

20 So my former leader is asking with our
21 Maker and says as long as our own Aboriginal person is
22 a leader, we'll listen to them. But we're not going to
23 listen to any other leaders that doesn't have nothing
24 to do with our natio -- our -- our society.

25 So that's what I am -- there was a

1 Johnny Aramathia (phonetic) -- who was this former
2 chief from Gameti. So we're not going to say "yes" to
3 anybody. We know what that -- we had to say "yes" only
4 to our people. When they're asking for something, we
5 had to consid -- take into consideration.

6 Right away they're going to say, Okay,
7 let's stop, let's take in consideration. And that's
8 what exactly is going to happen. I guess Charlie -- at
9 that time, it was -- I think it was Charlie Abagaroho
10 (phonetic) -- talks he's referring to, but one (1) of
11 the leader was there at the time, it was -- I don't
12 know if I believe it or not, but something I don't see
13 with my two (2) eyes, we wouldn't -- wouldn't know.

14 But, geologically, there's a sign --
15 site -- the site sign which it shows about how -- how
16 the people have survived and live off the land in those
17 days.

18 So I wanted to share that with you. And
19 I told them that maybe they wanted a leader was asking
20 the questions, why don't we answer to them. But we're
21 not going to answer to anybody; just our within the
22 area asking us a question to open the mine. But
23 somebody else's, we totally don't know. We know that
24 what, we're exchanging for what? You know, exchanging
25 the land for -- for mining, for what? These are the

1 things that which you had to make sure guaranteed.

2 So when you're talking about opening a
3 mine at Hislop Lake, you got to think twice, because
4 this is what will -- how we think. Well, we cannot
5 exchange a big value of the land for just -- just the
6 money, which doesn't -- which would no doubt -- it's
7 not going to do any good for us.

8 We have to make sure that we're going to
9 be pleased and satisfied with the way the conditions of
10 the life is going to be for the next hundred twenty
11 (120) years. So we have to think about these things.
12 We cannot say "yes" to you right now because this is
13 highly important. It's -- it's exactly if you -- we --
14 they came to visit with -- so we said the same thing to
15 him.

16 We're not talking about only jobs.
17 We're talking about the safety of the old people, of --
18 of our communities and living environment; for example,
19 poverties, addictions, all these things.

20 And we know that the road is going to be
21 open, there's going to be boats coming in and out. We
22 know that our people had lived that traditionally. We
23 used our land either way to hunt, fish, and trapping
24 today. What's going to happen? If this mines open, we
25 don't know what's going to happen. We don't know what

1 lies ahead of us.

2 If something going to bring damages to
3 our -- to our land, then we have to take it in really
4 big consideration in order for us to okay to open the
5 mines. But we'll have to make sure that -- that we see
6 with our two (2) eyes that there's going to be safety.
7 If it's not going to be safe, we're not going to say
8 "yes". But we'll have to make sure -- we'll have to
9 make damn sure that it's -- we're totally satisfied
10 that it's going to be safe before we say "yes" to it.

11 So that's why my safety -- that's what I
12 want to share with you. Thank you.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Lisa Mantla.

14 MR. HUNTER MANTLA: My name is Hunter
15 Mantla and my only concern is about the caribou. How -
16 - what if you guys set up the mines and how we can get
17 the caribou because of this mine? And where the
18 caribou's going to go and stuff? And about the
19 drinking water, too, what about if you guys shut down
20 this mine and there was contaminated by the oil, gas,
21 and stuff like that?

22 And -- and there's histories about the
23 Hislop Lake, stuff like that, I heard about it by
24 Elders from my community. I heard stories about --
25 they've been passed down from other Elders, true

1 stories and stuff like that. And when I have kids, I
2 want to go down there with them and show them. I've
3 been there with my dad. Yeah. And I have shot caribou
4 there, and I did go there. It was a lot of fun. But
5 the only pers -- the only reason I'm doing this is
6 because not a lot of kids my age have been there. Like
7 there's only been adults and Elders that have travelled
8 there, and I'm one (1) of the luckiest kids to actually
9 go there, and you guys are going to set up a mine
10 there.

11 And whenever you set it up, and there's
12 going to be like no way to get the caribou anymore.
13 And I've just been thinking, I would like to go there
14 with my kids one (1) day. It's a thing that I have on
15 my list to do, yeah. Well, thank you for letting me
16 speak.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: What was his -- what
18 was his name again?

19

20 (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Hunter Mantla.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 MS. JANELLE NITSIZA: Hello. My name
2 is Janelle Nitsiza. I'm from Whati. I'm eighteen (18)
3 years old. And I can truly say that I am speaking from
4 the heart when I tell you I am against this mine.

5 Chief Monfwi once said, So long as the
6 sun shines, the river flows, and the ground does not
7 move, we shall not be restricted from our way of life.
8 When you open up a mine, you're creating a pit. That
9 pit is going to essentially get blown up, and it's
10 going to shake the land. Are you really going to
11 contradict one (1) of our greatest leaders within the
12 Tlicho region? I don't think that's right.

13 Also, we have a lot of Elders who are
14 born, who are raised, and who have, like, memories
15 connected to this land. How are we, the young people,
16 supposed to -- supposed to make our own memories and
17 learn about this area if we won't be able to see it?
18 It'll be gone. How are we supposed to preserve it for
19 our children and their children?

20 There's lots of cul -- there's lots of
21 culture that we can learn from this area. I was part
22 of a program called the Tlicho Emba (phonetic) Program.
23 And one (1) of the things I noticed was you can't
24 really learn your language unless you're in that
25 specific area.

1 There's islands. There's parks.

2 There's bays that we won't know the names of because
3 they won't be there. We're going to learn -- we're
4 going to lose our culture. How are we supposed to
5 teach it to our children? How are we supposed to know
6 it?

7 A textbook isn't going to do anything
8 for us because, as Tlicho, we learn orally and we learn
9 visually. We can't learn visually if we can't see this
10 area.

11 There are other things, like the social
12 impact it'll have on the youth and women and people in
13 general in Whati. I am from Whati. I live here. I
14 see the things that go on even without the all-season
15 road.

16 Things will change drastically with an
17 all-season road. Drugs and alcohol will come over and,
18 like, make things ten (10), twenty (20) times worse
19 than it is now. We have young people drinking every
20 single weekend because they're getting booze by the
21 plane, by the boats, any way they can get it. This
22 road will make it so much easier to get it here.

23 And there's other environmental risks
24 that we're taking, like the tailings. How are we
25 supposed to know for sure, if it's just an experiment?

1 It's the first time it's going to be done in the cold
2 weather that we have up in the North. How are we
3 supposed to take that risk? You guys are playing with
4 our future, you know.

5 Also, the his -- this history, it is so
6 beautiful to hear Elders talk about these areas. You
7 guys are taking away the landscape if you open it. So
8 I ask -- I'm asking the Review Board to please take in
9 our concerns and our opinions as young people of this
10 area and just make the right decision. Masi cho.

11

12 (INTERPRETATION FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

13

14 ELDER FRANCIS WILLIAM: My name is
15 Francis William, and I never talked into -- in the
16 public like this very much. I may not have worked very
17 much in this kind of work, but I'd like to speak on it.

18 Like when you listen to the other
19 people, like the way they have described what life was
20 like surrounding the Hislop Lake, it is true, that how
21 the people speak to you about the Hislop Lake area it
22 is true, because people have lived there traditionally.
23 And there was lake were -- there was a lot of fish,
24 because people survived on the fish.

25 And along the river, all the way to

1 Marian Lake, people have lived along those rivers.
2 There's people lived in the bush. So in -- in the old
3 days there were a lot -- a lot of people survived on
4 the land. They lived along the riverside, because they
5 -- they live in the tents with their children, with
6 families.

7 Since -- since there was a mine over
8 there at one (1) time, like a lot of the things were --
9 were destroyed because of the -- the Rayrock Mine. And
10 since there was a contamination in the river, the
11 people cannot live alongside those rivers for a long
12 time.

13 Be -- because of the Rayrock Mine, a lot
14 of the people died because of the mine. All -- all of
15 those people that used to live at the Rayrock Mine are
16 not alive today due to the kind of illness that they
17 got from the mine, working in the mine.

18 Not -- not knowing much about these
19 chemicals, that was danger to our lives. The people
20 lived there, worked there without any -- any
21 protection. And there were amongst them their children
22 and other families using the same clothes that they --
23 that they used every day sleep in, work in. And
24 nowadays, like none of those workers are alive.

25 But -- and along those rivers there are

1 like a lot of the animals and different types of birds,
2 ducks, used to lived in tho -- in that area too, to
3 depend on the water and the land.

4 But now the -- now that we have these
5 modern homes, people depending on hav -- on living in
6 the -- in a warm home nowadays, with -- with kids. I
7 guess, but even though like when -- when they start a
8 new business or something, like it doesn't matter
9 what's good in the way, what's bad in the way. But as
10 long as you make money, it doesn't matter what's going
11 bad.

12 So that's why, I guess, we want to talk
13 to you about what we want and what -- and -- and what
14 we don't want. And we were just saying that we must
15 listen to each other. I wanted -- I wanted to speak
16 long before these people that spoke before me, but
17 because we're using the time to speak, I don't have
18 much to say. But this is all I wanted to share with
19 you, just to think about it.

20

21 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

22

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Francis
24 William. The -- the delegation from Wekweti and -- and
25 Gameti are going to be leaving at 6:30. And so what

1 I'll do is that I'm going to ask maybe closing comments
2 from the Chiefs from Wekweti and Gameti. Then, after
3 that, we'll take a twenty (20) minute supper break and
4 we'll continue on. And then we'll continue to listen
5 to some of the concerns from the community as well.

6 So we have one (1) more speaker. Okay.
7 We'll just proceed, please. Say your name.

8

9 (INTERPRETATION FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

10

11 MR. SAM MANTLA: Thank you, Mr.
12 Chairman. Thank you for giving me time to speak. My
13 name is Sam Mantla. I'm from Gameti.

14 Living in the community and talking
15 about the Hislop Lake, a lot of families live in
16 Wekweti, but my -- I was raised up in -- in around
17 those areas. But in the past two (2) summers, we were
18 with a lot of young people. We -- we worked at the
19 river towards Behchoko. We just travel along the river
20 to do -- to do some research, to study, to look at what
21 -- what's -- what's along those river sites.

22 For instance, there's a lot of
23 graveyards where we did a lot of cleaning up, lot of
24 praying, and sharing the stories, sharing the -- the
25 stories with the young people. We told them, like,

1 that they have a long future; that one day, if they
2 have children one of these days, that we told them,
3 like, If you ever have children out in the -- the --
4 down in the future, like, you might be travelling along
5 these rivers like we do with you right now. So those
6 were just some of the examples that we were trying to
7 set forth for these young people.

8 Doing so, while travelling down those
9 rivers, finding out whereabouts is -- our fishing areas
10 are. So we taught these children to -- how to set
11 nets. So just doing our work traditionally and -- and
12 nomadically, like, we have to search out for rocks to
13 tie to the nets so that we can fit nets in the river.

14 So tho -- those were some of the
15 teachings that were done along those explorations that
16 we took with the kids. Travelling down the rivers with
17 these young people, we've experienced a lot. We
18 learned a lot together. We found out, like, there's a
19 lot of moose and other mammals that lives along those
20 rivers. There's ducks, there's muskrats, there's
21 beavers. There's all sorts of other animals that live
22 alongside those rivers, and that's one (1) thing we've
23 learned.

24 Now, we -- we also passed by the old
25 Rayrock Mine with all these discoloured trees,

1 discoloured river sites, and how -- what -- what kind
2 of contamination took place at that mine site, and how
3 different -- how different it looks.

4 But now I just want to say, like, when -
5 - when we talk about maybe opening a mining business,
6 for instance, such as the -- the Fortune Minerals here,
7 they -- they want to share everything with you prior to
8 opening the mine. But once everything gets going, once
9 the -- they -- they get the permits to go ahead to
10 start the mining industry, they forget about what we
11 share here.

