



CANADA ENERGY REGULATOR RÉGIE DE L'ÉNERGIE DU CANADA

Imperial Oil Resources N.W.T. Limited
Variance Application for Operations Authorization OA 1210-001
and Application for Line 490 Replacement Activities
Hearing OH-001-2023

Imperial Oil Resources N.W.T. Limited
Demande de modification pour l'autorisation d'opérations OA 1210-001
et demande concernant des activités de remplacement de la canalisation 490
Audience OH-001-2023

VOLUME 2

Oral Indigenous Knowledge Hearing held at
L'audience de la présentation orale des connaissances autochtones tenue à

K'asho Got'ine Charter Community Hall
Fort Good Hope, Northwest Territories

May 16, 2024
Le 16 mai 2024



IN THE MATTER OF Imperial Oil Resources N.W.T. Limited
Variance Application for Operations Authorization OA 1210-001 and Application for Line 490
Replacement Activities
Hearing OH-001-2023

CONCERNANT Imperial Oil Resources N.W.T. Limited
Demande de modification pour l'autorisation d'opérations OA 1210-001
et demande concernant des activités de remplacement de la canalisation 490
Audience OH-001-2023

HEARING LOCATION / LIEU DE L'AUDIENCE

Hearing held in Fort Good Hope, Northwest Territories, Wednesday, May 15, 2024
Audience tenue à Fort Good Hope (Territoires du Nord-Ouest), mercredi le 15 mai 2024

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ERRATA / ADDENDA

Volume 1

Multiple instances

“Therazen” should be/devrait être “Feraɔezen”

Page 96, line 23

“(Dene Kedə Spoken)” should be/devrait être “Kóyələ”

Page 98, line 16

“Lacuse” should be/devrait être “Lecou”

Fort Good Hope, N.W.T.

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(COMMENCED ON THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024 at 9:33 A.M.)

CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: I don't know if you guys have anything to share this morning before we get started. We'll give you a chance.

PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: Thank you.

Just a few housekeeping matters that we always start with. From the CER's perspective, let me start by again saying, as I did yesterday, thank you for hosting us on K'ahso Got'ine land here in the Sahtu region. We are grateful to be here.

We're in the community hall, and just a reminder because some of us are not here, as people who are familiar with the space, in the event of a fire and emergency, please exit the way that you came into the building or through the exit to my side or behind me. And the CER will be in contact about resuming the proceedings if we need to do so.

Please don't leave any bags unattended. If you see anything of concern, please speak to one of our CER staff, who were introduced yesterday.

1 And I'd ask that we all turn off our cell
2 phones or any devices so that we can listen
3 attentively to the proceedings that we are going
4 to hear before us today.

5 Thank you again for the prayer. We had a
6 very productive and busy day yesterday, and we
7 look forward to the sessions with you this
8 morning and this afternoon.

9 So back to you, Chief Pierrot, to tell us
10 who we're going to hear from first and for the
11 rest of the morning.

12 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you for that.

13 Having said that about the fire exits, I
14 think it might be a wise choice that in the event
15 of any fires or anything, maybe on the other side
16 across the road here beside the white building we
17 could use that as a muster point.

18 I know I sit as the Chief of the community,
19 but it's the SAO is the last person to leave the
20 ship, so. But thank you guys for pointing that
21 out.

22 This morning, like I explained that way, we
23 did shuffle some people around so we will have
24 some other speakers coming forward. We will jump
25 right into it. Again, as yesterday, we will

1 continue to pull little breaks because as the day
2 progresses on, the heat will rise. Heat of the
3 day around here is 3 o'clock, so it's pretty
4 stuffy.

5 Just to point out again to -- not only to
6 the Panel, but to the rest of the community that
7 will be speaking, we speak clearly and not too
8 fast, enough speed where the translators who are
9 working in the back could keep up to what
10 we -- what we are saying. And I want to thank
11 you guys for coming up with a new updated map
12 that's -- thank you guys for that.

13 Okay, we will get right into it. Okay. The
14 first speaker we will have is Gordon Kelly.

15 MR. GORDON KELLY: I was born here in Fort Good Hope
16 about two weeks okay today in 1954. And that's
17 my dad, Leon Kelly, my mother is Jane Kelly.
18 Her, she was from Deline. My uncle over here,
19 Edward, the last on my dad's side.

20 We grew up on the river. I can probably
21 show you on the map, but there's quite a ways.
22 And I grew up on the land from when I was born
23 until today. I've been up on the river from Hay
24 River all the way down to Tuk and all they way
25 back to Hay River. I seen the river. There's

1 quite a few changes.

2 But the first time we went down the river
3 was 1989, we canoed down by Centennial Canneries.
4 That's the first time I was on the river, that
5 far up. The river looked very, very nice up that
6 way. The river was clear. I enjoy the country.
7 There's a lot of difference from up there and
8 down this way. But on the river, it was just
9 like a hotel -- I mean, the city. Any way you go
10 on the river, you can stop and sit and live, here
11 and there, make a fire, enjoy the land.

12 When I was growing up down the river with my
13 family, with my grandfather, we used to live on
14 the land, especially on the island. We used to
15 check snares in the morning and check the large
16 hooks in the wintertime. Me and my grandfather
17 used to go walk to the island, early in the
18 morning, about five o'clock, we'd take off. Come
19 back by lunchtime and take another walk, go check
20 his trapline.

21 That was a real good life. I enjoyed it.
22 It was -- we didn't have nothing to worry about.
23 And now it's -- there used to be lots of rabbits
24 and that, and now it's all gone, disappeared. We
25 used to go hunting on the islands and that.

1 Moose. But that's -- going away now. Last fall
2 we trekked down the river and go hunting. But no
3 successes. Looked around for moose. Go up and
4 down. But that costs a lot of gas nowadays just
5 to make a day trip.

6 So it's kind of that living on the land was
7 my store. I'd rather go to the island, check the
8 river, instead of going to the Northern store
9 here where it costs quite a bit. One little bag
10 is not much. But that's about \$100 for a little
11 bag. Could last you only a day or something like
12 that.

13 But it was a good life in that time. I'll
14 just jump to the other part. I used to look at
15 the wells. Used to be called Port Co. We used
16 to steam clean 45-gallon barrels and that. That
17 was back in '86, '87, '88, around there. Worked
18 there a couple of years, yeah, but didn't really
19 like it because there's too much steam and the
20 chemicals in the steam was coming out and you
21 breathe that. So I didn't care much about
22 working there because there's so much -- spill
23 and all that and you see all that steam, all that
24 what you wash out in that barrel comes out and
25 goes on the land. It just seeps through the

1 ground, I guess, so didn't like that.

2 I'd go down to the river there, you could
3 see it, all the wash of that on the streets. Go
4 down to the river and it leaks into the river.
5 That's what comes down this way. Didn't really
6 like it. I was wondering about, how do they fish
7 around there? But they have nets on the other
8 side of the river and up the river a little ways.
9 They still catch fish up there.

10 Down this way, they used to -- it had a lot
11 of fish when I was growing up. My dad, my
12 grandfathers and them, always down at the river
13 and showed us how to live on the land. Dried
14 fish. Dried meat. We didn't have no deep freeze
15 at that time. They used to smoke it in the
16 smokehouse and preserve it, and when they come
17 back, they used to share it with the people. At
18 that time they shared a lot.

19 But I was thinking, how did they travel so
20 far? On the map it's quite a ways, and costs
21 quite a bit to get down there by boat and come
22 back. But they survived and they were happy out
23 there on the land.

24 I'm sorry, but I just keep coming back and
25 forth.

1 One thing, fishing. I started doing net
2 fishing on the river. It was okay. But I went
3 with my dad he was going. He was sick. He
4 couldn't talk so much. I think he was trying to
5 tell me something. He went like this. He was
6 checking the net like -- sitting like this
7 towards me, checking the net. I think he was
8 trying to tell me that you've got to watch fish.

9 Because when I was growing up, we lived on
10 the river. We used to go up to the lakes and he
11 used to show us fish in the lakes and that. He
12 was trying to teach me that. Pretty soon you're
13 going to have to go up to the lakes and go
14 fishing up there, but that's quite a way from the
15 river to the lakes to go fishing.

16 Now I guess you've gotta go to Colville Lake
17 and as Colville Lake if there's some fish out
18 here. It's going to be more often now than after
19 we find out what's happening on the river with
20 the fish.

21 I don't really want to take too much time
22 because I know there's a hockey game tonight and
23 I've got to sharpen my skates.

24 [Laughter]

25 I just had to take a little break here.

1 When the Elders used to talk to me, they
2 said, "Look. Listen. Don't talk." I'm talking.
3 So I always listen all the time. Every time I go
4 somewhere, I listen, and I look, especially on
5 the river, I notice a lot of difference. It's
6 not the same as it used to be before.

7 On Norman Wells, I see the islands there and
8 I was wondering how come they are building
9 islands. I know that it's probably going to
10 happen down this way. And swim up it. It start
11 making a lot of difference.

12 I think it maybe it had some
13 flooding -- probably had to do with some flooding
14 here we had a couple of years ago. And this just
15 last week, I think me and my brother-in-law Buddy
16 were down here. We were going to go on the
17 island to check for the -- check for geese. Went
18 down Rabbitskin. We were on shore with skidoo.
19 I look on the ice and notice that the ice is
20 about that thick. I was looking, I was wondering
21 and but then Buddy said, "Oh, let's take a
22 chance." I was hesitant, but then we took off,
23 got on the ice, went down to the second island
24 there.

25 We just got there and the bottom, and we

1 were checking them out. For sure the geese was
2 flying, but the geese were not flying like they
3 normally used to. They go there and then they
4 come back. That kind of confused me. I was
5 wondering, where am I going to sit because
6 they're not acting normal there. Different
7 patterns.

8 So I sat one place and I told him -- we had
9 cell phone service down there, so told him when
10 you get to the end down there, call me on your
11 cell phone. But he got down to the end of the
12 island, hadn't heard nothing, so I waited half an
13 hour. And then they went flying over me, so I
14 jumped on the skidoo and went down to the end of
15 the island.

16 But before I went that way, I was looking on
17 shore about here to the wall that far that water
18 was, that island, and then I went down and I told
19 Buddy, "I think the water is starting to act
20 funny". So we coming back and just the bottom of
21 the island where nothing -- a trapper, he stopped
22 there. We were all talking, talking for a couple
23 of minutes, maybe 10 minutes. And then another
24 one just got there with a skidoo. He went on the
25 island with the skidoo.

1 And then trapper went -- took off on the
2 river and us, we went back up to that spot where
3 I was sitting. And then I told Buddy, "Hey,
4 look, the river a little bit wider". I was just
5 starting there and now it's that far ahead.

6 And then we stopped there and looked on the
7 shore. No, Buddy looked down the river and a big
8 piece of ice, black ice came up like that. And
9 then I looked on the shore and that, "Hey, we're
10 moving". We didn't have no -- you could have
11 went down or could have went up, so we just
12 jumped on the skidoo and we took off up this way.
13 We passed Rabbitskin on there and already the
14 river was too wide. Probably about here to that
15 little house across here, that wide already. So
16 I knew in my mind the further up you go with the
17 river, ice goes onto it, pushes you ashore so we
18 went further up toward the shore. That's why we
19 made a run at it and made it to the shore.

20 I wasn't worried, but I think my
21 brother-in-law was kind of worried about it
22 because I'm a little older than him. And Buddy
23 was -- actually, I made the trip and right away
24 we grab our cell phone and said, "Oh, we're back.
25 We made it back okay".

1 But the other ones down the river, we were
2 kind of worried about them right away, but they
3 were okay, too. But I noticed that the ice is
4 very -- not that thin -- I mean not that thick.
5 When we were down there, it was like not even two
6 feet.

7 When I was growing up when I was young right
8 down the river, our young days, I noticed that
9 the ice was pretty thick on the break-up, like
10 eight foot, for sure. Used to walk on the ice
11 myself, enjoy all the ice going down the river
12 and the water drops pretty fast after the ice
13 goes. But now it's not like that. Today you go
14 along to the river, it's one level, way down like
15 fall time.

16 I don't think the ice is going to come down
17 the river for a while. This will probably go
18 down, but up the river, not for a while, I don't
19 think. It's probably just going to melt.
20 Crystal ice comes down -- candle ice, I mean.
21 Sorry about that.

22 But for me there's a lot of changes, but
23 Norman Wells, I think it's -- I would think
24 what's happening with the islands. Then they got
25 a little bit of difference in the ice, too, I

1 think with all that chemical because before that,
2 no chemical used to go in the river. It used to
3 be thick when I was growing up. And now with all
4 the chemical is going into the water and make a
5 difference, I guess.

6 It's like when you put something on snow on
7 the steps outside of your house, salt or
8 something like that, I don't know, there's
9 probably a little bit of that, too. I'm not too
10 sure.

11 There was one time around this time my
12 friend's father used to stay down. I'm not
13 supposed to tell the story, but I have to. They
14 get Indian, they called it, that's about 70 miles
15 down the river. My dad went hunting, but he ran
16 out of bannock. So my grandfather had to come to
17 town with canoe, canoe, paddling. And my uncle
18 jump in the boat with him in the back, come down
19 there 70 miles, and around break-up like this.
20 He came with canoe, got flour, and went back down
21 the river. He never stopped or took a break or
22 anything. It was like one-day trip. Never got
23 tired.

24 My Uncle Edward said how come the hands
25 don't get cold because you were drinking the

1 grease from the pitch you boil and like grease
2 from all the meat he was cooking. He was
3 drinking all that grease. That's what gave him
4 all that strength to go that far that long.

5 And it don't get dark so they probably got
6 confused because nobody carried a watch at that
7 time. They just go by Dene time. Whenever you
8 get hungry, you stop and take a break. Just like
9 I'm going to do right now. I'm going to take a
10 break because I think I talked so much. And
11 there's other speakers you want to talk to.

12 One thing that's bad, I wish I had a clock
13 there so I could time myself.

14 But it's good. I'm glad you guys came to
15 listen to our people here. They always worry
16 about tomorrow, just like our Elders always worry
17 about tomorrow. That's why they tell stories
18 sometimes.

19 They always tell stories and I'm trying to
20 figure out what they're telling stories from.
21 But later on, it comes to you and then you figure
22 it out, you know.

23 To me, the way I grew up, my dad never told
24 me what to do or that. He just -- I had to
25 follow him and watch everything he did.

1 That's -- I used to go to my grandfather,
2 too, and he'd look up, look at the clouds and
3 that, and he predicted the weather tomorrow.
4 He'd look at the river and everything, he knew
5 right away and then he told me. He told me this.
6 This is going to happen, what's going to happen
7 tomorrow and the weather. The river, too, he
8 said, look at the cloud over there. There's
9 going to be big waves on the river, he says.
10 Sure enough it happens.

11 So all that kept there, everything they do,
12 I always watch. They never tell me nothing, but
13 my grandfather always tell me that. I was -- I
14 lost my language because I went to residential
15 school, but I understood them pretty good. I
16 could talk a little bit, but not that good. It
17 was taken (*sic*) away from me.

18 But I appreciate the way my Elders, they
19 talked to me and that. When I was young, pretty
20 young, I always talked when I was young. Yeah.

21 When I was growing up, there was a few
22 Elders around town, they'd always see me. They'd
23 get happy to see me. They'd say "Gordon", they'd
24 say "Gordon". They're really happy to see me.
25 They'd say Gordon means "grandfather", so it

1 really surprised me. For a long time I was
2 wondering what's that mean. Today, when I heard
3 that -- I'd spoken to the Elders for a long time.

4 But I'd like to thank you guys for being
5 here today. Probably I'll be listening to you
6 guys because I'm a real good listener, I'm not a
7 good talker because when I talk, don't talk.

8 Okay. Thank you very much. Máhsi.

9 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you, Gordon. Just wait
10 one moment.

11 --- Pause

12 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Does the Panel or anyone have
13 questions for Gordon?

14 COMMISSIONER WATTON: It's Commissioner Watton. I
15 have one question just because I'm curious.

16 You mentioned you've been all the way from
17 Hay River to Tuk on the river. Did you do that
18 in a single trip?

19 MR. GORDON KELLY: No, I'm not that crazy.

20 COMMISSIONER WATTON: No. Well, I was just curious,
21 how long -- like how far you'd go at a time even
22 from here to Hay River because when I look at it
23 on a map, when you said you'd been from Hay River
24 to Tuk, I was just -- my mind was blown because
25 that's quite a lot of geography.

1 MR. GORDON KELLY: Yeah, I should explain that. I was
2 with the Canadian Rangers probably my -- when was
3 that? But it's been eight to 12 years ago I was
4 with the Canadian Rangers. We took a tour on the
5 river from Hay River all the way through Tuk and
6 then back up the river to McPherson, up Peeler
7 River to Snake Mountain, back down to Peeler
8 River and back up to Hay River. It took three
9 weeks.

10 And the Bicentennial canoe race we had in
11 '89, that one took three weeks, too, from up
12 there from Providence to Ikavic and over to
13 Inuvik. That took three weeks on the river, and
14 I enjoyed it every time.

15 COMMISSIONER WATTON: That's a fantastic trip. Thank
16 you. Thanks.

17 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you. Thank you.

18 Thank you for that, Gordon.

19 Back in the '90s, I think it was '89 or '90,
20 they had the second Centennial race with all the
21 communities and the N.W.T. joined the canoe race
22 from Fort Providence right to Inuvik. So Gordon
23 was a part of that. I think he went on about
24 three or four of those canoe races.

25 It's an annual -- just about -- it was just

1 about an annual thing, but I think it's every 10
2 years or something like that that they do the
3 race.

4 And Gordon touched a little bit on the
5 Canadian Rangers. We do have Canadian Rangers
6 here in our community. Also, I believe that Cold
7 Lake is part of their group there, too, so.

8 I guess we will get right into the next
9 speaker, which is Lawrence Jackson.

10 MR. LAWRENCE JACKSON: Hi. My name is Lawrence
11 Jackson. I'm one of the locals here. I've lived
12 here all my life.

13 I want to thank Gordon for his presentation
14 on regards of his part of his life growing up.
15 Real interesting family that they come from.
16 Champions of Good Hope, I guess. Real good
17 athletes.

18 I skated with his brother, first Olympian
19 who came from Good Hope back then. It was Fred
20 Kelly. We called him Express Kelly. He was one
21 of my coaches back then. We won a few medals out
22 of that when we were skating with him.
23 Easy-going guy. Real athletic family, that one.
24 So I just wanted to thank Gordon for that.

25 Also I don't know where to start all this.

1 I was just thinking about that yesterday. Going
2 back into the history of my -- do I do a
3 presentation or listen to hearings of that. That
4 really got to me. And I was going back and
5 thinking about what I did and all that, right
6 from the hearing from the Berger Inquiry. That
7 got -- that hit me.

8 I want to tell a little story on the lawyers
9 on the Berger Inquiry. I was probably about 13
10 or 14, maybe. I think it was 1975 when that
11 happened. The speakers. So there was a big
12 happening regarding the pipeline.

13 I remember -- I got a story on lawyers on
14 that. My niece is a lawyer, actually. She's in
15 B.C. And yeah, she -- my aunt was Addy Tobac.
16 She pretty well spent all her life in school,
17 just university and all that. Real strong
18 speaker, was involved with the land claims.

19 I remember she was talking to the lawyers on
20 the land claims back in '91, I think it was, and
21 this lawyer was talking about land issues
22 regarding sub service and whatever, and the
23 claim. She didn't like what they were saying.
24 And she made that Canadian lawyer look that
25 small. She wouldn't give in. They stopped for

1 lunch and she still wouldn't give in. Who are
2 you working with? So strong. I remember
3 listening to that, and it was pretty amazing.

4 I don't know how many years. She went to
5 school all her life, university and stuff like
6 that, so it was interesting.

7 Also during that inquiry, my Auntie Addy
8 brought these -- I think there was four lawyers.
9 There was two from the States and two from
10 Canada.

11 They went down to my parents' place to have
12 a tea and talk discussions, I guess. And my
13 grandmother was sitting there. Her name was
14 Georgina Tobac. She was sitting inside and she
15 looked at the lawyers real funny. And this
16 lawyer said, "What's the matter with her?". And
17 she said, "I don't like lawyers. You guys are
18 liars", she told him. So just kept on in. Those
19 Elders, they look at the real being, eh? Funny
20 looking, well, make their face like that
21 (laughing).

22 So they had their little tea and discussions
23 and, finally, two of them came over and told her,
24 "How come you don't like lawyers? How come you
25 call us liars?".

1 And then she said, "When we were in
2 residential school, we were suffering and all
3 that. You guys never helped us. And when we
4 signed a treaty in 1920, you guys promised us
5 access and nets and shells and all this stuff
6 over the years". And then those lawyers listened
7 to her and it really hit them there.