12 So when -- when the time comes to give
13 permit, it's very hesitate -- it's very hesitant to say
14 yes because of all the other stuff that gets involved
15 once the mine gets going.

16 For instance, when we travel way up
17 towards the Hota Lake (phonetic) too, like we discover
18 a lot of other things over there, too, where -- where
19 the mine has been abandoned, like things were all left
20 behind. Nobody took time to -- to clean up the mine
21 sites over there, where the -- the -- where the mess
22 are left just the way they are right now.

23 So when -- when I worked with these
24 young people there, when I travel alongside those
25 rivers with these young people, I told them about some

1 of the problems that we saw along those riversides.
2 And I also told these young people about these things
3 that I saw so that -- sharing our stories. Just like
4 we do right now, I also shared the stories with these
5 young people that I worked with.

6 So I just wanted to share this story
7 about what -- what I explained already, so thank you
8 for listening.

9

10 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

11

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Sam Mantla.

13 MS. MARY ADELE WE TRADE: Hi --

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, before the
15 last speaker here, I guess time is in essence, so if
16 you -- if you could be the last speaker and then we'll
17 go to the Chief after that. Okay, thanks.

18 CHIEF EDWARD CHOCOLATE: Mr. Chair,
19 since, you know, the Gameti people Wekweeti are -- will
20 be leaving on the charter, and we'll be staying behind.
21 I'm -- I'm going on -- on the next Charter. So I
22 would rather let the people of Gameti and Wekweeti talk
23 first, okay. Thank you. Masi.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Masi, Chief
25 Chocolate, for that. And because of the charter, I'm

1 going to let the people speak from Gameti. But just --
2 just how many more speakers are there, Chief Edward
3 Chocolate?

4 DR. GINGER GIBSON: Yeah.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Just one (1)?

6 Okay. Okay. Well, continue. I'm sorry, introduce
7 yourself.

8 MS. MARY ADELE WE TRADE: Okay. My
9 name is Mary Adele We trade, and I'm from Gameti. Just
10 talking about the mine, the opening of the mine and
11 Hislop Lake, it brings back a lot of memories for me,
12 because I grew up there when I was small.

13 I lived around that area until I went to
14 residential school when I went to -- that was in 1956,
15 I think. And the thing is that -- I can't see.

16 Anyway, I remember growing up there,
17 living with my parents. My dad used to go hunting and
18 trapping around that area. And I remember those hills
19 there, where they're putting up the mine. And grandpa,
20 my -- my dad's dad, he always used to take us out in
21 the bush when he goes cutting woods. Me and my old
22 brother, we used to go a long with him. Maybe bring
23 woods back for him or make tea for him.

24 That's what I remember, all those good
25 times out there when I was growing up. And my dad had

1 a cabin there, and it's just maybe at the foot of the -
2 - where they're building the mine. And there are some
3 things special about that mine. Every time I look at
4 that hill from where the cabin was, I look at the hill.
5 There's something special about that mine. What was
6 it? But then I heard that there was a mine opening on
7 that hill.

8 And the beauty around that lake when you
9 go fishing with my mom or my dad, or they would go
10 rabbit trapping, you know, just living around that
11 area, just the -- the tranquillity of the land, the
12 beauty of the land. There's a lot of things, you know,
13 it just brings good memories out -- when I think about
14 it.

15 When I think about the -- putting up the
16 mine, what's going to happen? All the beauty, the
17 water, you know, I heard that we have the freshest
18 water in the NWT in Canada: ninety-nine point nine
19 (99.9) fresh water. What's going to happen to that
20 water? Is the water going to be that fresh? No, I
21 don't think so.

22 You know, the fish we eat from the lake,
23 the wat -- waters, the rivers, whatever goes in the
24 water it destroys the fish, and we live off the fish.
25 Because -- I know that I used to work at the health

1 centre and I remember -- because the, you know, there's
2 a lot of people getting cancer. I see it. A lot of
3 people died of cancer.

4 And a lot of people, you know, they eat
5 fish. And this is where the people they get the
6 disease from, because of the water. The water's not
7 clean anymore. The mine -- the water from the Ter Mine
8 (phonetic), it goes to the Rae Lakes, and the mining
9 area from Rayrock, it flows to Ray.

10 You know, those mines, do you think it's
11 -- the water's clean? I don't know. Maybe that's why
12 a lot of people they've have been getting cancers; they
13 die of cancer; young girls, young kids.

14 And I don't like that. And around that
15 area, Hislop Lake, my dad he used to go hunting until
16 the late '80s with my brother. They go beaver hunting,
17 muskrat hunting, duck hunting, and even to this day
18 they're still using that area for camping. We still go
19 through there. This is where my heart is. This is
20 where the heart of the people is, and I'm going to be
21 giving all that up if I -- if they put up the mine.

22 And there's plants too, some plants that
23 are used for medicine. And the rivers, the waters that
24 flow, that is our -- that is our lifeline to survival.
25 That was the survival for -- for the -- our Elders when

1 they passed through those -- that area. It was just
2 like a major highway to -- to civilization. And living
3 around that area is just like living in paradise when
4 you were there. And then the land, they might destroy
5 the land when they -- if they open the mine there.

6 So I'll be giving up this for what, so
7 my kids can get cancer, so you can get cancer? Is the
8 money going to buy me my health? What am I going to
9 get in return? Death.

10 I know there's going to be a lot of
11 changes if they open the mine. There's going to be
12 environmental damages, social issues, et cetera.

13 And I just remember that one (1) time
14 there's somebody went past -- through the mine there to
15 visit the -- the -- somebody working there, I guess.
16 And they told him to get off the land, it wasn't their
17 land. That's what I heard from somebody. They got
18 chased out of that area.

19 And I want to ask you this question:
20 Did our leaders give them the okay to do the mining
21 there? And I think about -- almost everybody has
22 covered almost everything, and I think that's all I
23 have to say. Thank you.

24 And one (1) last thing: money or gold is
25 not going to buy me my health or love.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Margaret
2 (sic) We Trade. And we got one (1) more speaker. And
3 then I'm going to go to closing comments from the Chief
4 from Gameti and Wekweeti. So I'm going to ask Nick
5 Lamondelle to come up.

6
7 MR. NICK LAMONELLE: Masi. This
8 thing's on? Okay.

9
10 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

11
12 MR. NICK LAMONELLE: My name's Nick
13 Lamondelle. I'm from Wekweti. I heard a lot of people
14 speaking. I heard a lot of people talk about their
15 families lived in those areas. In those time, when
16 people used to work at the Rayrock Mine, a lot of
17 people -- a lot of people's lives were -- were lost.
18 I'm not saying not to build the mine.
19 It's just that like to be extra careful. It's not just
20 the mine that we're talking about. We're also talking
21 about maybe building a year-round road because the
22 transportation will be needed to transport these heavy
23 objects. Because of the -- the contamination that's --
24 that's involved with the mining, we know from our past
25 experience that many lives were lost due to the -- the

1 Rayrock Mine. So just to keep that in mind, I just
2 wanted to speak that much. Thank you.

3 Thank you. It seems that a lot of our
4 people will be leaving, but I want to say something
5 before they -- be -- before they go. Many mining
6 industries has been developed in the past, not only in
7 Yellowknife, but there's been a lot of other mine
8 that's been -- that has been opened up, up on the
9 barren land. But what I -- I want to say is that you -
10 - to keep a look out for the caribous because we're so
11 small in the caribou -- in the caribou population.

12 Well, I am really concerned for caribous
13 because that is what we depended on for centuries. And
14 -- but since we have other mines open on our land, like
15 our caribous population has -- has gone down. But when
16 we're going to open this mine here there -- what we
17 should keep in mind right now is to keep the road open,
18 so that we can have more caribou on our land, because
19 this is something that our people really depend on.

20 But it's just that, since it's hard to
21 control the -- the -- these caribou, but in order for
22 people to live good, we -- we need to have something to
23 -- in return, maybe like to help families probably with
24 -- say, for instance, like five thousand dollars
25 (\$5,000), just so that -- that people can have food on

1 the table just so that -- like, what he's suggesting is
2 that maybe for the mine to think about supplying five
3 thousand dollars (\$5,000) to each household so that
4 families can have food on the table.

5

6 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

7

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Fortune Minerals,
9 maybe you want to make a brief comment, and then we'll
10 take a supper break.

11 MR. RICK SCHRYER: Rick Schryer,
12 Fortune Minerals. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
13 just wanted to make a brief comment that there's been a
14 lot of comments concerning Hislop Lake today from the
15 Elders and other people, and we just want to make sure
16 that people understand that the Nico Project is not
17 directly on Hislop Lake. It is 10 kilometres away from
18 Hislop Lake.

19 And so I realize that the distinction
20 between people talking about the Nico Project or the
21 Hislop Lake area versus Hislop Lake, but there is a
22 distinction; the mine is not actually on Hislop Lake.
23 So none of the -- the heritage sites that we're talking
24 about that are on -- the cabins or the other sites that
25 are on Hislop Lake will be disturbed by this mine.

1 Water quality won't be affected. It's
2 upstream of this mine. Air won't get dust. None of
3 those things will happen on Hislop Lake. It'll stay
4 the way it is right now, with or without the mine.
5 Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you.
7 We're going to stop there. We're going to take a
8 twenty (20) minute break. But before I do that, I want
9 to just make a quick comment. I want to say thank you
10 to the Elders and -- and the people that spoke from
11 Gameti and Wekweeti. I know they've got a plane to
12 catch. And I want to say thank you for coming to this
13 public hearing on this project here.

14 And it's also really refreshing to -- to
15 hear young people speak, and it's encouraging, because
16 I know maybe it'd be difficult for you guys to come to
17 up to say what you guys did, and it's -- and I always
18 encourage young people to do that, you know.

19 So we're going to take a twenty (20)
20 minute supper break. We're going to come right back,
21 and we're going to continue on until we -- we hear,
22 probably, from everybody. We're going to accommodate
23 the people here from this community. We want to listen
24 to what you have to say. And I believe the Chiefs are
25 going to stay, so, the Grand Chief, I think that's what

1 we'll do. We'll take a twenty (20) break. We'll stop
2 and we'll come back. Masi.

3

4 --- Upon recessing at 6:07 p.m.

5 --- Upon resuming at 6:49 p.m.

6

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. I'd like to
8 call the public hearing back to order. I want to go to
9 -- before I go to the Tlicho Grand Chief, I just want
10 to mention that we don't have much left, but we're
11 going to continue to stay till we hear, probably, from
12 everybody.

13 So I'll get the Chief -- Grand Chief to
14 mention that, and if there's any further youth that
15 want to make comments, we could do that as well.

16 So I'm going to maybe turn it over to
17 Grand Chief.

18

19 (INTERPRETATION FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

20

21 GRAND CHIEF EDWARD ERASMUS: So I want
22 to have the Whati youth. Some of the youth from the
23 communities of Whati have not spoken. Maybe they're
24 not here to speak. So all the people from Whati should
25 speak out. We've got only about forty (40) minutes, so

1 those who want to speak should be allowed -- should be
2 given permission to speak.

3 So anybody from Whati who wants to
4 speak, please speak. You got -- yeah.

5

6 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

7

8 (INTERPRETATION FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

9

10 MR. MICHAEL RABESCA: Yeah, I want to
11 say I thank you for being here as Board members, Mr.
12 Chairman, and Board members, and the Fortune Mineral
13 mines groups and Review Boards. I know lots of Elders
14 have spoken. And lots of women -- lady -- ladies have
15 spoken too, regarding their concern dealing with the
16 mines.

17 I'm hoping that this -- when others has
18 spoken, I know some of the Elders have spoken, I
19 believe what they said. I know that sometime during
20 the springtime or in the wintertime, people used to go
21 travelling in and out, some of them even to set up the
22 nets. And they -- they do hunt for the beavers,
23 muskrat hunting season, when it comes up, they do.

24 So for the -- open up the Fortune
25 Mineral mines -- so when I heard this about the

1 comments regarding to the -- to the Fortune Mineral
2 mines, some of the -- some of the work that has been
3 done, and as I see some of the people, they're talking
4 about not to contaminate the -- the lands or the water.

5 To me, I don't see we know that for
6 sure. If the mine is opened, there's going to be
7 damages to the -- to the environment, no matter what,
8 how we say it or how we -- how we addressing that. But
9 with the local mines, as some of them say, they're not
10 -- they're not really telling the truth, I don't think.
11 There -- there is no 100 percent guarantee. Wherever
12 there's a mine, there's going to be damage. You know
13 that.

14 You know, all the sites you see the
15 past. There's no -- there's no 100 percent guarantee
16 that the land and -- and the environment's going to be
17 safe. We know that. When you know that when they do
18 all the blasting with the diamond mines, to -- to crush
19 up the rock, to separate the rocks from -- from the
20 main rocks, and then they -- and they scramble because
21 of the -- all of the dust from the blast goes --
22 carries the dust a long ways.

23 It goes to all the different areas, the
24 lands, the water, the surfaces, and the subsurfaces.
25 And what it -- you know, what -- it carries the du --

1 it carries the dust a long ways. All the animals that
2 do their feeding will have a feeding on this dust.

3 So Gameti, Wekweeti will -- it's -- both
4 our communities. This is our lands we're talking
5 about. So, for me, when -- when they say they ought
6 not to open the mines, I don't -- I'm not in favour of
7 opening the mines. Not only me.

8 I know that when the road comes in,
9 what's going to happen. There's going to be lots of
10 changes, not only with the social problems, but
11 poverties. We know that. But there's more jobs, more
12 -- cause many more -- more troubles. And some people,
13 when they say that, I'm -- I'm working, I can do what I
14 want to do. And some of them which want to get away
15 with everything, what they do. To -- to me, when I
16 look at the mines, I don't want to open them. I say --
17 I'm saying -- saying no.

18 I know lots of young people, when they
19 talk to me, they're saying, no, they don't want it
20 open. They don't want to have the road -- road come
21 into our communities. They like it the way it is, nice
22 and peaceful, quiet.

23 We know that -- we know that there's
24 other opportunities; not only the mining will create
25 jobs. And we can find ways to -- to make -- make the

1 mines, we can create some mines -- we can create some
2 jobs in the communities. We know we have a big lake
3 here. We have plenty of fish in this lake. And we --
4 we can do a lot, and nice and peaceful the way it is.

5 Me, I grew up here in this community.
6 My father is here. His name is Jimmy B. Rabesca, one
7 (1) of the Elders who has spoken here. When I was
8 about eight (8) or nine (9) years old, I used to travel
9 along with my dad. So he takes me with the dog teams.
10 In those days we didn't have no Skidoos, we didn't have
11 no boats or motors.

12 So wintertime what we do is some
13 trappings. In the summertime we'll go by boat, we set
14 the -- we're setting the nets, and we'll do some
15 fishing, spring fishing, fall fishing, go fishing for
16 dog foods.

17 When I'm speaking today, I'm speaking
18 from the -- from my heart. This way exactly how I
19 feel. It's not only for me, but for the future
20 generation of our youth; I'm speaking for them. So
21 today I'm telling you, as the Review Board, we know
22 that anywhere there's mines, there's going to be
23 damages to the lands no matter what the environment, no
24 matter what -- no matter how you address it.

25 To me, I don't want no road coming to

1 the community. I don't want the mine to be open.
2 That's what I -- that's -- that's all I want to say.
3 Thank you.

4

5 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

6

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Michael
8 Rabesca, from Whati.

9

10 (INTERPRETATION FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

11

12 MR. JOSEPH JUDAS: Yes, thank you for
13 giving me a chance to speak about Wekweeti. My name is
14 Joseph Judas, former Chief. When we started here with
15 the Chief, I wanted to thank the Chief from Whati and
16 also the Chiefs and the Grand Chiefs who are here. I
17 want to thank them for having us, this happening here.

18 As you -- as the Mackenzie Valley Review
19 Board members who are here, as we were listening to
20 you, as we addressing some of the Elders that have
21 spoken, and some of the young people, you have -- you
22 heard them. You have -- you have seen them.

23 And when they're talking about the area
24 of Hislop Lake, you know, the tradition -- traditional
25 or use of the site, they talk about all the stories,

1 the histories of how the land, the development was. So
2 as I hear -- as the Elders, as they're talking about
3 only -- only the -- not only the -- they're also
4 talking about the plants, the animals, the wildlife,
5 all of this.

6 They say they don't want you to allow it
7 because they don't want the damages, because if you do
8 the damages to -- to the land, that means that all the
9 plants, the vegetation will die. So they know that --
10 because they know where the water flows, the direction
11 -- which directly they're flowing to.

12 And when the substances get into the
13 water and the fish is taking it, and the other animals
14 like the ducks and all that are eating it, you know
15 they're just going to pass all the diseases, sickness,
16 to one animal to another.

17 So, Mr. Chairman, as I'm speaking to
18 you, I don't want to speak too long. I know that we
19 still got some other meeting we'll have to do. So
20 whenever we're talking about some issues like this is
21 real importance. It's good to listen to one (1)
22 another. I know some Elders have spoken strongly, and
23 it seems like the message was not heard, so I'm
24 thinking about which way can we deal with this.

25 Maybe we should have four (4) or five

1 (5) translators, because some of us, we have a
2 different. That is, some of us speak slowly, some of
3 us speak too fast. Some have a different dialects.
4 But it's hard to interpretations of the language which
5 is not -- not correct, because some of us, you know,
6 the translators are the ones that who will carry the
7 books in the end because of all the translations being
8 done. It'd be good to have maybe three (3) or four (4)
9 translators so that -- especially when we do have a
10 hearing like this, so that everybody get a chance to
11 speak.

12 Maybe some of the young people as you
13 see have spoken today, even some Elders and ladies have
14 spoken, and they say, How would be the best for
15 everyone? That's what they're trying to find the
16 answer to the questions.

17 So they are the ones who are here what -
18 - for us, and they are -- in the future will have work
19 together because they leader -- because the young
20 people, they'll become the leaders, and they will carry
21 on the work message to -- to the future. So that is
22 why it's really important some of those people who did
23 live there and along the lake, along the rivers, lots
24 of people, and they had depended heavily on this
25 animal. They know that they live there. They survived

1 there.

2 And so it's like -- it's like today, so
3 I don't want to speak too long today because I have --
4 I also want to share some of the -- my thoughts with
5 you, because it'd be good that they have good
6 translators and it's good. I mean, like, for example,
7 you have maybe more than two (2) translators, that
8 would be good, especially when you do have review
9 panels like this.

10 That's what I wanted to share with you.

11 So thank you.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. Elder from
13 Whati, Nareiss Bishop.

14

15 (INTERPRETATION FROM TLICHO TO ENGLISH)

16

17 MR. NAREISS BISHOP: Yes, my name is
18 Nareiss. I come from Whati. Yes, you're talking about
19 this wildlife animal. There's lots of important
20 things, not only (NATIVE LANGUAGE SPOKEN). But when
21 you're talking about -- about caribou, there's lots of
22 important issues that -- which we have to deal with.
23 And what's -- how important is this, how we can really
24 manage or find a way to manage, find a way to keep safe
25 of these animals.

1 And you know that on the site when
2 there's a dump sites, we are talking about how we can
3 save the caribou. And we say some of them there are
4 not being kept pretty well and some -- and some dumps
5 out there in Yellowknife. For example, not only us,
6 but then there's so many other people, they do.

7 I know that -- we know that they do.
8 When you go to the dump, you see them. That's why you
9 saw so much information dealing with caribous. We're -
10 - us -- we're brought -- we were brought with up a lot
11 of respect. Even if we go travel down -- down south or
12 towards the north, where there's the caribou is, no
13 matter how far it is.

14 You know, in -- in those days it wasn't
15 -- it take us twelve (12) days to get a caribou and
16 come back. You know, that's how we used to do it in a
17 lowland base. And I'd have to travel. All the
18 animals, wildlife we knew, we have respect for them.
19 We'll take care of them. We'll care for it. And they
20 will come back to us. That's how we -- that's what we
21 believe. That's in the histories, the way caribou go
22 along with what the stories...

23 I know that. I hear -- I got lots of
24 stories, because my father had brought me up because
25 when I -- I'm not given enough time to explain to you

1 here about everything. As we're talking about it, K'ia
2 Goti, Hislop Lake, every summer I go out -- I go down
3 there. I see -- I go travel down the river. Every
4 springtime I go to away from here, and I see all the
5 animals, how do they live, how they survive, how -- how
6 they depends on the -- what -- with their foods.

7 My father, my grandfather, they all
8 taught me about to live on the land. So I live my
9 traditional way of life. Whenever I'm not -- whenever
10 I'm not hurt, whenever I'm healthy, I continue to live
11 a traditional way, the way I was -- I was taught to
12 live.

13 So wherever there's good games, wherever
14 is a good fishing grounds, where is a good trapping
15 grounds, where is a good hunting grounds, I'll go. And
16 I see what the beavers and all the animals that are
17 floating on top of the water.

18 Like, for example, on the Hislop Lake,
19 where there's minerals being found, so what's going to
20 happen in the future? All the animals that live with
21 us, what's going to happen to them? I love to see -- I
22 love to see the animals out in the ground. Other
23 hunters kill it because I see it. I just let it go.

24 Sometime where I car -- I carry those
25 young people with me, I let them see it. I tell them

1 the stories about which ground we're on. I tell them
2 story, the background of it. And even the lake, the
3 name of the -- the land, what was the site, what had
4 taken place and what year it was, all these traditional
5 stories which I pass on to them.

6 So as I see the Hislop Lake, what kind
7 of story are we going to end up with? Wha -- what's
8 going to happen another forty (40) or fifty (50) years
9 down the line? So I'm thinking about -- I'm -- I'm
10 very careful about this. I care about this. I want
11 you to help us as we're working together. All of you
12 work with us.

13 So how can we continue to live off the
14 land? We can take you along with us. You can travel
15 with us to the mine site, to the site, to Hislop Lake
16 site. We can show you about the stories, geologically.
17 They will tell you the stories about how it was, how
18 our people survived, how the animals survived, how the
19 animals they live, and, you know, all the stories about
20 traditional histories -- histories of animal, how they
21 survive.

22 If we don't have water, where we going
23 to travel, how we going to travel? Where are we going
24 to travel a distance from Hislop Lake to here even --
25 even from -- from here to -- to Behchoko.

1 So all these -- even animals depends on
2 that. It feeds the family dependent on the water. So
3 sometimes we catch about -- we seen some dead fish
4 along the river. I see some of them. I see all the
5 sticks because of the water, it's -- there's -- there's
6 too much water.

7 Maybe you see even the willows they're
8 just white because there's so much water. The water is
9 killing -- killing those plants because of overflows.
10 Maybe because of the -- maybe it's because of the
11 overflows from the kind of seeping in from the mines,
12 from Rayrock Mines, maybe.

13 So I want to make sure that all these
14 are being kept so -- safe so that we can have a safe
15 mines. So all the chiefs, the leaders, and you as
16 Mackenzie Valley Water -- Land and Water Boards and
17 also maybe the mining, that all people have to work
18 together.

19 So I'd be really happy to see that all
20 disappear and be safe. Thank you.

21

22 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

23

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you there, Mr.
25 Bishop.

1 MS. BERTHA MARIE ZOE: My name's Lisa
2 Zoe. (INTERPRETATION NOT SWITCHED) ...five (5) kids.
3 And since I moved to Whati, it's a beautiful
4 atmosphere. And when I first moved here, I didn't know
5 any traditional or cultural knowledge of dry-fish
6 making and dry-meat making. And I learned all that
7 here out in the land.