8 I know growing up with her, she talked -- I
9 used to go in the bush with her and my other
10 grannie. I spent a lot of time with them out on
11 the land when I was young. And they had this
12 interesting -- and they just used their own
13 tools. They had their own dog team. Everything
14 was sweet saw. We had to cut wood with sweet saw
15 and axe. So it was a lot of work that time. We
16 had so much energy at the time. So that's the
17 way it was back then.

18 Yeah, it really touched me when she told
19 those lawyers that. She said that's why -- and
20 then one of them said, "That's why we're here, to
21 represent you", they told her. She said, "I'll
22 see you if that happens", she said. That was
23 interesting.

24 Later on I find out over the years, the
25 Territories -- through what my Auntie Addy was

1 talking about, the lawyers -- no lawyers
2 represented the First Nations across the
3 Territories until the sixties, which was brought
4 up in one of our courses through the management
5 study. So that's all true.

6 I just wanted to throw that out there
7 regarding the history of the Berger Inquiry, this
8 stuff that was all through that. I learned lots
9 off of that.

10 Actually, I better go back to introduction
11 here. My dad's Wilbur Jackson and my mom's Lisa
12 Jackson. I guess you -- I think you know who's
13 that. I guess you seen this plaque, eh? He's
14 awarded for one of the most active persons in the
15 Territories. There's only a few of them that
16 have that.

17 And growing up with him was a lot of
18 experience. Talk to Elders like Thomas Manual,
19 he'll say, "Do you think that guy is going out in
20 the bush? His dad was worse that way".

21 It's quite -- a lot of stories come back.
22 So that's -- so these Elders -- I grew up on the
23 land after the Berger Inquiry. We spent a lot of
24 time out on the land hunting and trapping. We'd
25 go out and spring hunt. We been doing that for

1 maybe 10 years and then we'd start to go out on
2 the land after we got to a certain age.

3 Dennis and I were the oldest, so we -- dad
4 brought us out to one of our trapping -- hunting
5 and trapping sessions in the fall. So we had to
6 fly out that time.

7 Those days was just radios. There was no
8 TVs or anything like that at that time. So that
9 was interesting. A lot of motivated -- a lot of
10 movement from -- energy. Lots of energy. I
11 learned out of that.

12 I don't think I hadn't seen a community
13 probably about six, seven years out in the fall
14 and the spring. So we go out -- fly us out in,
15 let's say, September, maybe mid-September. So we
16 didn't spend much time in school. Flew out and
17 then come back before Christmas.

18 And yeah, it was quite the experience with
19 dog team -- dog teams. Remember they had dog
20 teams at that time. So that's a big change from
21 there to now. So that was -- it was pretty
22 interesting stuff.

23 Like these Elders have a lot of knowledge.
24 Joe and -- we've only got a few of them left
25 telling the history of how they grew up. That's

1 real strong. That's what I -- I wouldn't mind if
2 they'd just appoint them on all these boards to
3 learn their -- because they got the -- they hold
4 the language and the inherent right as well as
5 the recognition. And that'll help us move
6 forward in a lot of discussions with hearings
7 like this.

8 So a lot of them are still sitting back
9 there. A lot of trappers that I grew up with at
10 my age, they're busy working so they don't go to
11 meetings and stuff like that. There are still a
12 few of us around yet regarding that.

13 Like Clarence Garver, he's fluent in the
14 language. Brian Stanley was one of the guys we
15 used to try to catch up to and we used to trap
16 because he's always catching more fur, so I
17 always challenged him, try to catch him.

18 So we learned a lot out of that. These
19 Elders taught us a lot those days, just listening
20 to the stories on the land. I pretty well went
21 pretty well around the whole area. From the
22 Carcajou area to Kadoo(ph) Lake and all the way
23 down towards the Altashkogo(ph) and right all the
24 way up to they call it -- me and Kelly, we grew
25 up Thomas, at Marion Lake and all that area,

1 through the forest right to Ramparts.

2 I usually just go boating up Ramparts.
3 There's too many people living up there at that
4 time going there to trap. But a lot of beaver.
5 We'd go there for beaver, muskrat, everything up
6 there, moose. Deadly moose country. Beautiful
7 scenery. And up in the mountains too, so I've
8 been pretty much all along the lake area, right
9 towards Wells. So I had quite the experience up
10 there. These Elders really tell the stories
11 about land. Just like Edward -- (Dene Keda
12 spoken)

13 [No translation]

14 I just wanted to thank Edward for speaking.
15 Because these guys, they've been -- were raised
16 by them, and Thomas. George is another one. I
17 don't think he's in here. Up in the mountains
18 when he trapped with us up there, and I made my
19 first paid of snowshoes when I was 17 years old.
20 I just wanted to try it out. We've got so much
21 things to do out there, right? And yeah, it was
22 interesting and George mentored me on that. So
23 that was interesting.

24 Yeah, we did a lot at that time. We used to
25 clean moose hides. There's a lot of moose up

1 there. We saw like five moose just living right
2 out of the tent. And sure did the meat then, but
3 then we did all the hides, cleaned them all up
4 and shipped them back to town. They just gave
5 them all to the moose hide takers at that time.
6 So it was interesting in those days.

7 You're always on a goal at that time. So
8 like Edward tells the story about 40 below. You
9 see the Elders checking nets at 40 below outside
10 and it's cold outside. I remember a story on
11 Carcajou Lake, with Benny Reruti(ph) and his wife
12 there, told us Bruno was -- told Bruno to check
13 the net, one of the members there, a family
14 member. It was too cold for him to send a hood
15 up. "How come you're taking so long?"

16 She came out, an elderly lady. It was like
17 30 some-odd below with winds. They were all
18 watching, they were trying to help him. But it
19 was too cold. And she just got onto the net,
20 really, he's right, they had about -- maybe their
21 nets to 50 metres from that. And her hands
22 like -- it just iced up and she was just checking
23 all those nets, or just throwing the fish back,
24 you know, it's nothing. Because all these
25 Elders, they grew up with this knowledge and

1 so -- so strong. It's amazing.

2 So that was one of the things growing up as
3 part of our life and stuff like that.

4 And really like, there's just too much to
5 talk about all that work history. Maybe I should
6 go back to Esso. Esso work after -- after I
7 turned 17, I had to go to high school,
8 residential school. And I don't want to say too
9 much on that, that part.

10 So I wanted to get Grade 10 just to be a
11 mechanic, because there was no mechanics. So we
12 got members from all the surrounding communities,
13 Tulita, Deline, Wells, there was hardly anyone
14 from Colvill at the time. There was no school
15 there and a lot of them had to come here. And
16 there were hostels down there which, whatever
17 they called it at the time. It was interesting.

18 The good thing about school, we got to
19 meet -- meet the members that we still hang out
20 with today when we go to Deline we tell stories
21 about stuff like that. So it was interesting to
22 learn off of each other from there till today.
23 Lots of knowledge about that.

24 So after I think I was 17, I came back. I
25 was travelling with my dad on the land all time.

1 He told me how to channel when I was 12. So I
2 did a lot of hunting. I knew how to channel all
3 the rivers at the time. That's another good one
4 to bring forward too.

5 I went to Deline a few years back, and
6 brought a bunch of tools up there with a 16 foot
7 and a 40-horse. When we got to Deline, we
8 unloaded, and Patrick met us too and Jonas, I
9 brought them up there with me from Good Hope.
10 And the only people they said, "Oh, you guys came
11 up --" they said "-- by boat. What size boat?"
12 I said, "16-footer." They wouldn't believe it.
13 They wouldn't believe us. Said, "Yeah,
14 Lawrence's boat is down there." So that is that
15 though -- that I know the channels. I'm the only
16 one that's wanted the challenge of going up the
17 river to Tulita. I would like to take that one
18 in the future.

19 But I mean, that's the experiences we had.
20 I learned on right through the Mackenzie Valley.
21 You've got to learn off other members from out of
22 town too, that type of stuff. It was good -- it
23 was a good experience.

24 And back to Esso again, working with Esso, I
25 was a summer student. I started back in I think

1 it was '77 when I drove up to the Wells, bringing
2 tourists and stuff and dropped them off. And I
3 ran into Eddie Hudson. He was the superintendent
4 at Esso. He mentioned to me, my dad and mom was
5 talking about when we used to live in Wells, back
6 and a very little glimpse of that when we were
7 staying there. And he said him and my dad used
8 to be -- they started off as dishwashers at Esso
9 back in the '60s and then they moved away up.
10 And he was working for a port crew for so many
11 years at the time. Then he moved to Good Hope.
12 So Eddie had given me a little history of my dad.

13 And he asked me, "Do you want to go to
14 work?" "Oh, yes." I was just about 18. So you
15 have to be 18. "Have you got a driver's
16 licence?" "Yeah, I got a driver's licence." So
17 he said to me, "Oh, okay, you're good to go." So
18 that's how I got hired on by -- with Esso at the
19 time.

20 So it's interesting -- interesting over
21 those years with Esso. Every summer I got to
22 work for them, and I figured I'd get out of high
23 school, then I'll go to work for them and that's
24 how I made wages. And a good experience on that,
25 the whole site. So from that site from then on

1 to this map here is interesting stuff to see.

2 Growing up, looking at all -- from where I
3 started from, I know the big bosses back then,
4 Ron Kennedy, Russell McPherson -- he just retired
5 recently, not too long ago. He's been there for
6 years, that guy. Yeah. There was quite a
7 history came out of that since it was before and
8 after the expansion project.

9 I got '83, that old map showing '83 with two
10 islands. I remember that. When I came out of
11 high school I was really -- I was at the CPF when
12 they first started. We only had one first module
13 up when I got there. I was in there as a
14 security guard. Esso transferred me over there
15 to do a security guard for a couple weeks until
16 they get one in there, or you couldn't get a job
17 with them. So that was an experience.

18 So I knew there was a company drilling doing
19 the rigs and doing the wells on that first island
20 and then the second island, it used to be Rig 7.
21 They changed that later on to Shehtah Drilling.
22 That's where the Shehtah Drilling came out from.
23 It was bought out by the Natives up here anyway
24 at the time.

25 So there's an interest -- a lot of history

1 coming out of that island third up ahead. From
2 watching it build up. We stayed in the CPF, we
3 had a 1,500 man camp there and Northern was
4 further up from the end of town, right up the end
5 it was the coast guard now, they had their camp
6 there, another 1,500 men camp. So this man from
7 a small town, when it started booming, you just
8 see all these people all over the place.