8 And it's going to be sad to hear the
9 fact of the mine opening and all-season road. I moved
10 away from that. I moved away to be away from all the
11 bad substance and things like that.

12 And I adapted to living in an isolated,
13 remote community in winter I very love and enjoy. And
14 all of that will change dramatically. And I'm thinking
15 about my -- my children's future. We take our kids out
16 in the land. I've been -- have you ever been to the
17 falls? Have you ever been hiking by the falls. It's
18 an eye-popper; it's beautiful out there. Even
19 travelling by the boat, by canoe, or by boat by the
20 river, it's like so beautiful out there.

21 And nothing will compare to that from
22 anywhere down south, or the United States; none of that
23 atmosphere will compare to what we have here. Even
24 travelling by the end of the lake, past the lake to the
25 other lake of Grandon (phonetic) Lake, caribou hunting.

1 I went all there. I really loved it.

2 And just the fact of hearing it saying that it's going
3 to change, you know, everything will change. And when
4 you go to Behchoko, you see condemned places.

5 Everything's board up. Who knows what will happen in
6 Whati? Who knows what will happen to our children and
7 our youth?

8 A lot of youth are just dying of
9 alcohol, abusing themselves, because they can just get
10 alcohol just like that, driving to Yellowknife, easily.
11 And living out here is -- it lacks them away. I moved
12 away from that. I don't want it to come after me. I
13 don't want my kids to be raised in that environment,
14 and I don't -- I really want them to know our cultural
15 and traditional way of life.

16 We're losing Elders also. And just a
17 fact it really, really hurts me, it hurts my heart. I
18 just felt like crying, hearing how damaged the land is
19 going to be, it will change.

20 My kids won't be able to experience out
21 on the land travelling by the trail of our ancestors.
22 We want them to experience that. And I've worked at --
23 at the mine experiencing -- working at Diavik, I see a
24 lot -- not -- not -- the promises that were made, it's
25 not being met. There's no communication. Lack of

1 communication. It'd be nice to see a bilingual person
2 speaking Tlicho and English in the Environmental
3 Department where they can document everything and not
4 hide anything, and work -- work together.

5 None of that is happening. All the
6 promises are being broke, and when I was working at
7 Diavik, I felt alone. I felt like I'm the only Tlicho
8 working at the mine, and who knows how it will be once
9 the mine opens. It's going to be different. They're
10 going to say, Oh, they don't have education. They're
11 going to have to get people from down south.

12 Just not too long ago, they had a --
13 they over-reviewed the budget, and com -- comparing
14 from northerners to southerners, mostly monies are
15 spent to southerners. And some of the southerners,
16 they move to Hay River, just rent an apartment, just to
17 get their northern allowance. They're laughing at us,
18 you know.

19 I work at the mine. One (1) side is
20 Aboriginal and one (1) side is just non-Aboriginal.
21 And it's sad to see, you know. Why can't we just mix
22 up, sit and mixed up in tables and communicate, you
23 know? We're people, we're beings, we're all same
24 beings, all creations of God. It's sad to see that --
25 that, you know, we're having two (2) different people

1 on different tables, and it's -- I don't know how it's
2 going to be when -- when the mine opens, you know. I
3 don't know. It's -- it's hard to say.

4 I just -- then I thought, oh, it'll be
5 nice to have an all-season road, I thought at first. I
6 had mixed feelings, but, no, I don't want an all-season
7 road. It will change our life, everybody's life, in
8 Whati, socially, eco -- economically. Everything will
9 change, everything. Only if they can really take our
10 words in consideration, I'll be very, very thankful.

11 And they don't know what we go through,
12 like, from comparing. Like, when I go out to
13 Yellowknife, I'd want to come back. It's a fast-paced
14 environment out there, and here is a totally different
15 perspective. I love the -- the fact of coming home,
16 relaxing, peacefulness, don't have to worry how much I
17 worry out there of what's going to happen next, and
18 that's what we're going to have to worry about once an
19 all-season road opens and -- and the mine opens.

20 That's all I have to say. Masi.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Bertha
22 Marie Zoe (phonetic).

23 Derek Beaverho...?

24 MR. DEREK BEAVERHO: Just my main
25 concern about -- well, I'd like to start off first

1 saying thank you for coming to my town, Fortune
2 Minerals, you, too, as well.

3 Just that these guys won't be the first
4 mine to come to our town. You probably will be coming
5 back here again soon, different situation, different
6 time.

7 But my main concern is that my people
8 went through a lot since the '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s.
9 Now we're in the 2000s. There's a lot has been done to
10 my people, and I see mines, and I see people coming to
11 my town. It's all good and prosperous for the town, I
12 guess, but my main concern is just the townspeople.
13 What's going to happen to them? We've already got so
14 many problems.

15 All I'm asking is that you guys consider
16 what my people have to say today, and just take it to
17 heart, because we went through a lot now, and now this.
18 There's more to come, I know that, but my main concern
19 is, please, talk and consider what my people have to
20 say. Thank you. THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Derek
21 Beaverho. Masi.

22 MR. CLARENCE MACKENZIE: Hi, my name is
23 Clarence Mackenzie. I'm from Behchoko. And all the
24 people are saying is, all-season road will be awful,
25 how peaceful it is out here at Whati, the waterfalls

1 and all that.

2 Yeah, it's true, but we need jobs, you
3 know that. It's okay, but I don't know. My concerns
4 is about how we -- what is -- going back to the mines.
5 It's going way too fast. A small town, getting all-
6 season road. And I don't know -- all that landfill,
7 construction, it's going so fast. So they will make an
8 all-season road, they're digging a mine, and all that.

9 It's -- all the waste that they've been
10 making. They're making a bridge, destroying the
11 landfill and more. It won't be okay. It's not going
12 to be okay. And we don't know what it's going to do.
13 You guys, it's not a hundred percent guarantee. You
14 guys always doing explosive and that stuff in the mine.

15 And people in Rae had this problems,
16 too. They don't know if they're going to get a job at
17 the mines, they're applying already, I don't know. The
18 same -- and my -- but you guys are okayed just said,
19 but my generation, people are telling me it's going to
20 be problems down the -- down the line. I don't know
21 what about that.

22 I know the wa -- if they contaminate the
23 water, I don't what's going to happen with that. It's
24 going to contaminate the soil and all. People are
25 telling me to -- to come down here. I don't know what

1 to do.

2 Ten (10), twenty (20), down the line,
3 the mine's going to close. We don't know what's going
4 to happen. The water that might be contaminated, the
5 soil is going to get contaminated. It's going to be --
6 we don't know what's going to happen. Okay, thank you.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Clarence
8 Mackenzie. Masi.

9 MS. APRIL ALEXIS: Hi. My name is
10 April Alexis. I'm a Tlicho citizen of Whati. And I
11 just want to point out how emotionally distracted I am,
12 just by the effects of the all-season road, how our --
13 our youth will be affected, our community, and our
14 environment.

15 My main concern is for my grandchildren.
16 I want to see my grandchildren. I want them to know
17 the knowledge that was passed on by our ancestors. In
18 the area that was located for Fortune Minerals, that's
19 one (1) of the locations, if that comes into an effect,
20 how am I supposed to teach my -- my children that area?
21 It's probably one (1) of the most beautiful area in our
22 Tlicho lands.

23 Our community is already affected.
24 There's a small infection of the social impact, because
25 of the -- the river flowing to Behchoko, there's

1 already access there. We have access with the -- with
2 the airlines. We don't need another access of the --
3 of the all-weather road; that's just an easier access.
4 But I'm already hurt. I'm not only talking to my --
5 about myself. I'm talking about all the mothers for
6 Whati. It's even harder standing over here. It's not
7 easy standing here. It probably -- probably isn't easy
8 being a leader. But we're here because we're
9 concerned. I'm standing here because I'm concerned not
10 only for myself, but for the future generation. And I
11 want you guys to know that. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, April
13 Alexis. Masi.

14 MR. ALFRED BEAVERHO: Masi. I've live
15 in Whati all my life. I work in two (2) different mine
16 in the last fifteen (15) years. And I do know what's
17 going on in the mine. Every day -- like I work twelve
18 (12) hours a shift, three hundred and twenty-five (325)
19 days a year, and I know the mine company, they have
20 policy which they're supposed to follow, but sometime
21 they don't do that.

22 I see a lot of oil spill, a lot of
23 hydraulic spill. One (1) of the big equipment is --
24 must have about 245 gallon, maybe 3, they all spill on
25 the ground. They don't clean it properly, the way that

1 they have their mine regulation. They don't do that.

2 And who's looking after it, you know?

3 Our leader, they were concerned about the land. But
4 for myself, as working in the mine fifteen (15) years,
5 I see it right in front of my eye. But if I talk about
6 that mine company, they will get rid of me. So that's
7 how the -- we work through it. We can -- we're not
8 allowed to talk about the mine company. So I see a lot
9 of negative stuff the last fifteen (15) years. I know
10 all the young people, the old people talk about the new
11 mine coming up. And I also think about young people.

12 Like for -- for example, here in Whati
13 we have graduation almost every year, six (6), seven
14 (7), sometime over twelve (12), and none of them have a
15 job. I know people are concerned about the mine, but
16 you got to think ahead. Think for your kid's future.
17 They need a job. They're not going to go back to old
18 days and make a living. They're not going to go
19 trapping. They're not going to live off the land. I
20 don't think so.

21 The only way that people will survive in
22 the future is with a job. If you don't have a job,
23 your house, everything is shut down, your power, your
24 grocery, your clothes, your food, everything. You got
25 to have money. You got to -- got to look at that too

1 as a leader. You guys -- you guys know that.

2 Because me, I'm involved in leadership
3 in the past, lots. I've been involved in the School
4 Board. I'm involved in the -- the board. I know a
5 little bit about business. I know a little about how
6 the -- how we can create a job. But if you don't do
7 things together right, it's not going to happen.

8 I'm not saying that I'm against the
9 mine, but I'm thinking about our community, our
10 population growing every year. And like I said, young
11 people, they graduate every year, you know, we don't
12 have nothing for them. The only people work in that --
13 in the organization, that's about it. And we have
14 nothing for our kids. You got to think about kids'
15 future. They -- they need a job.

16 But you're talking about a new mine.
17 You know, if we get really together, work together, we
18 can make it happen. They're -- they're worried about
19 environment. You know, if we don't have a process plan
20 in the -- in the mine, sure, it's going to have a clean
21 environment. I know that 100 percent, because I work in
22 a mine. They can dig whatever they dig; just take it
23 back. No process plant? They can -- they can make it.

24 People have to understand, like you
25 people, because me, I had an experiment in the mine. I

1 know. I know that, you know, we -- we can do it, but
2 we need to sit down and -- like today, it's too rushed.
3 We didn't start meeting until about noon, and if we're
4 going to talk about a big issue like this, you guys are
5 rushing, rushing.

6 You know, you don't have -- we have
7 about five hundred (500) plus population here. We
8 could have all the people. Young people can talk about
9 it, you know, and make it really good. That's the only
10 way that, you know, we can work together. If we rush,
11 it's not going to work. You guys know that. If we do
12 things rushed, it's -- it's really lot of negative
13 things that's going to pop out in the long-run future.

14 They talk about a road, too. Us, we
15 live here. We can do it. We can make it. We can make
16 it if we work it together. We go -- I go back to 2011,
17 October 8th, Albert and Ziso (phonetic) was doing that
18 petition or survey, and there's 80 percent people in
19 favour to build all-weather road; 14 percent say
20 they're against it. Albert was in favour; now, today,
21 when he spoke, he say he doesn't like it.

22 You see? Sometimes when we speak in
23 front of public or we talk in front of people, you've
24 got to watch your mouth, what you say on the way back.
25 People can say, You said that before. How come you

1 don't -- you don't say that now, you know?