9 And they had a big Camp 1, which is
10 Bessell's camp, which is right up beside
11 Bosworth, and Macos, that's where I first stayed
12 when I started working at Macos, the first big
13 camp there after at the old camp there, I forget
14 what -- seed lock or something like that. Who
15 knows, when I was a little kid I used to visit
16 members from Good Hope there.

17 So a lot of big changes over these years.
18 It's interesting. I always wanted to work for
19 them. So once I got on, I just stuck it out with
20 them. That was interesting.

21 These CPF at our site -- I was working for a
22 union company named Parctic at the time. So we
23 built that CPF. We had at least -- we had over
24 100 trades in that -- that building that plant.
25 It was really amazing.

1 Northern, they were doing all those islands.
2 They did all the five -- four of them during that
3 year. They were done within the year. That's
4 how fast we did that project. The CPF, we were
5 done and it was operational the next year, a year
6 and maybe a few more months. They were -- that's
7 how they started pumping. The pipeline came
8 right in after that fall, that fall. That was
9 done within a year too.

10 We had a 1,500 men camp just between, I
11 think it was Tulita and the Wells, I was at
12 Tulita. And they had another camp down there.
13 So a lot of activity happening at the time.
14 Yeah, the Wells was just booming at that time.

15 So it was a good experience watching that
16 thing grow. So I understand the whole -- all
17 this -- before and after expansion project. So
18 it was an interesting experience to have during
19 those times. Now I can see that -- see what's
20 happened -- the overview of the site.

21 So later on, I got involved with monitoring.
22 I did work up in Tuktut, as well, so -- and
23 learned a lot. There's always lot of engineers
24 during the time downhole drilling, so I speak to
25 a lot of that stuff on our meetings. As well as

1 drilling in all those areas, we drilled out the
2 outskirts where it's coal. I had experience on
3 that as well as the sites going down towards
4 Chevron. So I speak a lot of that on regards of
5 oil and gas activity that happened around here.

6 So that's good to have that experience as
7 well as cat skinning. I did some cat skinning
8 for work as well as piercing at the time, so I
9 picked up a lot of this experience during those
10 times.

11 I tried heavy-duty mechanics, but that
12 was -- bad enough it was -- I had a dirty job as
13 a rig pig in those years, working with -- the
14 same thing with heavy duty-mechanics, especially
15 when I was doing recalls and stuff like that.
16 You have a lot of equipment to work with. And
17 then with your hands, by the time your shift
18 is -- your two weeks are done, you're -- your
19 gloves up to your top is all black with oil. And
20 it takes -- it takes -- you're off shift for two
21 weeks and then you go back to work, it's finally
22 back to normal (laughing). That's how those
23 dirty jobs were back then.

24 There was so many trucks I was working on at
25 the time, so it was quite the experience, and

1 being outside.

2 I didn't care about heavy-duty mechanics
3 after that, but it was a good experience. Those
4 days compared to now, I don't know if that's ever
5 going to happen again with activity like in those
6 days. So it's interesting.

7 So later on -- to make the long story short,
8 I'll just get on to monitoring. I got into
9 monitoring back in -- I think it was in 2014,
10 took our course up at the Drum Lake area.

11 It was a real good course, real experience I
12 learned off of that because of my experience and
13 background in oil and gas activity. And we had
14 Conoco as well as -- actually, we had a meeting
15 here regarding oil and gas activity. This is
16 what I really wanted to touch upon.

17 Oil and gas at the time, they had Husky.
18 Husky here was in the community as well as
19 Conoco. A few other oil companies were here
20 having community meetings on regard of fracking.
21 That was a big issue at the time.

22 I can tell a little bit about fracking, but
23 that was -- that was really hit hard because
24 they're fracking as well, and that was a big
25 topic right in the area. That was Conoco.

1 So at the end of the day, all discussions,
2 oil and gas, it used to be the National Energy
3 Board and they're changing all these acronyms.
4 Today now you've got to find out which one stands
5 for which now. Yeah, it's getting complex
6 (laughing).

7 So this fracking stuff, the National Energy
8 Board at the time, I questioned the National
9 Energy Board. I says, "Members from the National
10 Energy Board, is this fracking going to go on for
11 the future?". And they looked at each other and
12 they turned it over to Conoco to answer that
13 question.

14 So Conoco answered that question for the
15 National Energy Board. That triggered me. That
16 brought up, why, like this. I just left -- so
17 Conoco says -- they said, "That's the way the
18 drilling process is going to happen in the
19 future".

20 So that was one of the topics that was
21 raised in our monitoring program up there. I
22 raised that up in there. So that was interesting
23 to hear, to know about. So those things
24 happened.

25 As well as on the monitoring program, which

1 was good out on the land because they talk a lot
2 about TK and all that stuff with oil and gas
3 activity, so I was -- mining and all that. So
4 there was lots of stuff that get involved with
5 what happens within our land, within the lands.
6 So it was real interesting.

7 Yeah. Presentations were brought in by
8 Conoco as well as how that they're going to frack
9 the wells within -- that's all full of oil and
10 gas activity that happened all the way down below
11 Tathlina. There's lots of buried oil under
12 there.

13 Not only that, all this side, all this side
14 that's coal, that's all oil and gas activity.
15 That's going to happen in the future if it comes
16 back to that. There are so many wells out there
17 that are capped. I think now they're just
18 basically going to cap most of them because of
19 climate change and what's happening with global
20 warming and all that stuff that's happening.

21 So it was -- yeah. Today with global
22 warming and climate change and all that that's
23 taking effect in the world, not only us as well
24 as up in Beaufort Delta all the way to the Pole.

25 So with the monitoring, I look at

1 monitoring -- I remember going down to the
2 Erskine -- Adam, which is our instructor, and
3 Debbie at the time asked me to go sit in for
4 three days and they'll pay me for it.

5 So I drove up there with a skidoo and so I
6 camped there for three days. This is on the end
7 of their guardianship program as well as
8 stewardship discussions. So they asked me to
9 do -- they were going to write up part of their
10 program, how they do regarding guardianship and
11 stewardship.

12 So I wrote up a little detail saying as a
13 monitor, my job is -- observation's one of the
14 topics that we have to know, so it's an important
15 thing as a monitor. So that's what we were
16 taught. And your daily report, you got to
17 document everything you do as monitor from the
18 morning when you get up right till you get off
19 work. Observation is -- we've got to have a
20 monitoring book and we have to keep -- that's why
21 I was telling each monitor make sure you document
22 everything, the weather to whatever, whatever you
23 see, and plus work, what you did that day.
24 That's the way you get so many hours and you can
25 move up later on so that get involved with ENR

1 because on the land, you know the land more than
2 anybody down there coming up here because they're
3 out there. You're in our area. So make sure you
4 keep all that documented. So that was
5 another -- that was one of the things I threw in
6 there.

7 I told them to look at the ecosystem versus
8 ecology. That's -- you've got to understand both
9 sides of that, to whatever. Conservation.
10 Hydrology. Hydrology is another big thing. That
11 really has to watch water cycle. Drainage water,
12 whatever water, that rainwater to ground water,
13 precipitation. That all gets involved since like
14 Edward talked about.

15 See, these Elders know that from way back.
16 They're historians, these guys.

17 Edward was just talking about that. He
18 talked about when all that water gets together
19 and it goes down and goes into Mackenzie River
20 and see what's happening with the environment
21 now.

22 So these -- they're our legends, I would
23 say, to give us background and history of
24 traditional knowledge and inherent right as well
25 as every rights of looking after our lands.

1 So it was really interesting. Actually, our
2 conservationists, I would say. So that's another
3 big topic.

4 There's so much to cover on -- when you deal
5 with environmental management, I took the course.
6 I deal with -- because that's where we learn a
7 lot from other communities regarding how it works
8 on our lands as well as Tuk. So it was an
9 interesting course to find out how community
10 development is happening as well as boundaries,
11 what type of lands, the five different lands,
12 federal lands to municipal lands to Dene Métis
13 lands, all that stuff, ground lands. That all
14 falls into that picture. It's a good course.

15 I hope the government -- I talked to
16 government regarding that course back
17 when -- with the Premier at the time. Danny was
18 our local -- our MLA at the time.

19 So they say they're going to go back and
20 bring those courses forward. I don't know what's
21 holding up. Maybe devolution, making these
22 changes in policies and regulations. Maybe
23 that's what I'm thinking. But they said they're
24 going to do those because the course that we took
25 with land development management, we deal with

1 Mac as well as lands administrators, so there's a
2 lot of experience you learn off of that stuff
3 with regards to community boundaries because our
4 area up here is different. We deal with -- we
5 deal with competence of claims and then the
6 province is specific claims, which is different.

7 We deal with more lands than what it is with
8 the province versus specific claims is more like
9 reserves and stuff like that. So we've got a
10 big -- these are important issues that members
11 have to know about so -- on that part anyways.
12 So yeah, it was interesting.

13 I want to talk a little bit about due
14 diligence. As monitors, we -- due diligence. We
15 use a rock for the example how to cover due
16 diligence. I don't mean to say some
17 locals -- members and other communities, they
18 aren't doing due diligence. Our due diligence is
19 done. I don't know if they know anything about
20 our drilling activity and stuff like that.

21 So a couple of years ago, I was thinking
22 about that. They had an SSI meeting in Wells.
23 So I went up to speak. We couldn't speak in the
24 front because they had an open session there, so
25 I went to the back and then I got there to speak.

1 We had our lawyers there as well as Premier,
2 representative from the House sitting there, too,
3 so I had a presentation on that and due diligence
4 regarding what's down there, what are we actually
5 getting there? What's the source?

6 So I threw out Esso, for example, on the due
7 diligence, and I says, oh, these 100 years of
8 operation, what will happen after the fact of
9 operational years? What kind of contaminants are
10 in there? What are all these issues with this
11 Esso thing? So I threw that out.

12 One of the program courses that we'd take,
13 we did oil spills, and last big oil spill, which
14 was one of the biggest oil spills. And we
15 learned a lot about what type of chemicals are in
16 there that was killing off these animals, like,
17 our herring are all gone, what we used to call
18 herring, I think they changed that name. But I
19 think we still call it herring as well as in
20 Wells, they call them herrings too. So those
21 disappeared.

22 They mentioned fish camps. I remember we
23 were catching about 90 just in a morning and when
24 they're running 90 at night. That's how much we
25 were catching. We were making bales of dried

1 fish just to -- for over the winter. Use it for
2 trapping, eating, their dogs need food. They use
3 all that. So that's -- all that stuff comes in
4 play.

5 So I noticed those -- we're losing those
6 animals when the production happened in Wells and
7 that shows an example of the oil spill in Alaska
8 which killed a lot of otters, seals, and stuff
9 like that. So they were dying off with the oil
10 and gas activity of that spill. And that was a
11 big cleanup job, as well as what kind of fish on
12 that side -- salmon. They killed their spawning
13 areas, killed off their eggs. So these toxins
14 from oil and gas, that's a big thing to find out
15 about that.

16 I remember a couple years ago I got on as
17 RSC because of my background as a monitor. I
18 wanted to find out more about it. Remember I sat
19 in with the board. So I want to look into two
20 different areas. There's too much muskox around
21 there. I want to find out how we could utilize
22 it. They're getting into our caribou feed and
23 nobody wants to eat them or cook them. I shoot
24 one every now and then and eat it, it's good
25 meat, but just got to get right one. So we find

1 out -- we know where to get, how to distribute it
2 out to all these. Because people down south,
3 they'd rather prefer muskox than moose meat and
4 stuff like that. That's interesting. That's
5 good knowledge to know. I would use that part of
6 that.

7 And my next topic I want to do is find out
8 about the scientists regarding our role as
9 monitor. So I wanted to find out about gas
10 activity through the courses that I took, what
11 type of hydro petroleum products that get
12 involved with the human body, what's causing
13 these cancers and all this.

14 So I did -- started off doing the research
15 in Wells. I went to ITL, which is rarely known
16 to the -- they deal with ITL members. They work
17 with help funding and stuff like that. So he got
18 onto a question about that. So I went up to ENR
19 and talked to Jeff. I wanted to talk to him.
20 He's more saying it's natural spills so I wanted
21 to chat with him. I talked to the other -- the
22 other boss in ENR. He knew lots about the land.
23 He was still around at the time.

24 So we got information off of land claims to
25 find out more, to try and do these studies on the

1 oil and gas activity that happened over the
2 years.

3 I couldn't get much. We got into
4 science -- science school in Ontario and there
5 was too many -- there's too many scientists.
6 They got scientists for so many parts of
7 whatever. It was too much.

8 So I went to Mark Phillips, land and water
9 board, he's a director down there. I spoken
10 with -- on wild land and water board forum. They
11 appointed me as one to sit, speak on discussions
12 regarding the oil and gas activity or mining,
13 that stuff, whatever else. So I asked them about
14 scientists. We've got to look at this activity.
15 So let's try to find a right scientist.

16 So he pointed to a scientist from -- he just
17 came back from the Yukon working with one of the
18 scientists, that's the one he assigned us. But
19 noticing that, Yukon goes with B.C. curriculum.
20 That's organized that way. Ours is the Alberta
21 curriculum. So like you notice their schooling
22 changes all the way right across Canada,
23 provincial. Manitoba, that's that area and
24 Québec, that whole area. So that's how like I
25 noticed how the schooling system works. So ours

1 is Alberta curriculum. So that was interesting.
2 So that's how we find out through the scientists,
3 which scientists, where the labs are and all this
4 stuff.

5 So we got -- so Susan Kirsti was a scientist
6 who worked with us. So I questioned her as well
7 as the other scientists. So that's how we found
8 out the information about the scientists
9 regarding anything to do with the land usage,
10 regarding sampling, all this stuff that's
11 happening today.

12 As we know now, environmental issues right
13 across Canada. It's right across Canada within
14 the First Nations, and the inherent right and
15 recognition. So these things are happening right
16 across Canada. We know that. So these things
17 gotta come up as the land claims, let's
18 co-management the boards and all land claims that
19 we have to work with -- work a relationship with
20 out, whatever happens with activity, diamond mine
21 or whatever. So that comes into play in that.

22 It's interesting -- interesting stuff to
23 know, to learn from, just finding out through
24 this monitoring program that I really learned
25 lots out of that. Land claims as well as

1 activity that goes around. So it's
2 interesting -- interesting stuff.

3 What I wanted to really address out was my
4 little assessment, which is part of our program
5 around the monitoring program. And you learn
6 more out of that through mine and mill
7 management, how that piece is broke away, like,
8 discussions with -- like bringing up oil and gas
9 spills and stuff like that. So that's out there
10 now.

11 I did a presentation with the monitoring
12 group. When I talked -- I don't know if I
13 mentioned I sit on a management board for GNWT on
14 the Tuyeta establishm agreement. That's my role,
15 is to implement that Tuyeta protected area. So I
16 was sitting on that board. I've been sitting on
17 all -- pretty much all the boards. I was a
18 councillor at the time, and I worked, and I just
19 wanted to see how the community is regarding
20 structure. So it's interesting stuff to know.

21 Yeah, these things are all coming up now.
22 And there's so much to say anyway.

23 But anyway, when the pandemic started, what
24 really hurt me, Judy Lafferty, when she passed, I
25 had a tear for her. We grew up with her. She

1 was like my second mom. And when she
2 passed -- we lived on the land all these years
3 out in Carcajou Lake. Whenever we spring hunt,
4 we spent a lot of time with her. So very real,
5 good connection with her. And we were just like
6 her family too, we saw her like laid it out to
7 her. But my dad and Michelle, they group up
8 together, so they always brought us out together.
9 And that's what really -- when she passed, that's
10 what really hurt me, yeah.

11 So I thought maybe I'll look into about
12 sampling around Norman Wells. I really want to
13 get involved with this. I want to find out
14 what's happening with this. Our members here,
15 we're losing members after members. And through
16 our oil spills, we can find that out through
17 scientific studies on monitoring.

18 So I tried -- I noticed over the years as
19 monitor, we couldn't get samples from the site
20 itself. So I asked one of the -- one of the
21 scientists, I asked him -- she went and said, I
22 can talk to the scientists and get that
23 information. Says, "Go ahead. I don't think
24 you're going to get anything."

25 Sure enough. She never got nothing. So

1 that was happening.

2 So I asked her, "I'm going to go up there
3 and get a sample." And we says, yeah, you got to
4 be one of the members in order to do that. So I
5 went up there. I know a lot of people in Wells.
6 I practically spent half my life there working in
7 the oil field operations with Esso and all that
8 and building houses. So I learned off of that,
9 and a lot of members, we know about that. One of
10 the calls was to was Roger. And we want to get
11 the actual sample. Do you mind if I take a
12 sample from you guys? He said, "Go ahead,
13 Lawrence. These people have to know." That's
14 our job as monitors, to find out what's coming
15 down our way.

16 So I got this -- I went down a couple years
17 and I picked the sample up right in the fall
18 time, it's a good time to get the sample. I got
19 it off the shoreline. I've got photos that. The
20 shoreline is just thick oil. I got photos of it
21 just brown in there, right? And I took a sample.
22 A lot of oil spots in the area. And I took that
23 sample. I went to go RRC at the time and asked
24 them if they could pay it. They ignored me, like
25 so many things. I thought well, I'll just do it

1 myself. I got a hold of Christy and told me
2 where the lab was, so I shipped it out that way.
3 I paid for the freight. It went to the lab. And
4 then we got that one there, and I know the guy
5 there.

6 Anyways, that's what I wanted to throw out
7 there to find out what's in there. That's in the
8 process right now. That's what we're working
9 towards also.

10 So that's pretty much what I have to say
11 regarding what's causing that -- the leakages
12 that's happened there so ...

13 So thank you for listening. It was good
14 chatting. Good meeting you.

15 Sorry.

16 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you for that, Lawrence.

17 Does the Panel have any questions?

18 COMMISSIONER WATTON: I have I think a short question.

19 Thank you very much. I was very interested in
20 all you had to say what you've learned through
21 the monitoring program you've participated in.

22 I wonder if you could just give me an idea
23 of how many opportunities like that exist for
24 others in the community that you're aware of and
25 the extent to which you've recommended as far as

1 an asset for folks in the community as far as
2 having more people trained in such a manner?

3 MR. LAWRENCE JACKSON: Good point, yeah. That's why I
4 took that monitoring program when I was on board
5 with the -- that we're going to protect that. As
6 a monitor you can -- anyway, a lot of people, got
7 a lot of oil and gas activity, a lot of mining to
8 get involved with that and then you could upgrade
9 yourself through your experience and then move on
10 with E & R, for example. I wanted to get in with
11 the oil and gas specialists. But that costs us
12 money.

13 But my brother is -- he's going to
14 university for geology. That's what we need.
15 Because they know what's all underground through
16 oil and gas activity, what's all out there. Oil
17 and gas know that. KP and Wells. They know that
18 stuff. But he wants to go back to school. It
19 costs us too much money. So he went to another
20 job.

21 Good -- interesting to listen to him. His
22 name is Ian Jackson, my younger brother. Good to
23 listen to him because I shared experiences with
24 him regarding oil and gas activity, what's down
25 the hole. He's got that information. We should

1 listen to him when he comes and have a
2 presentation regarding that. We have that. So
3 there's opportunities out there for all kinds of
4 courses regarding activities, such and such.

5 COMMISSIONER WATTON: Thank you.

6 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Anyone else?

7 Thank you for that.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Maybe we'll grab a fast
10 five-minute break. We have some snacks and that
11 that came in so everybody can get a little breath
12 of fresh air and have some snacks.

13 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: Chief Pierrot, I'm
14 going -- there are a couple of things that we
15 have to just attend to at the break. So I'm
16 going to suggest maybe a little bit longer? If
17 we could come back at 11:10.

18 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: That's good, yeah. 11:10.

19 Okay. We will have the break till 11:10. Thank
20 you.

21

22 (RECESSED AT 10:52 A.M.)

23 (RESUMED AT 11:19 A.M.)

24

25 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: If we want to get started

1 again? We had a little change in the schedule
2 again. Our next speaker, Elder Michel Lafferty,
3 is still snacking away. We're going to give him
4 time to finish off his plate.

5 Meanwhile, we'll get one of the Guardians,
6 Twyla Edgi Masuzumi, to come up and speak next.

7 I was going to touch a little bit on Norman
8 Wells' history here. You hear a lot of our guest
9 speakers talking about Norman Wells.

10 Before my grandmother died, she, in 2008,
11 herself and my late uncle Frank Pierrot sat
12 together and they wrote a little book. It
13 covered basically the history on where they
14 stayed on the land, Norman Wells, in the mountain
15 on the side of the river -- on the other side of
16 the river -- Barnabys and I forget what other
17 family she mentioned.