2 I'm not against nobody, but the really
3 point I had is creating jobs for young people; that's
4 the only way we're going to survive in the future, I
5 tell you. If we don't have money, like I said, our
6 house, everything is shut down; that's the way we're
7 living now.

8 So I don't want to speak too long,
9 because a lot of people -- I know it's a long day for
10 you guys, too, I know. So I hope you guys come to your
11 good decision. As a leader, as a Mackenzie Valley
12 Board and mine, as all the Tlicho Nation, let's do
13 things right. Don't make it fast, because a lot of
14 time, we -- we get promised to build and creating job
15 for people. A lot of time, nothing works right,
16 because the last -- I don't work in the mine no more.
17 The last -- last day I was working in the mine was on -
18 - on May.

19 The reason why I left the mine is I was
20 alone. Just like that girl was talking, I was alone,
21 Tlicho. When I start Diavik, there must be about
22 fifteen (15) Tlicho working with me, and everybody,
23 they get fire, fire, fire. I was the last person.

24 And then, one day, I'm -- I'm a dozer
25 operator, and then I told my boss, How come you keep me

1 on a truck? I'm not a truck driver; I'm a dozer
2 operator. Because of the racists. They keep
3 Aboriginal petition -- they keep me on a truck. And
4 then I told my boss, That's it. I got a lot of
5 experiment, I don't need to take your shit. Just put
6 me on a plane.

7 I was working for I & D Management, but
8 they don't encourage me. They don't encourage me to
9 stay after six (6) years. Six (6) years I work for
10 them, they didn't encourage me, say, All right, we'll
11 give you a chance, or, Let's work out something.
12 Nothing like that. You see what I mean? There's
13 racists down there.

14 I don't want -- if that new -- new mine
15 starts, I don't want to see that. I want to see a lot
16 of Tlicho working; that's the only way that -- you
17 know, we got to work out something like this.

18 So a lot of people are going to talk, so
19 masi cho for listening to me. I'm not mad at you guys,
20 but have a good day. Thank you.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Alfred
22 Beaverho. Masi.

23 MS. ELIZABETH ROMIE: Hello. Elizabeth
24 Romie from Whati. I'd like to speak on behalf of the
25 young people like me. They maybe want to be here but

1 they can't so I'm -- I might as well speak for them.

2 Myself and my fellow friends and my
3 extended family strongly disagree with this operation
4 that's happening. And for us I think it's going to be
5 -- it's a bad decision for our people and -- and our
6 land.

7 The land is all we have. I never been
8 there. I may have like passed by but never been there.
9 I'd like to go there some day and for my children as
10 well. It's just like -- it's going to be corruption
11 for my community. I'm sure there's going to be like
12 more substance abuse, more violence, and many accidents
13 with this all-season road. It's all just because of
14 money. This is for money.

15 Like we have -- like, we should be
16 concerned about our land and our people. There's
17 another ways we can make money is to go out and
18 education ourselves, come back and then open up a
19 business and then our people can work from it. There's
20 other ways to make money.

21 Why digging up our land for money, it's
22 just -- it's not right. I ask questions to my people,
23 young and old, and 90 percent of them disagree. I even
24 post up a question on Facebook. Like most of my
25 friends disagree as well, like even though they may be

1 far away. All the -- even all the surrounding
2 communities disagree. It may not be their land, but
3 them too, they know that the land is all we have. So I
4 strongly disagree. So that's all I have to say.
5 Thanks.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Elizabeth.

7

8 (INTERPRETATION FROM TLICHO TO ENGLISH)

9

10 ELDER FRANCIS SIMPSON: Thank you. My
11 name is Francis Simpson. Yesterday among the -- the
12 amount of people that came here from other communities,
13 we -- we listen to people from other communities and it
14 was really good.

15 All of us that -- that lives in the four
16 (4) Dogrib communities, we are all relatives and we are
17 the only nation called Tlicho, Tlicho communities.
18 We're all just families here and friends. And if -- if
19 one (1) of the members is sick or something, like if
20 something's not right, then it seems like we always
21 seem to get together and talk about what the issues
22 might be and we try to make clarification on how we can
23 make things good.

24 But there's always things are happening
25 around us. But to talk about the -- the issue of

1 opening a mine, this -- this never happened around here
2 before, really, like not particularly on Dogrib land
3 especially the -- the Nico region. The way I'm
4 listening to the people here, some are saying, yes, and
5 some of them are saying, no.

6 It is true what the people have said
7 about there's an old trail -- a traditional trapping
8 area, hunting area. When I was young, that's the --
9 that's where the -- the area where I worked a lot when
10 I was young, I trapped, I hunt. And I -- I always have
11 stayed there with the people that lived there before.

12 When I used to go caribou hunting there,
13 I spent some time with some of the elders that lived
14 there. I have to work -- I worked with them. I
15 listened to their stories. I learned what they taught
16 me and I used that to share with others, too.

17 So when I used to stay with these
18 elders, they used to tell me their stories of how they
19 start up their little village over there and how and
20 why they made their first house, or cabin. And that it
21 took them a long time. It took a long time for them to
22 contemplate what they're going to use that area for.
23 And they realized that they need a traditional work
24 area, so that's how they built the first community on
25 Hislop Lake.

1 And now there used to be a lot of elders
2 that lived there before, but they're all gone. But now
3 -- now days, when you look at the people travelling
4 back, well, they're all young without much of the
5 traditional knowledge.

6 When -- when I listened to the people
7 here talking about the harshness that they've been
8 through, well, I been that -- through that, in that
9 kind of a situation myself. So when -- when they say
10 they travelled through the hard times, they mean, like,
11 they practically had nothing. They lived on next to
12 nothing. And that -- and that's how people lived.

13 People only travelled on the lake with
14 canoes. Back then, like, there was no motor. They had
15 to paddle. And they only took what they caught to
16 travel back down the river, because people lived in
17 Behchoko most of the time. Back then there was no
18 money. People that went trapping all year long, they
19 didn't trade their furs for money, but they trade their
20 furs for food and other goods, because they had family.

21 Maybe the -- the store might have money
22 to trade with the people, but the people didn't know
23 anything about money back then. They -- some time the
24 store manager offer a couple of dollars to buy a pair
25 of -- pair of pelts, but people didn't know anything

1 about what money was. So money was no use for them.
2 What -- what they wanted was just to trade, because
3 they have got families to feed. And that's how the
4 people lived.

5 I guess another thing that people are
6 really concerned about is having a year-round road;
7 that's why we're having a difficulty with right now.
8 Even now, when we have a -- a winter road coming to the
9 community here, we -- we deal with some of -- some of
10 the disasters here for a little short time. But that's
11 how it is. It's okay just to live like this every day
12 without any problem.

13 I don't want to talk about mine, because
14 I'm not going to be working there. But I hope we'll
15 concern for is the next generation who might be able to
16 work at the mine sites.

17 These -- these Elders, they know much
18 about the mine, but do not concern about studying the
19 mine, it's just that they're concerned about what might
20 happen after the mine is working; that's what they're
21 concerned about.

22

23 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Francis

1 Simpson.

2

3 (INTERPRETATION FROM TLICHO TO ENGLISH)

4

5 MR. JONAS NITSIZA: Thank you for
6 coming to our community to listen to our stories. And
7 we also thank the other communities people that come
8 here. I know some of them have left already.

9 And there's -- there's only one (1)
10 think that we're discussing here is this Fortune
11 Mineral mining; that's the only issues that we're
12 talking about.

13 My name is John -- Jonas Nitsiza and I
14 am from Whati. As it is, if we have concern -- if we
15 got something on our mind, we have -- we need to talk
16 about it and that -- that's what I want to do here.

17 We have listened to our Elders
18 previously, what concern that they have and what kind
19 of a problems that they've dealt with and how they
20 overcame those problems, and how they started to work
21 with us.

22 And some of the issues that -- that's
23 being dealt with such as now, talking about mine,
24 nobody can say very much. We can say "yes", we cannot
25 said "yes" because, like, when we say something with

1 our own mouth, we are responsible for it. We have to
2 watch what we say.

3 But other concerns that people bring out
4 are some of the issues that the -- for instance, one
5 (1) of the young men that talked about the mine that
6 you worked at. They -- these days these Elders are not
7 concerned about the mine. It just the young people are
8 concerned about mining issues because of the work, the
9 money that's -- that's being needed to pay bills and
10 things like that.

11 So those are the kind -- concerns that -
12 - that they have. But since the -- but since the --
13 the mining started up in the North, like Ekati and
14 Diavik, like -- and there's been changes to -- to the
15 caribou migration and other problems nowadays that the
16 people dealing with are like fish, for instance, like
17 the -- they're becoming less.

18 So problems that -- that arise now, it's
19 not -- it's not happening fast, but it's taking its
20 effect and it's affecting the community, the -- the
21 people and the land and even the animals itself. So
22 when we talk about mine, like, it -- there -- there's
23 going to be a lot of dis -- distractions, not just for
24 the people, but we are concerned for the animals that -
25 - that we live on.

1 Just to open their minds just to think
2 about money, like, what -- what do you really get out
3 of just making money? What about the land that --
4 that's going to be destroyed.

5 I am saying what I need to say, what --
6 I need to say what is on my mind. So when -- when
7 people talk about year-round road, well, most of the
8 people don't want it. If they're going to provide a
9 year -- a year-round road, like, what kind of a problem
10 we're going to deal with more further. Well, what --
11 what -- what other kinds of problems are we going to
12 start dealing with?

13 So we cannot say, Yes, we are going to
14 open the mine. Yes, we can say "no" to you open a
15 mine. It's up to the -- the community itself. We know
16 how things work. Sometimes the corruptions can say,
17 hey, that -- that the community's going to benefit.
18 But a lot of the time we're -- we're heard that before,
19 and none of those promises stayed. So today we're
20 going to have to talk about our future children --
21 childrens. They are the -- the future and they are the
22 ones that's going to be making decisions.

23 So what I'm concerned about is what
24 other issues that we might be dealing with, especially
25 when the -- the mine is open, what -- what's going to

1 be contaminated and what still might be good to be used
2 for human consum -- con -- consumptions, and -- and
3 also for the animals' consumption.

4 So only when you're dealing with the
5 issues or when you're dealing with -- with this kind of
6 issues before, then we know what -- what we looked at
7 and what we overcame. So we'll have to look at that
8 again.

9 We're -- we're talking about working on
10 our land, like and if there's damage to our land, how
11 we're going to fix it and -- and how it's going to be
12 fixed and who's going to be concerned for it.

13 For certain, I tell you like if things
14 go wrong, like nothing are going to get better. So
15 before we make de -- decision, we need to take a look
16 at everything all over again and to deal with it again.

17 Just to deal with one (1) mining issue
18 here, look at how -- how many problems it brings out
19 and how many problems to look at and to deal with and
20 to talk about. That's what we're doing right here.

21 Whether the mine open or not, but this
22 is what I have to say and this is what I'm saying and
23 what I should already. If we get the year-round road,
24 how are we going to do? What -- what the problem
25 that's going to be coming here? What about the small

1 children?

2 If we cannot work with our young people
3 now, then how are we going to deal with them in the
4 future; that's the concern. If you guys want to have a
5 year-round road through the Fortune Mineral, they might
6 as well make the road right from the mine to the
7 highway, not through Whati. And this is what I want to
8 say and this was what I want to share. Thank you.

9

10 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

11

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Jonas Nitsia,
13 of Whati.

14 MR. JOE RABESCA: I don't think I have
15 to mention my name, I think, but I'll do it for the
16 record. Joe Rabesca, former Chief. And I'll take my
17 hat off -- my Fortune Mineral hat off. There is no
18 Fortune Mineral. Now I'm full Dogrib, okay, as one of
19 the Tlicho citizen. I'm going to be speaking in my
20 language. I hope you can bear with me.

21

22 (INTERPRETATION FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

23

24 ELDER JOE RABESCA: In the '80s the
25 base group came to the dogrib nation in the 1980s. The

1 same thing with the Diavik and the Snap Lake area. We
2 made deals with them. Maybe we didn't get everything
3 what we asked for, but the fact is that the people work
4 -- are -- are working over there. All the people are
5 working at the mine sites right now.

6 This one (1) young man talked about the
7 Diavik Mine, just -- he said, Those people don't really
8 look at their -- the Elders. Since the mine has
9 opened, a lot of the people got away from the
10 traditional way of life. They don't trap as much as
11 they used to. They don't hunt like the way they used
12 to. All they do is making money from work.

13 Look at Rae, look at how many new houses
14 being built. Look at how many houses being bought
15 through the bank mortgage. I look at my children too
16 and I listen to some of the problem because what Joe
17 heard is that some of the mines might be shutting down
18 in the year 2013, maybe. But some of these mines have
19 been running for years now, it's probably ready to shut
20 down. Even without the mine the -- I am a thinking
21 person. What are our future children going to depend
22 on?

23 I travel many ways. I've done a lot of
24 things on the land. Today as you know, people are not
25 going to be travelling like the way we did, but today

1 people only depends on the jobs there. Previously when
2 people used to work at the Rayrock Mine I went to
3 school. And when -- when Joe came back he's the one
4 (1) that fixed the problem. And all those problem that
5 Joe has there, like, when he said that he has to
6 clarify with the government -- what the -- from Ottawa
7 to here and now, like, those people that he -- that he
8 had worked with, they had witnessed how much work he
9 has put to make it right.

10 So when -- when they were dealing with
11 Diavik and Ekati Mine, like they were talking about the
12 money issues. Because of the problem that they dealt
13 with like Rayrock that went without money, but normally
14 they got what they wanted except sick.

15 So when the new mines were -- when the
16 new diamond mines were being discussed, like they
17 talked about the money, because they need money to
18 start the mines and that's how they -- things got
19 started here.

20 But in this day and age if we look at
21 other problems like we dealt before, we don't have that
22 kind of issues here anymore. And nobody wants to deal
23 with any kind of problems like we've done already.

24 Like I said, when Joe was the Grand
25 Chief he talked about the Rayrock, but nobody wants to

1 deal with that kind of issues anymore and they don't
2 want to see that kind of a problem rising from our
3 lands here and they were more concerned about the --
4 the water, because the water is still important, today
5 it's still important.

6 And now the -- when -- when they were
7 dealing with the rivers there, about the discolouring,
8 like they wonder how -- why the -- the surrounding
9 areas changed, the -- the colours of the trees changed,
10 the -- the colour of the water changed and that's when
11 Joe and the young people been through that area just to
12 look around so that the young people may know how the
13 people from outside have dealt with our nations in the
14 past. That's not going to happen again anymore.

15 This is what the -- the elders share
16 their stories already. That's what the Dogrib Nations
17 know what happened in our -- previously. When my
18 uncle he's -- he said I guess in the area now that's in
19 the early days the -- the final diamond, that was way
20 before the '80s, but they found something before and --
21 and there was never a look at before but -- until 1980.

22 So that's when -- these are the people
23 don't know nothing about, but the elders knew about it.
24 They knew about what the -- what the first diamond mine
25 might come out at and that's exactly what happened.

1 But this day and age people need money to buy things.
2 Like how are people -- young people going to buy
3 vehicles or things that -- that they need, especially
4 if they don't have any money, no job.

5 If I have no money right now, how can I
6 buy a vehicle, that's what I know. In this day and age
7 everybody depends on money for jobs and people don't go
8 trapping like -- like they used to. They -- they
9 travelled far and near in the old days just to survive
10 and -- and make money. But that is different now.

11 But with all the change, if we work
12 together, we can fix -- we can make this problem -- we
13 can deal with this problem quite soundly and -- and do
14 it cautiously and do it right. So with this kind of an
15 issue, like, if we deal with all kinds of problem.
16 It's true, especially with the addictions problem that
17 the community is concerned about here. And it's true.

18 Now that the young people are dealing
19 with drugs, alcohol, like, how are we going to deal
20 with it? And how can we deal with it? What can we do
21 about it? And that's what is always on my mind.
22 Wherever we travel, as you know, we're still seeing the
23 same thing, all over we travel. I went to Fort
24 Simpson. I went to visit my friends over there. I
25 went there because of the meeting and I saw hardly

1 anybody drink.

2 Since 1980, they say, like that -- that
3 they worked on their own community problems. And I
4 guess everybody talked to each other, learning from
5 each other. And they dealt with it for many years. So
6 now, like -- and now -- now I learned that if we work
7 together cooperatively things can be possible to work
8 out.

9 So, Mr. Chairman, I didn't want to go
10 back -- I came here with a boat, so -- but without
11 saying anything, I don't want to go back. But here I
12 am -- I am speaking to you before I travel back on the
13 boat.

14 I've been to the mine sites quite a bit.
15 Some of the people are saying some of the mines are not
16 keeping our people good, like the way they're supposed
17 to. There's some problem, but we probably know the
18 reasons why, but we need to work together to fix it.
19 Even though you get mad, but nothing's going to be
20 fixed.

21

22 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

23

24 ...Make changes to. What's the issue?
25 What's the problem?

1 (INTERPRETS FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

2

3 MR. JOE RABESCA: Well, Mr. Chairman, I
4 know you're going to leave pretty soon. I know all of
5 you here. I've seen a lot of you, I worked with a lot
6 of you. Even though I'm not a leader anymore, but I
7 still want to work with people. I still want to help.
8 Even though I gave them shit and what are they going to
9 do for me? But since they are my leader, I've still
10 got to work with them in order to fix some -- some
11 problems.

12 I want to live here, be one (1) of
13 Tlicho's citizens, never going to go away. For all my
14 life I work for Tlicho people at the top level.
15 Sometime you put me down, but that's okay. I come back
16 up, still want to help people. That's who I am.
17 That's where my heart's been all my life, trying to
18 help people.

19 Not my -- and my own people, when I
20 speak, like this great assembly, I look as my Dogrib
21 people, all the other leaders as one (1). That's how I
22 speak and always been and always will. Thank you, Mr.
23 Chairman.

24

25 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you,
2 Chief. It's eight o'clock now. I'm not sure how much
3 more people are left to speak. I've been told that the
4 -- the plane might be here about a quarter to 9:00, or
5 so. Okay, so we'll go ahead. We have two (2) more
6 people, then we're going to go to closing comments.

7

8 (INTERPRETATION FROM TLICHO TO ENGLISH)

9

10 MR. CHARLIE JIM NITSIZA: Masi. Masi,
11 Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am working
12 for the Fortune Mineral here, but I am from the
13 community here. My name is Charlie Jim Nitsiza, and I
14 want to speak on behalf of the people here.

15 We -- we seen a lot of other people from
16 other community to come and visit here to talk about
17 this issue here. We know the meeting is almost over,
18 but we listen to a lot of people, we listed to a lot of
19 Elders, women, young people, and we -- it's -- it's
20 great to listen to them to -- to their concern. As I
21 listen to the young people, they talk about their
22 future. They were concerned about the future. And we
23 are here to talk about our young future. Now that we
24 have listened to Joe Rabesca, we work together for many
25 years.

1 In -- in around 1980 we started dealing
2 with the -- with -- with some of the issues. At that
3 time, Charlie Charlo was still alive, and we deal with
4 the fire issues, and -- and then we took on other
5 heavier issues from there. Because there was so many
6 concerns on -- on the Dogrib land, like, we started to
7 do -- we started to take care of some of these issues.
8 By that, we -- we just work together. So there was a
9 lot of problem back then, especially with the young
10 people, a lack -- lack of education, a lack of money,
11 so we want to do something about it.

12 So at that time I guess Alex Adambecker
13 (phonetic) was around, too, who was just like there's a
14 possibility for mining issues. So that's when the
15 discussion be -- begin. At that time, there was a lot
16 of Elders, who -- their concern was for the animals
17 that -- that exists on -- on the Dogrib land.

18 So one (1) of the issue was like -- it
19 was -- it was time to talk about mining because it
20 would create jobs for the young people, for the people
21 -- for the young people of this day. And how things
22 can change from that, and so it did but none -- none --
23 none of the -- none of the issues that we're dealing
24 with was ever talked about.

25 At that time, we were dealing with the -

1 - the Federal government issues, the issues that --
2 that we deal with here, especially with the Dogrib
3 nations, and one (1) -- one (1) of the questions that
4 we asked ourself was like if we didn't deal with some
5 of the issues that -- that we -- that they dealt with
6 then. If it wasn't clarified back then, how could have
7 they got this issues, and it was really difficult but
8 because they worked together like they made it quite
9 possible enough to -- to bring -- to bring the issues
10 on the table to make some clarifications, and that's
11 how things got on the road.

12 By talking about the past, like, these
13 issues were not easy to -- to deal with because of the
14 time and the travels that's been involved. And we also
15 appreciate that -- that we had many good people working
16 with us, too, to overcome some of the problems that
17 we've dealt with.

18 Sometime when -- when they -- when they
19 deal with this kind of a issue, like, they always gave
20 themselves a time to talk about some of the things --
21 things there. So I guess after this meeting here
22 Charlie is suggesting that he wants some of the
23 previous leaders to get together to maybe deal with how
24 they can work with the people in Rae because they want
25 to do something for late Charlie -- Charlie Charlo with

1 -- to commemorate the -- his memory because he's done a
2 lot for the Dogrib Nation too, so they want to deal
3 with that matter after this meeting.

4 But a lot of the people here know --
5 knew Charlie Charlo, so they want to do something for
6 him. So thank you for listening.

7

8 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

9

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

11 MS. JACKIE BISHOP: Hi. My name is
12 Jackie. ...about outside community, what they want,
13 they want to be open. For myself, I have six (6) kids.
14 What's going to happen in future time? Is it going to
15 be okay while the winter road -- everything's open? I
16 don't think so.

17

18 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

19

20 Lots of people, they think about opening
21 the road, it's okay with them. But lots of our young
22 people, our children, our grandchildren who are behind
23 us, some of them have their own kids. Some of the --
24 how about if the grandchildren comes up? What's going
25 to happen? We should think about -- look at the --

1 look at the -- we can't really think about money. We
2 got to think about the human. We got to think about
3 the rights for all you wonderful young people, our
4 childrens. Yes, we need money, and, yes, we know we
5 need the money.

6 No, we cannot live the way this -- if we
7 say, no, just say, no. But if you wanted to yes -- but
8 if it's not -- you want to look at it, you want to
9 study it, it's up to us. Just say thank you. That's
10 all I want to say for now. Thank you.

11

12 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

13

14 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

15

16 MS. CINDY NITSIZA: My name is Cindy
17 Nitsiza. I got my childrens. I got kids too. And
18 you're talking about the Fortune Mineral mines. In the
19 future, my kids are going to see it. What's going to
20 happen to them? I'm thinking about -- we have to think
21 about our children, our grandchildren. But especially
22 problem we are facing today, for example, right now,
23 even though the full season road is not open, we see
24 all of the alcohol, everything, what is happening.

25 What -- how do you think they feel when

1 you see your son running around all night chasing --
2 being chased away, being chased around by alcoholic or
3 drugs addicted people? Sometime when my kids in my
4 church are involved with alcohols and drugs, I worry
5 about them all night. What can happen to me, what's
6 become of me if my fam -- if my kids were killed by
7 someone because -- because -- whether the money will
8 pay -- replace my son.

9 My child -- my daughter's 17 years old.
10 She was walking on the road in the winter because she
11 was -- she was drinking, and she got herself drunk.
12 Nobody knows about it. She was walking on the road,
13 all the way to the highway on the road. Nobody knew
14 about it. She almost froze to death. So nobody knew
15 about it. We find all about it, we find about
16 incidents that he was walking in the road, to the
17 winter roads. So these things that you think about.
18 Some of you got kids. You got childrens. You think
19 about your grandchildren. You cannot only think about
20 money in our pockets. You got to think about the human
21 security, safety for our children.