18 In the book her and her kids and I believe
19 my mother, who is sitting behind me, was a baby
20 then, because they were moving into the mountains
21 further. They bumped into the Americans who were
22 building the Canal trail, from there on in the
23 book the story also read that my grandfather
24 started working with the Americans, working with
25 them until they got to Norman Wells, I think.

1 So that gives you a brief history of how far
2 back our ancestors have lived around in the area
3 of Norman Wells.

4 But I will leave that at that and we will
5 move on to our next speaker. That was just a
6 little brief history of that. Thank you.

7 TWYLA EDGI MASUZUMI: Hi. My name is Twyla Edgi
8 Masuzumi. I am K'asho Got'ine. I am a single
9 mother of four children, and I use the land a
10 lot. And I work for the Foundation. I am the
11 K'asho Got'ine coordinator with the Guardians.

12 So we do a lot. The Guardians do a lot in
13 the community, like helping the single parents,
14 the Elders, because they can't get out there and
15 do the hunting. So we harvest a lot for our
16 community.

17 We do a lot of programs to get the youth and
18 Elders on the land, to keep our culture strong.

19 We are about the land, language, and
20 culture.

21 Oh, my god. Where to start. Like I said,
22 we do so much. We do water sampling. We're in
23 the process right now -- like, we did our hours
24 to get like our Red Seal in monitoring and we
25 only have one in the Sahtu that's certificated,

1 and that's my boss, but I'll let him talk about
2 that. But for all our four Guardians, to have
3 that monitoring ticket would be a lot to the
4 N.W.T. and showing them that we can do this work
5 and this past -- our last year we had fire
6 training to certify the people because of all the
7 fires that were happening. We bring the Elders
8 and youth on the land to connect them together
9 because we are like the bridge between them, to
10 pull them together because our Elders, like we
11 say, are our library, and the youth have so much
12 knowledge with technology. So bringing that
13 together like just to see them on the land and
14 their faces, like how happy they are together.
15 And what else do we do? We had permafrost
16 training and -- oh, my goodness.

17 Every year around summertime my kids get
18 excited because they know it's fish time, and I
19 put my boat in the water, I set my net, and I
20 harvest fish for not only my family but for the
21 community also.

22 I work on dried fish and that's when my kids
23 get so excited because they get to eat (Dene Keda
24 Spoken) that's their food.

25 And to see my kids smile and want their

1 food. But there was a spill that happened in
2 Norman Wells where all of us had to pull our nets
3 because we were scared what was going into the
4 fish, and I've been seeing lately that there's
5 more of these little white things that are coming
6 on the guts. Like the guts are getting like so
7 much little white lumps and stuff on their guts,
8 and I'm seeing more of it happening lately. So
9 it kind of makes me scared to work on fish and to
10 feed my kids that. And it makes me sad that I
11 have to restrict my kids (Dene Kedə Spoken)
12 because of things that are happening in the
13 water.

14 A couple of years ago -- I know you've been
15 hearing about Rabbitskin and our kids swimming in
16 that water because it gets really hot in
17 here -- like not in here, but in the community.
18 This town gets hot in the summer, and that's
19 their only resource to have fun and cool down.
20 And then some of the children started getting
21 sores on their bodies, and my kids, so we had to
22 pull them from swimming there. And it's sad
23 because you see all these kids wanting to enjoy
24 playing in the water. Like I had that when I was
25 younger. We used to live down at Rabbitskin,

1 swim all day, and it breaks my heart to see that
2 my kids can't do that, and what's going to happen
3 down the road where maybe they won't be able to
4 even jump in that water at all? And their kids.

5 This community, we always think about the
6 next generation, as our ancestors have done for
7 us. They fought a lot for us to be able to go on
8 the land, feel safe eating our food. Like, we're
9 going to have a camp in June. And I wish you
10 guys would be able to be there and see how we are
11 on the land and how much we live off the land and
12 the food that we gather.

13 And what's so awesome about my community too
14 is like we always share what we have. Like Buddy
15 was talking about yesterday about if you take
16 water from the tap and boil it to make tea,
17 you'll see a film on it. So this is why our
18 community is always going to get purified water.

19 So tonight when you're in your hotel, do
20 that. Boil water and make tea and see it for
21 yourself.

22 Like I said, we harvest a lot, like moose
23 for our community members, and we don't waste.
24 At the end of this month, they're having a high
25 camp, like the community does every year, to

1 teach us. Our Elders come and teach us not to
2 waste and we work on moose hide for our clothing.
3 And it's a long process, but we love it because
4 that's what we were taught. That is our food.
5 That is our animal. We have to take care of
6 them.

7 So it's just a little bit to show you how
8 much we have respect for our land and our
9 animals.

10 This one time we went -- because Norman
11 Wells, they, like -- Esso has its own monitors,
12 but there was oil all over and Norman Wells
13 doesn't have the training to do monitoring, so
14 they called us, the Guardians and RRC, we came
15 together and we went to Norman Wells and we did a
16 sampling and everything to send it off the shoal.
17 Like how much damage is happening? And I'll show
18 you in the video.

19 (VIDEO PRESENTATION)

20 TWYLA EDGI MASUZUMI: All that is along the shores.

21 Hopefully while you're here the big ice
22 comes so you can see the ice that comes down from
23 community to community and it brings all this
24 down to us, and we've been seeing it even past
25 us.

1 And you wonder why our community is so hurt
2 that we're finally being heard. Why did it take
3 so long for you guys to hear us? And I'm so
4 grateful that we have a guardians program here.
5 We protect the protected area but also we work in
6 the community and around the community. We work
7 with other organizations, and I have another
8 video to show what the Guardians do.

9 (VIDEO PRESENTATINO)

10 TWYLA EDGI MASUZUMI: And as a Guardian, we have a
11 meeting maybe once, twice a year where all the
12 Guardians from different communities come
13 together, and we talk about the monitoring we do
14 and we talk about what's working, what's not
15 working to make us stronger in doing the
16 monitoring are the skills we want to bring to the
17 community. I am really looking forward to that.
18 I hope we do get that fish plant so we can do our
19 own monitoring with the fish 'cause I am all
20 about the fish. You don't see much women going
21 and doing what I'm doing, but I keep doing it
22 because I want more women to do it. And right
23 now I'm at a standstill because I am, like I
24 said, I'm scared to feed my kids fish.

25 I got that knowledge from my father, how to

1 set a net, and he passed from cancer, and he
2 was -- he was the best. He taught me so much and
3 I'm so grateful for everything he taught me, how
4 to live off the land and provide for my
5 family -- not only my family but for the
6 community also.

7 But, yes -- oh, and I went to -- I was
8 speaking in UNESCO, I went to Paris to talk about
9 our water. There was five -- five from different
10 countries, five of us. And theirs was a lot
11 about their forests being cut down, but me, I
12 talked about the water and the situation where a
13 lot of our people were dying from cancer. A lot
14 of us were scared. We're still scared to even
15 drink that water.

16 I have so much to say, but I'm just going to
17 leave with that, and tonight, do that: Boil the
18 water and see it for yourself. Understand why
19 the community always goes to Yamoga and has to
20 get filtered water, refiltered.

21 My kids, my son, he has skin problems, and
22 every month the doctors have to send cream so I
23 can put it on his body. And as a mother, that
24 breaks my heart. And you as mothers, to see your
25 kid go through pain like that, like you know you

1 never want to see your kid being in pain.

2 I'm just going to leave it at that. I'm
3 done (laughing). Thank you for listening to me.

4 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you, Twyla. That was
5 awesome. That was powerful. Thank you for the
6 video that shows a lot of what we have to consume
7 down here while we're here at Fort Good Hope 150
8 kilometres downstream from Norman Wells. You
9 guys seen it with your own eyes.

10 Like Twyla saw and told you guys in the
11 beginning, when I worked in Wells, I've also
12 worked on the boats too alongside with a couple
13 of the Guardians. One was Buddy Gully, who
14 spoke yesterday. So we work on the boats.
15 Every day we have to drive from Esso dock right
16 across all through the islands, but as you're
17 driving, you're seeing slicks of oil that you
18 could actually smell right off the water. And
19 I'm happy that you went and got this video of the
20 puddles of oil you guys seen on the shores there.
21 But I will leave it at that and see if you guys
22 have any questions for Twyla.

23 COMMISSIONER WATTON: Thank you, Twyla. I have --

24 COMMISSIONER SAJNOVICS: Thank you, Twyla. You
25 mentioned the water monitoring certificate and

1 hope the other four Guardians get it. I'm
2 wondering about the water monitoring ticket and
3 what challenges you're finding with the other
4 Guardians getting it?

5 TWYLA EDGI MASUZUMI: We had an instructor come in
6 from Fort Smith, and there was eight of
7 us -- yeah. They were teaching the eight of us
8 how to do everything, how to read the maps, how
9 to do a bunch of different sampling and to
10 collect those hours. We were going through
11 Aurora College so we can write our tests and get
12 that certificate. And that's just -- that's just
13 the start. Like, Good Hope does a lot, like
14 starting things off and talking to other
15 communities. So we become strong.

16 COMMISSIONER SAJNOVICS: Thank you, Twyla.

17 TWYLA EDGI MASUZUMI: You're welcome.

18 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: Thank you for the
19 presentation.

20 I have two questions. One is pretty boring.
21 I just wanted to clarify when the video was
22 taken, and apologies if I missed that, when it
23 came up.

24 And the second question I wanted to ask was,
25 I know you talked about how broad the work of the

1 Guardians was and I know that, because they do a
2 lot, you focused on a few things. But I would be
3 interested to hear more about how all of the work
4 that you're doing also is connected to the
5 language and culture work of the Guardians.

6 On the second part, I just wanted to hear
7 more about the work of the Guardians as it
8 relates to the language and cultural aspects of
9 the work that you do.

10 MS. TWYLA EDGI MASUZUMI: Well, we bring our Elders
11 and youth onto the land so they can talk, and
12 like our Elders talk to the youth in the language
13 and try to get them more to understand so our
14 language is not like gone. We call it
15 it's -- our language is sleeping right now, and
16 it's going to -- it's going to wake up where all
17 our youth are going to start talking again.

18 Like we had Joseph talking in the language.
19 I am so proud of him, and I know he will -- he's
20 going to pass it down.

21 And the culture, like I said, we bring our
22 Elders and youth on the land so our Elders can
23 teach. And as Guardians, they're always teaching
24 us and telling us what to do. Like we need to
25 keep this -- keep our culture strong. This is

1 who we are. This is our destiny. And we pass
2 that down. And our ancestors have been doing it
3 for years, passing the knowledge down.