22 Sometime -- even when they're drinking
23 right now the season road opening. But if the all-
24 seasons roads open how -- how devastating. I want to
25 be able to sleep, my child says, look for example what

1 happened in Rae. He lived in Whati, he seen how it
2 was.

3 So here we are. My house safety, so
4 nice and quiet community to live in right now. We
5 can't only think about money. We cannot only think
6 about cash and what it does -- what -- what it does, we
7 know what it does, so.

8

9 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

10

11 MS. CINDY NITSIZA: ...worry about our
12 children and our grandchildren. For me money is not
13 important, our children are important. Think about
14 that. You guys are parents too. You can't just worry
15 about the money in your pocket. Thank you.

16

17 (BRIEF PAUSE)

18

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you. I
20 think it comes to the point where we're going to have
21 to shut it down now.

22 GRAND CHIEF EDWARD ERASMUS: Yeah, I'd
23 just like to comment on this -- this process and
24 comment on translations. And you're going to be
25 transcribing the document? How does it work? And if

1 you are, which word will you be transcribing? Will you
2 be transcribing in the actual words of the Elders, or
3 the translation version? Because I've been hearing
4 through interpreting, sometime when you interpret you
5 think in the Tlicho language.

6 When you speak in the Tlicho language
7 and when you speak in the English language, you don't
8 think the same. The thought that the Elders are trying
9 to get across, the way they speak it in the Tlicho
10 language, it's not what actually is being translated,
11 as I hear it.

12 So I need to know what the Elders is
13 saying, is that what you're going to transcribe, or is
14 -- is that the way it works? Or are you going to
15 transcribe the translation version? Because when
16 people talk about K'ia Goti, you know, sometime some of
17 them are referring to the site, not necessarily Hislop
18 Lake.

19 That's how you think when you speak in
20 Tlicho language. I'm sure Tlicho-speaking people would
21 -- would understand that, because I, myself, have done
22 a lot of trans -- you know, transcribing and
23 interpretation in my time, and it's a very difficult
24 job. I'm not criticizing the interpreters. It's not
25 an easy job to do interpreting. And two (2) -- two (2)

1 guys to do interpreting all day, it's difficult.

2

3 When Elders speak, they speak in
4 terminologies that can -- try to translate
5 simultaneously would take a whole sentence for an Elder
6 to say a few words. You have to think different.
7 That's how -- that's how it is.

8 And I'm -- I'm -- the other thing I'm
9 also worried about here is that people are talking
10 about water. A lot of people have talked about water.
11 I don't think that people will be concerned about water
12 that much if the Developer is planning to build a good
13 water treatment plant. They won't be as worried as
14 much.

15 The way they're planning to do it is
16 they want to pile up a rock and put some dirt on top,
17 pile up some more rock and put dirt on top. Pile up
18 some more -- they call it wetlands. That's not going
19 to work up here in the North. What's going to happen
20 if it freezes in the winter? That's going to overflow
21 and go directly into the rivers. It's not going to
22 work up here.

23 And besides, it's never been tried. How
24 do they know that it's going to work if you have never
25 tried it? That's very risky business.

1 (TRANSLATED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

2

3 GRAND CHIEF EDWARD ERASMUS: If you
4 have a -- if you have a good treatment plants. If you
5 don't have -- if you don't have a good treatments
6 plants, but if they want to mine, they -- they're not
7 thinking about -- they're not thinking about putting up
8 a -- maybe they just -- they just want small mines.
9 They think that there's no use having the treatment
10 plants. They think that maybe they can just shovel the
11 dirt to side and then put the -- put the dirt in there
12 and so they use it to filter it, but it's not going to
13 happen.

14 They -- they think that it's going --
15 they don't say it, but it's going to be overflowed.
16 They never tried it before. It's -- it's just they
17 think that it's not going to make very much money, so
18 it makes no difference. That's what the miners, they
19 think. So that is why I'm concerned about this. As
20 long as they have the treatment plants, I have a big...

21 For Whati, how many people are going to
22 be working there at the mine? How many of our people
23 are going to work from here? They never told us that.
24 Nobody tells us nothing.

25 So Gameti, how many Dogrib people will

1 be working from Gameti? How many people from -- the
2 other people working from Whati or Behchoko? They
3 won't tell us. From Wekweti, they never tell us. We
4 never hear that, nothing from the mines here. So they
5 say there's people going to work, that many people
6 going to work. They said two hundred (200) jobs be
7 available.

8 Maybe in three (3) days, they're going
9 to discuss that. They're going to say, or they're
10 going to say two hundred (200) jobs. So how many
11 people from the Dog -- Dogrib people will work there?
12 So we don't know that. It's up in the proportion right
13 now, it's just up in the air. So we're not too sure.
14 We're not -- people are talking about it. That's the
15 reason why people are concerned. We don't know, we
16 just -- everything's out of proportion. Everything's
17 up in the air.

18 We want to work honestly. Us, as the
19 leaders, we want to see that what -- what are the
20 conditions? What are the contracts that we'll have,
21 we're going to have before we can ever agree to it. So
22 we want to make sure that the future mines, we're going
23 to take in heavy considerations regarding to these
24 agreements.

25 So if there's going to be other mines

1 down the line, what's going to happen? If it doesn't
2 work out, the first one (1), how it's going to work
3 with the other one? So we have to make sure the first
4 one (1) works well for us, not like other mines that
5 we've dealt with, De -- Diavik mines, different mines.
6 But we don't know how many people are going to work, so
7 we want to make sure that how many people did...

8 We know that, no matter what, 100
9 percent of a 100 percent has been contaminated. It's
10 not -- as they use the chemicals on this land, he never
11 tried before. It never happened before. It never
12 worked out before. So how are we going to see that
13 it's going to -- it's going to solve a problem? No,
14 it's not going to solve the problem as long as you use
15 the chemicals. So if we know for sure, we're certain,
16 then we can decide to say "yes" or -- or "no".

17 So that's the reasons, to me -- lots of
18 people talk to me from four (4) communities regarding
19 to this mine. That's the reason why I'm talking like
20 this. Lots of young people live here, in this
21 community here. For the road that's coming here, for
22 Whati, it's up to them. It's up to them if they want
23 the road built to here or not. Yes or no, it's up to
24 them.

25 So we're not -- we're not going to say

1 our road is going to be open to Whati. We're not going
2 to say that for them. But it's up to Whati to decide
3 that. That's what -- that's what we worked, that's how
4 that worked. But the chief here for Whati, speaks for
5 Whati.

6 Yes, if he says he wants them to talk
7 for him about the road, then it's okay. But it's up to
8 the -- it's up to this community to decide, for us as
9 the Tlicho government and as Chief Executive Council,
10 we cannot do it without full consultations of our
11 community -- of the community. We're not going to go
12 ahead without a full consultation with the community.

13 That's the reasons I'm saying that
14 people, when we're talking about the Fortune Mines, as
15 Alexis has said before. I heard that, I heard it. If
16 we're going to build the road, we're going to do it in
17 a honest way, we're -- correctly way, not to have no
18 contaminant in the water, make sure the land is safe,
19 make sure the water is safe, not contaminated with job
20 conditions or the contracts or conditions, agreements,
21 or the...

22 That's what Alexis used to say,
23 regarding to all the waters, the environments, animals,
24 how many people is going to work, what kind of a
25 contract conditions and agreement we'll have with

1 shares -- shares in them. So we can't -- we can't just
2 go ahead and say we're going to open it, one (1) to
3 one (1) to open it not unless we know certain
4 conditions that is there. Thank you. That's all I can
5 say.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Grand
7 Chief Eddie Erasmus. You asked a question, and
8 normally the way the Review Board conducts the public
9 hearings, and once the transcripts are all done, what
10 we usually do is get it done and put it on the public
11 registry, you know, the following day if not probably
12 within a few days after the public hearing is
13 concluded.

14 But you raise a very good point in
15 regards to, you know, the oral understanding and the
16 terminologies about what the elders are talking about,
17 and -- and what they mean. So I guess my -- my -- I
18 want to put a question back to you.

19 I'm willing to take a look at that,
20 where we will go ahead and issue a -- our version of
21 the transcript -- transcription of this public hearing,
22 but at the same time would you be interested in maybe
23 coming up with your version of -- of what you
24 understand what the elders have said. And if he could
25 do that then, I will consider that as taking -- that is

1 undertake -- Undertaking number 1.

2

3 --- UNDERTAKING NO. 1: Provide transcript of what
4 the elders have said -
5 their version

6

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: And then what we'll
8 do is once -- I'm thinking maybe -- I don't know, two
9 (2) weeks, maybe September 14th, if that'd be enough
10 time or not to maybe give us your version of what the
11 elders have said in tern -- in their terminology, and
12 then we'll put that on the public registry, Grand
13 Chief?

14 Sorry, I just wanted to have a response
15 from the Grand Chief on -- on that.

16

17 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

18

19 CHIEF EDWARD CHOCOLATE: Masi, Mr.
20 Chair. As we heard then yesterday, one (1) of our
21 elder in Gameti pass away. He was really having a
22 heart failing conditions last couple days, and I think
23 we should think about it. In Gameti most of our elders
24 is going -- Jimmy Wargard (phonetic) who is one (1) of
25 our elder, used to tell us stories to a -- to young

1 people. And he just pass away because he's been having
2 a real problem with his health, and I heard that he
3 just pass away.

4

5 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

6

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: ...on behalf of the
8 Review Board condolences to the family and I want to --
9 I'm sorry, Erasmus, if you could maybe just respond to
10 my comments.

11 GRAND CHIEF EDWARD ERASMUS: Masi.
12 Yeah, I think we can provide, you know, terminology
13 such as "negligible," undertaking. That kind of
14 terminology. We'd like to -- we can respond by
15 Wednesday.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, masi. I really
17 appreciate that. And -- and so with that, I'm going to
18 go into closing comments. I want to go to the Tlicho
19 Chiefs for closing comments.

20

21 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO INTO ENGLISH)

22

23 CLOSING COMMENTS BY CHIEF ALFONZ NITSIZA

24 CHIEF ALFONZ NITSIZA: Masi. Yes,
25 we've been here all day, my friends, my people, my

1 fellowmens, and our elders are tired, some of them have
2 left already. So you as Board members, I want to thank
3 you for Mackenzie Valley Water Board here, seems like
4 we're wrapping up for now today.

5 I think we're given the -- more people
6 wanted to speak, but then the time was not consuming,
7 so I mean that -- that time was very short, so that's
8 why our young people wanted to speak, but the planes
9 have been waiting, so people had to travel back to the
10 communities.

11 In the -- in Yellowknife there's --
12 there's going to be a hearing again in Yellowknife.
13 There's going to be a hearing in Behchoko, too, so
14 maybe might carry some people with us over there. So
15 whoever want to speak who didn't get a chance to speak
16 may want to -- in addition to this, you will have a
17 chance to -- to do so, because this is really important
18 issues to deal with.

19 And others beginning, as I've spoken out
20 to you when I -- when I stated that, you know, we're
21 never having -- given the chance to address our
22 concerns. Everything was handled by Department of
23 Indian Affairs. But now, because we are self-
24 government now, we have a position, start making
25 decisions for our own -- on our back yards.

1 And now, what -- what has been said now,
2 we've got to take it into consideration, so we have to
3 voice our concerns dealing with major issues as
4 environmental safety for our -- for our regions. As we
5 heard, how many people have spoken? We know that
6 everything needs to be taken into considerations.

7 And lots of young people who have
8 spoken, they know they have great concerns. We heard
9 them well. Maybe -- maybe you, too, you heard them
10 well as -- as we did. They have spoken from their
11 heart, the mind and the heart, as they see -- as they
12 see that the way it is today and how it is going to be
13 like into the future. Will it be worse?