4 And we don't want that to be gone, to be
5 lost because once you lose that, you lose who you
6 are, your identity. And as the K'asho Got'ine,
7 we are powerful because we live off the land, we
8 share with each other, we talk to each other, and
9 we're like one big family.

10 Like oh, my god, I really wish you guys can
11 come on the land so you can see it for
12 yourselves, like to see the children smiling to
13 be out there. No internet. No -- just connected
14 to the land and with each other. That's
15 something that you have to come and experience
16 for yourself and see for yourself and you'll
17 understand who we are as a people and how much
18 love we have for the land.

19 Does that answer your question (laughing)?

20 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: Thank you. Thank you
21 very much on behalf of the Panel.

22 MS. TWYLA EDGI MASUZUMI: When we did this video, it
23 was last -- last year? But there's another
24 video. Maybe Collin's going to --

25 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Mine is pictures.

1 MS. TWYLA EDGI MASUZUMI: Oh, pictures. But Collin is
2 going to show you pictures that recently like
3 happened like, what, two weeks ago, three weeks
4 ago?

5 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Yeah.

6 MS. TWYLA EDGI MASUZUMI: Yeah. So you can see more
7 for yourself how bad it's getting.

8 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you, Twyla.

9 You know, I've heard you question about the
10 language. And throughout the years of
11 residential school, a lot of our -- who we called
12 the next generation from 70 years and down, we're
13 not allowed to speak the language. Anybody that
14 spoke the language was beaten for that. We were
15 deprived of our native tongue.

16 So today we're fighting back to get our
17 native tongue, our Dene Kede back. And I seen
18 how the video what we have -- like I mentioned
19 before, what we have to go by every day and live
20 with every day. And what really blows me away is
21 how Imperial Oil has no environmental monitors
22 where they have to come downstream to our
23 community, Fort Good Hope -- Rádeyılıkóé -- to
24 pick up monitors for their oilfields.

25 The very same videos you saw, the oil slicks

1 on the shore, is the very same reason why we have
2 you here today, the very same reason why our
3 people are fighting for clean drinking water.
4 And this is our inherent right, to drink safe
5 drinking water.

6 I've explained to the community here how,
7 when we look at Native communities south from
8 here alongside the Athabasca River where you
9 have the oilsands, tar sands, communities
10 alongside that river are highly impacted there
11 today. They cannot drink that water on the
12 Athabasca River. They no longer eat the fish
13 there because all the fish there are polluted.

14 A few years ago, the Natives from that
15 community alongside the Athabasca River came to
16 our community. It was in the wintertime, and
17 they came to talk to us about this very issue of
18 polluted water in their area and how we need to
19 stand up and fight for clean drinking water.

20 Sad to say, their Elders hadn't eaten fish
21 for about two years. And yesterday you heard
22 from community members where we give, we share
23 with other communities. Well, community members
24 here -- not only here, but up on Colville Lake,
25 brought in fish.

1 When they left back to their community in
2 Alberta, they had abundance of fish to go back
3 home with to give to their Elders. Not only
4 their Elders, but their community members.

5 But today, from what you heard from Twyla,
6 the fish that we cut open, she cuts open is
7 starting to show scars on it, white scars, white
8 lumps all over it. And it's very concerning
9 because now we wouldn't be able to share what we
10 have on our land any longer if this continues.

11 Our people don't waste the food that we
12 harvest. Everything is used. When I say
13 "everything", I mean everything.

14 After we shoot a caribou, the only thing
15 that's sitting there is the gut that the
16 food -- the caribou eats the food. That's the
17 only thing. When we shoot a moose, the only
18 thing sitting there is the gut, the intestines.
19 Everything else is taken.

20 That's the delicacy of our food that we eat.
21 And then to see pictures of last year, the oil
22 slicks along the shore. I had pictures that I
23 was going to show, but I will show at the end
24 because this proves that the pictures that Twyla
25 showed still exists today. It's still on the

1 waters.

2 But I thank Twyla for all that, for showing
3 you guys the truth of what we have to live by,
4 what we have to live in.

5 Again, thank you very much, Twyla.

6 (APPLAUSE)

7 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Next we will go with Darcy
8 Edgi.

9 We will go Darcy and then we will break for
10 lunch. Does that sound okay?

11 Okay. Go ahead, Darcy.

12 MR. DARCY EDGI: Hello. Hi and welcome. Welcome to
13 our community.

14 My name is Darcy Edgi. I lived in Fort Good
15 Hope all my life. I'm on Yamoga Board of
16 Directors, Fort Good Hope Dene Band Councillor.
17 I'm the President of the K'asho Got'ine
18 Foundation, the Guardians, and I'm a Board member
19 for the RRC.

20 I just have to throw this out here real
21 quick. The KGF has a monitor program. I'm proud
22 of the work we do. Danny Maz is our Executive
23 Director, the only fully certified monitor in the
24 N.W.T.

25 We have run two certification programs at

1 Aurora College and ECO Canada with Wyeth and Dave
2 appropriated. Our Guardians are certified.
3 Danny signs on their hours. They monitor water,
4 fish, permafrost and black ducks.

5 I got my own camp upriver at Hume River.
6 It's about 50 kilometres upriver. I spend a lot
7 of time out there. I'm usually there all summer,
8 probably half the winter.

9 I just finished coming back from the spring
10 hunt. I was working like 18 hours, 20 hours a
11 day for three weeks now trying to get my geese
12 done before this hearing, so I finally finished
13 yesterday. We got 190 geese this year. It was a
14 good year. I'm always out there.

15 I'm sorry; I was going a little bit too fast
16 for the translator.

17 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: I have the same
18 problem.

19 (LAUGHTER)

20 DARCY EDGI: Yeah. I hunt a lot. I'm always out
21 there harvesting. Like all these islands you see
22 right through halfway to Arctic Red and probably
23 50 kilometres, I slept on all those islands.
24 Like I hunt on all of them. I cut willows, I
25 make a bed, I go to bed, get up in the morning,

1 hunt again. Wake up with cold feet.

2 Okay. I was raised up by my grandparents.
3 I grew up on the land. I remember at fish camp
4 just upriver at Frank's camp -- that was before
5 there was a cabin there. There used to be just
6 tents back in the '80s -- '80s, '90s. I'm 44 now
7 so.,

8 We used to catch lots of herring in the fall
9 time. I think their real name is cisco, but my
10 grandparents always called it herring. They have
11 all disappeared. There's no more herring there.
12 I used to eat three a meal, I loved it so much,
13 but we don't get it any more. It's disappeared.

14 Three years ago, I was hunting for geese
15 downriver at an island between Grandview and
16 Little Chicago. Little Chicago is just before
17 halfway to Arctic Red, the next town. And across
18 from Barnaby fish camp.

19 This island is about two kilometres long.
20 It's a big long willow island. I went there
21 hunting. We did a good year that year and the
22 next spring, I went back. That was three years
23 ago. In the very next spring I went back, that
24 island was a little over two kilometres long.
25 It's down to half a kilometre in one year. One

1 year that island got rubbed out from this global
2 warming.

3 I don't know what's happening there, but I
4 can't back to that island no more. It's gone.
5 And the whole island, over two kilometres long,
6 gone in one year. I couldn't believe it. I was
7 like, wow.

8 The riverbanks all upriver and downriver,
9 they all have landslides. All the way down, all
10 the way up, you see evidence of it. You go on
11 the river, you're going to see it all over the
12 river. Landslides, landslides, landslides.

13 When I'm out on the land for a while, I have
14 no choice but to drink from the Mackenzie River
15 because it's too far to get to fresh water. I
16 don't have enough gas. It's too far to get there
17 to fresh water, so I've got no choice. I've got
18 to drink from that river. So it's like playing
19 bingo with my life.

20 I don't know when there's contaminants
21 flowing by. So I ask the Creator before I drink
22 to help me drink the water when there's nothing
23 going by. I just don't trust it. You know,
24 it's -- but I've got no choice, so I drink it.
25 It's either that, or...

1 When Line 490 broke, Imperial did not have
2 the courtesy to let our people know right away.
3 Four days after the fact.

4 And is Imperial Oil leaving their old line
5 under the Mackenzie River? The one they're
6 replacing, is the old line going to be staying
7 there?

8 Imperial Oil wants to put a new line in,
9 adding more of their garbage. I don't want any
10 new lines put in until Imperial Oil figures out
11 how they're going to get their old ones out.
12 Imperial Oil has 27 more lines under the
13 Mackenzie River that are just as old as the ones
14 that broke on the Mackenzie River.

15 And the Mackenzie River is at as low a water
16 level as I've ever seen. I've never seen the
17 Mackenzie River this low before. You know, it's
18 springtime.

19 So that tells me not if it will happen
20 again, but when it's going to happen again.
21 That's what it tells me, you know. It's going to
22 happen again because the water is too low, the
23 ice is going to carve it again. You're going to
24 have another break. You're going to have another
25 spill.

1 Fossil fuels is the biggest contributor to
2 global warming. Look at the effects that is
3 happening to us, and Imperial Oil wants our
4 support. Are you that insane? It's my question.
5 Are you that insane?

6 I spend a lot of time on that river. I love
7 that river. I drink from that river.

8 The human body is like 75, 80 percent water.
9 That means we're all 75 percent, 80 percent of
10 the Mackenzie River. We are the Mackenzie River.
11 We drink it. These people here are the Mackenzie
12 River.

13 I'm just worried about my people and the
14 water and our safe drinking water basically and
15 our animals. And for me, I don't support your
16 new line at all, you know. I'm scared of you
17 guys, you know.

18 That's all I have to say. If you have any
19 questions, I'm here to answer them.

20 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: We do not have any
21 questions, but we do appreciate you taking the
22 time to be with us today after finishing the
23 hunt. Thank you for your time here with us.

24 MR. DARCY EDGI: Thank you.

25 (APPLAUSE)

1 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you for that, Darcy.

2 Next what we're going to do is we're going
3 to have one more speaker, then we will break for
4 about 30 minutes for lunch and then continue on.

5 We have a long list of speakers today. I
6 know that there are some people that have to
7 catch the flights out tomorrow, so it's going to
8 be a long day. So buckle down.

9 MR. DANNY MASUZUMI: Good day, everyone. I want to
10 thank all the Elders and people that spoke,
11 shared their stories, and just give you a sense
12 as to the stories that they've been telling is
13 how much they love the land and they don't want
14 to see anything happening to the land.