14 So again, Mr. Chair, so you, as the
15 Board members, we know that you've got big
16 responsibilities. After you hear everyone speak, then
17 you address -- you discuss among yourself and give the
18 right directions. We know that everybody is not going
19 to be pleased with what kind of -- what kind of
20 decision that you make. That's your -- that's the kind
21 of responsibility that you do.

22 So when people in the communities
23 talking about roads right now, it's only used by
24 airlines. Like an example, some of them had to leave
25 because of airlines. That's only airlines existing to

1 -- to outside communities. That's the reason why
2 maybe, in the future, if it continues on, maybe we
3 should make an advance -- we should prepare ourself for
4 this kind of meeting as, you know, what happened this
5 morning.

6 But it was supposed to be -- started at
7 ten o'clock in the morning, but everybody was just
8 waiting for another. They come in one (1) by one (1).
9 We didn't have the equipment. The translation
10 equipment was not here, so all these things happens.
11 Lots of hours have been spent. Lots of people have
12 been waiting too long.

13 See, these are the circumstances that
14 we're in that -- which will help us. In the future, we
15 should make better plans in order so that -- to avoid
16 these kinds of delays, so we'll have more -- more time
17 to talk and to address. So these are your
18 responsibilities as the Board members, so I think these
19 kind of things should be taken into considerations.

20 So sometimes we're not able to fix or
21 repair anything, so I think in the future that we
22 should take these into considerations. So, again,
23 we'll have to -- we'll have to review this, look at
24 this, see how we can arrange -- arrange this kind of
25 meetings in the future.

1 With Fortune Minerals mine opening, we
2 talked about Hislop Lake, the important sites. As your
3 duties, jobs, responsibilities, you share with us
4 whatever decision that comes out of this when we hear
5 from it. But, again, today, everything changes, how
6 everything has been handled today.

7 It's hard -- it's good that if we trust
8 one another, we're -- we're all together, not to hide
9 any information from one another, share all the
10 information together. No matter how difficult the
11 issues are, we can work it out. We can deal it. We
12 can make sure that it will work well. If the community
13 wants it, we -- we'll all have to share. We cannot
14 hide any information from one another. We should share
15 with -- the information. This shouldn't be.

16 I think that, if we all want something,
17 then we all have to be honest about it. Let's do it in
18 an honest way, how you do a choice in prayers with the
19 finish of this meeting.

20 We heard about this one (1) elder from a
21 community who passed away. These things happen. Most
22 of the elders are taken away from us, so us, as the
23 leaders would never be heart -- soft-hearted. You
24 always got to be grieving all the day -- almost every
25 day. So that's the reason why they put us up as the

1 leaders in the positions to work for our people.

2 The same thing, everybody has
3 responsibility, has to face the same circumstances. So
4 we know that. It's not very long hours, but it seems
5 like a -- lots of people has spoken. I think some
6 people are familiar with what the situation is, what we
7 are doing here.

8 So this week, I think we're -- we're --
9 we're among ourself will be addressing this. So that's
10 what I wanted to say, I would speak to you in -- in
11 English. So I will speak to you in English. So now I
12 have to go backward.

13

14 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

15

16 CHIEF ALFONZ NITSIZA: Briefly what
17 I've said. I know a -- a lot of people spoke at this
18 hearing here. And I want to reflect on some of the
19 youth that spoke. You can almost feel their emotions.
20 They have very strong message. I am certain you'll
21 listen to them as well.

22 As leaders, we were put here by our --
23 our people. We have to listen to everyone. Just like
24 you, decision we make sometimes people -- some people
25 are not happy with.

1 The people that have spoke to you have
2 great concern about the mine -- about the proposed mine
3 -- simply because, not only is it in the heart of
4 Tlicho land, but it's also, the mine, how they want to
5 operate, how they want to use different methods, some
6 things that have not tried before. So yes, indeed,
7 they have great concern.

8 There's also talk of jobs that they will
9 create, the opportunity for business spinoffs. Yes, we
10 do live in a different time than when our grandfather
11 had lived on the land. But we want to have -- as I
12 said in my opening comment, we want or are in favour of
13 sustainable development.

14 People generally do not oppose
15 development, and Tlicho have been saying that for a
16 long time -- since the industry come to our region. We
17 want to work with industry. We want to understand how
18 they do business. And we always say, Let's respect one
19 another and share.

20 But it seems that at times that does not
21 happen. Sometimes people withhold information, and
22 that usually slows down the process.

23 The Tlicho, the aboriginal way of -- of
24 doing business or trying to resolve issues is always
25 collective. We do things collectively. We share and

1 we do things collectively.

2 And more and more what we see is that
3 our views are a little different than other
4 governments, other industries. And it seems that since
5 our Tlicho government has started we have to educate a
6 lot of people that we deal with.

7 The other industries, other governments'
8 way of doing things is more of a corporate approach.
9 It's a dog-eat-dog world out there. You have to be
10 competitive, you have to have the know-how, you have to
11 have the dollars, and the brains behind all this.

12 That's not how we operate. We listen to
13 our elders, we listen to our youth. The way we look at
14 thing is that everybody has to interest -- have to have
15 interest. And that's how we survive.

16 And some people don't understand that.
17 How come you guys are so slow? It's simple, you --
18 just figure it out, but we don't do that. That's how
19 we survived thousands of years before the contact.

20 And today, we are a government. We're
21 finding out that we have to understand all the rules,
22 the laws. It's a little different. But in order to --
23 to run a government we have to learn those things. So
24 we're encouraging our young people who will take our
25 place to stay in school, and go on so that one (1) day

1 they will be here.

2 All we're doing now is laying the
3 foundation for our new government. It's a tough job
4 because there's no model out there that we can compare
5 our government with. Sometime we feel very alone.
6 Minority, in other words. But we want to work with
7 people, and hoping that they understand us.

8 So with that, I again want to thank you
9 very much for your day here in Whati. I hope -- I know
10 you didn't have time to walk about, but maybe some
11 other time. And I hope you -- safe travel here from --
12 to your loved ones. Thank you. Masi.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. If -- thank
14 you. Being that concludes the comments from the
15 chiefs, I want to go Fortune Minerals for closing
16 comments, and if we could keep your -- brief.

17

18 CLOSING COMMENTS BY FORTUNE MINERALS:

19 MR. RICK SCHRYER: Very subtle. Rick
20 Schryer, Fortune Minerals. I will keep it brief.
21 First of all, I'd like to express Fortune Mineral's
22 sympathy for the passing of the elder in Gameti.

23 Fortune acknowledges the concerns that
24 we've heard today. We've heard a lot of people talk
25 about issues that we've heard about before. And

1 Fortune Minerals has done its best to adjust its mining
2 diamond operations to address those concerns. The most
3 recent of which is the exact -- the filling of the
4 active -- the active filling of the open pit.

5 We've made numerous commitments in order
6 to address concerns in order to be able to be
7 protective of the land and water. We've been open and
8 honest in terms of identifying potential impacts, both
9 good or bad, in our environmental assessment and
10 throughout this process, so that we can have an open
11 and honest dialogue with the Tlicho Government in
12 developing solutions.

13 Please keep in mind though that we have
14 presented, in many cases, the worst-case scenario,
15 which is what you do in an environmental assessment.
16 So in these scenarios, really what happen -- a lot of
17 things have to go bad at the same time in order for
18 these scenarios to appear. So when you're looking at
19 an impact it's always based on the worst it can be.
20 Reality is usually much closer to -- to being safe.

21 In terms of mining, the -- the rules of
22 the game have changed. The environmental regulations
23 that are in place now are there to ensure that
24 development happens responsibly, and this project won't
25 be any different.

1 Fortune will need to post a security
2 bond for its closure plans pri -- prior to the mine
3 receiving its permits. So mines like Colomac and
4 Rayrock simply can't happen anymore. Fortune would
5 like to work with the Tlicho Government and Tlicho
6 people on developing the monitoring plans that will
7 need to go into place in order to design, build, and
8 operate this mine all the way through closure.

9 And we feel that working cooperatively
10 we'll be able to address many of the concerns that have
11 been brought forward today. We hope -- it is our hope
12 that this monitoring can be done by Tlicho people so
13 that they themselves can see the results of our
14 efforts.

15 The Grand Chief brought forward a few
16 issues, and his statements concerning the wetlands and
17 socioeconomic issues. I won't comment on those right
18 now. I'll simply say that we have detailed sessions on
19 both Wednesday and Friday. And I think we'll be able
20 to address your questions at that time.

21

22 In conclusion, I'd like to thank all of
23 the Tlicho people who spoke at today's community
24 hearing. A special thanks to the youth who I thought
25 showed a lot of courage in stepping up to the

1 microphone. I'd also like to thank the people of Whati
2 for welcoming us into the community, the Tlicho
3 Government, and the staff and members of the Mackenzie
4 Valley Review Board. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I'll do
6 my closing comments. And then we'll go to an old
7 closing prayer.

8

9 CLOSING COMMENTS BY THE MACKENZIE VALLEY REVIEW BOARD:

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: First of all, I want
11 to say thank you to the Grand Chief and the host chief
12 for allowing us to come to your community, to Whati.
13 And I want to say thank you to the -- the people here
14 in Whati for being in your community. And it was great
15 to see everybody here from the community. Much
16 appreciated.

17 As mentioned in my opening comments
18 today, that the -- the Review Board wanted to hear and
19 understand your views of the proposed development. And
20 the Review Board will fully consider these views while
21 its deliberation on this decision and this
22 environmental assessment.

23 Once the decision is made, the Board
24 will write it down in a report of environmental
25 assessment and send it to the Minister of Aboriginal

1 and Northern Affairs for its consideration.

2 So I also wanted to take this time to
3 thank some people who are on the table here. First of
4 all, I want to say thank to the -- the Review Board
5 here that's at the table, Mr. Danny Bayha, Ms. Rachel
6 Crapeau, Mr. James Wah-shee, Mr. Richard Mercredi, Mr.
7 John Curran, and Mr. Percy Hardisty, plus also the
8 Review Board staff.

9 In the back we have our legal counsel,
10 Mr. John Donihee, Chuck Hubert, Paul Mercredi and Simon
11 Toogood, Shannon Hayden, and Stacy Menzies. Most
12 importantly, I also wanted to thank our translators,
13 Isidore Zoe Fish and Johnny Simpson. And the caterers
14 that -- that provided the food for us here today, I
15 want to say masi to them, to Cindy Nitsiza and Jackie
16 Bishop.

17 Again, the transla -- transcripts is
18 done by Lorraine Douglas. And she will have that
19 probably in the next few days. And we have one (1)
20 undertaking on the table that I think we're going to
21 have to us sometime this week, I believe. And that
22 will be -- also be placed on the public registry.

23 Also, from Pido Productions out in
24 Yellowknife, Pat Braden (phonetic). Thank you for the
25 sound equipment that's here today. And also the

1 Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board, Dr. Kathy Racher,
2 Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board, Racher. And Brent
3 Wheler. I want to say thank you for participating in
4 this process here today.

5 So with that -- also we got public
6 hearings. This is -- we have a four (4) day public
7 hearing, this is one (1) of them. And I also want to
8 thank the youth of this community and the Elders that
9 came out today and all the presenters. I want to say
10 Masi to them.

11 And we still have public hearings in
12 Yellowknife on Wednesday, and then on Thursday and
13 Friday we're going to be in Behchoko. And we look
14 forward to seeing all the leaders and -- and whoever
15 could make it from there at -- in that hearing.

16 So with that, this concludes the public
17 hearing for this session in the community of Whati.
18 Again, I want to say masi cho to everybody, and I want
19 to ask the closing prayer of -- we have an Elder,
20 Francis Simpson, if you could come up and do a closing
21 prayer for us.

22

23 (CLOSING PRAYER)

24

25 --- Upon adjourning at 8:50 p.m.

1

2 Certified Correct

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8 Lorraine Douglas, Ms.

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