15 Anyways, my name is Danny Masuzumi. I was
16 born here in Fort Good Hope, and I grew up here.
17 And my role here in the community, I'm an
18 Executive Director for the K'asho Got'ine
19 Foundation. It's underneath our land claims.

20 Just to tell you a little bit about myself.
21 I've got a cabin across the river, too, so I
22 always try to go there whenever I have some free
23 time. But then again, I kind of like my job and
24 I put that as a priority just to make sure that,
25 you know, we're on top of everything with

1 the -- that has to do with the environment.

2 I've worked in the oilfield for about
3 20-plus years on the drilling rigs. I worked
4 with Imperial and I worked with Enbridge, so I
5 got a pretty good understanding how they take
6 care of business and how they do it, so I kind of
7 put that same structure as how I take care of
8 business here.

9 In order for us to be productive, we've got
10 to teach ourselves, our employers as to how -- in
11 the oilfield how they do business and so we can
12 do the same just to be accountable as to getting
13 results and to be productive.

14 Also, too, just talking about the line 940 I
15 think it is -- that's what it is, the replacement
16 of it. I've been thinking about it a lot there
17 just trying to share some concerns because I'm
18 just looking at your map here and the Proven Area
19 as to, you know, how much we can say.

20 We can say a lot about the history of our
21 river, but looking at that Proven Area, that's
22 kind of like -- we can't really talk about that
23 area because it's owned by somebody else.

24 But I can talk about what's outside of that
25 area, and that's our livelihood. Our livelihood

1 is at stake here. Water gives life to people,
2 animals, birds, fish.

3 I've been listening to the Elders talking
4 and, like previous speakers talking about them,
5 those are our encyclopedias. We count on them.

6 So through the Foundation, we've collected
7 all their stories. We try to get all their
8 stories before they leave us so we can carry on
9 their words. And whenever we come to a setting
10 like this, we can, you know, tell you what
11 they've said.

12 I know that from previous speakers that
13 spoke, they made reference to Elders.

14 And a little bit about what we do at the
15 Foundation, I'd just like to share on that. I'm
16 a Certified Environmental Monitor, I have my Red
17 Seal, and I've gained that knowledge from working
18 with Imperial sites, Enbridge sites, so I pretty
19 well know, you know, what goes on. And so I try
20 to, you know, help the Guardians to do their job,
21 documenting locations of what they observe,
22 taking samples of what they see, too, taking
23 pictures so they can have a story to tell. Like
24 just a few minutes ago, they showed you some
25 pictures.

1 I can sit here and talk, but if you could
2 see a picture, it makes more sense. It tells
3 you -- I can tell you 1,000 stories, but it is
4 what it is. But it's the facts. That's what you
5 want to see.

6 So for thinking about Line 40 (*sic*)
7 replacement, I feel that, you know, there should
8 be an independent study or independent water
9 monitors, an environmental assessment done, and
10 even an environmental water assessment. You have
11 to do an assessment of the water.

12 We hear evidence from people here talking
13 about the water. I would like your story to tell
14 us what's the water like instead of us telling
15 you.

16 You know, from the past, I -- from my own
17 speaking -- I mean from my own gain of working
18 with Imperial and so on, it's how you conduct
19 yourself when you're working in that area.
20 It's -- you know, you're only on a need-to-know
21 basis. You know, you're just an employee. You
22 don't talk about the environment.

23 There's a chain of command that you have to
24 go through, and sometimes that chain of command
25 stops at one place there and it doesn't go to

1 whoever is supposed to be getting the message.
2 That's why I feel -- I feel the people here that
3 don't really have trust or faith in what you're
4 trying to accomplish here. It's because they
5 never have been consulted with. They probably
6 don't understand what you're trying to do to
7 accomplish putting a pipe underneath the river.

8 So if that fails, is there a Plan B? You
9 never know with the weather these days. We may
10 even have an earthquake. It might change
11 everything. We may even have a tornado. May
12 even have a forest fire.

13 I know that we've signed a land claim
14 agreement with the federal government, and in
15 there it makes a reference to Imperial Oil. Just
16 by reading it, it's in 9.23, 9.24. And I haven't
17 seen any of that information that's supposed to
18 be done by the federal government, oil companies
19 and whatever to consult with us on a yearly
20 basis.

21 After 100 years, we still haven't been
22 properly treated. So I feel that, you know, you
23 have to really take us serious as to who we are.

24 There's only one of a kind in the world.
25 We're the only people that's isolated in this

1 Northwest Territories. Got no highway. We
2 depend on the river a lot, so you have to
3 understand where we're coming from.

4 That's our livelihood. You can't take away
5 our livelihood.

6 So I'm kind of -- you know, like I have a
7 whole bunch of information that I just want to
8 lay it out, but it's -- I know that we have some
9 other speakers here that can fill in the gap as
10 to what I'm missing.

11 But I feel that for the community of Fort
12 Good Hope, what they -- what I feel they really
13 want is your cooperation, your cooperation and
14 your responsibility to do your job and to be
15 accountable. Accountable to who? You may be
16 thinking that to us. But then again, you have to
17 be accountable to us because we're still here
18 after 100 years.

19 So just to get back to the Foundation there.
20 I know that Twyla, Joseph, Buddy, John, they're
21 the Guardians, so we're expecting another four
22 more seasonal Guardians.

23 Just to give you a good understanding as to
24 their certifications. They've taken wildfire
25 training. They got their PAL certification,

1 chainsaw. Egress. That's to do with choppers.
2 They have drone training, swift water training.
3 Permafrost training. Water sampling.
4 Snowmobile. Small vessels operations. Survival.
5 GPS training. Collecting data.

6 And also, too, they just recently, in March
7 it was, they took the well-being because the
8 Guardians play a lot of roles, like I just
9 mentioned. They have all these certifications,
10 too, and they kind of help mentor the youth.
11 They help mentor the youth through their
12 struggles, too, in life so we put that Well-being
13 Camp up for them so the Guardians can play a
14 mentoring role as to helping the youth.

15 So I have a video here that was supposed to
16 be shown, but I think maybe I'll just show that
17 video just so I can have a little breather here
18 and as to having more to say.

19 (VIDEO PRESENTATION)

20 MR. DANNY MASUZUMI: Thank you for watching the video.

21 So with that there, it's -- with the
22 Guardians, what they do, too, is they use
23 traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge.
24 They work with researchers, educate them, and the
25 researchers educate them.

1 They teach the researchers how they respect
2 the land, how they pay the land. They show them
3 all the old routes on the river, where the boat
4 channels used to be, the main channels, and they
5 tell them that this is where there used to be the
6 main boat channel. Now it's -- you have
7 sandbars. They have water on the water -- oil on
8 the water, I mean to say.

9 And in the video there, the one presenter
10 that was talking in there, he said we're the eyes
11 and ears. We are. The community here, people
12 that are hunters that use the land that have
13 cabins out on the land, out on the river, they
14 are also the eyes and ears of the land.

15 They also talk with one another as to where
16 there's no fish, where there's game, where
17 there's wildlife. They talk with one another
18 about the changes to the islands and so on. Even
19 fishing. And also even berry-picking areas.

20 So for the last -- since yesterday, we have
21 to -- you know, we've been talking about water,
22 we've been talking about history, but I feel
23 that, you know, water is the most important thing
24 that we have to talk about because it brings
25 life. And I feel that that's why you are here,

1 to talk to you about our concerns with the water.

2 And also with the Foundation, we try to pass
3 on traditional knowledge, sacred areas, safe
4 travelling routes, and also, too, we talk with
5 the Elders a lot just to make sure that we're on
6 top of everything.

7 And if we don't do things in our traditional
8 way as how we conduct ourselves out on the land,
9 they'll let us know. If we're being
10 disrespectful to the land, they'll let us know.

11 So what I'm really trying to tell you is
12 that, like our previous speaker said, we are the
13 land, we are the water.

14 I know that from my own part of my job, too,
15 when I travel out of here, go to Ottawa and stuff
16 like that to negotiate for our community, I have
17 to explain to the rest of Canada as to where we
18 live. Sometimes I have to bring a map to make
19 them understand where we are and where we're
20 located, and they don't believe that we live
21 beside a big river. They think it's a lake, but
22 it's a river.

23 And I try to explain to them that we try to
24 live the way we want to live, is our own way, our
25 traditional way, and they tell me that -- other

1 First Nations down there tell me that they're
2 very proud of us that we still carry on our
3 traditional way of living.

4 To give you an example as to one First
5 Nations person told me when I was down in Ottawa,
6 he said, "What we do, when we kill a moose, we
7 bring it to a butcher shop. There they cut it up
8 for us and quarter it up for us. We don't skin
9 it. Someone else skins it for us". But here it's
10 different.

11 So I'm just kind of wondering if, you
12 know -- if you can take into consideration that,
13 you know, if we could be a part of what you're
14 doing on this project, so that way we can be a
15 part of history as to telling our grandchildren
16 how we took care of business working with
17 Imperial Oil, how we made sure that they did the
18 job right to protect our environment, our fish,
19 our rabbits, birds, moose, caribou. We all live
20 along that river. That's who we speak for.

21 So with that, I have a whole bunch of points
22 I would like to bring up, but I'm just going to
23 leave it at that for now. If you have any
24 questions, I'll be glad to answer them.

25 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: We don't have any

1 questions for you, but thank you for the
2 presentation. Thank you for the time on Tuesday
3 as well.

4 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: All right. Thank you.

5 MR. DANNY MASUZUMI: Thank you.

6 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you, Danny.

7 (APPLAUSE)

8 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Before I forget to mention,
9 Danny already introduced himself as Executive
10 Director for the Foundation, but Danny is also a
11 former Chief. So we thank him for coming up here
12 and sharing his words and speaking.

13 I guess we will break for lunch, half hour,
14 and then we will continue back in -- I guess
15 we'll do a prayer over our meal and then we will
16 get the Panel to go up first and then Elders and
17 the rest of the community after that, please.

18 Thank you.

19 We will just do the Lord's Prayer again.

20 (PRAYER)

21 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Mahsi.

22

23 (RECESSED AT 12:35 P.M.)

24 (RESUMED AT 1:26 P.M.)

25

1 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Good afternoon. Hello, hello.
2 I hope everybody ate. I think we'll get started
3 again here.

4 I know we said half an hour for lunch, but
5 we're doing an hour here, so we'll get started.

6 Our first speaker for the afternoon would be
7 James Caesar.

8 Stop him. He's trying to run out
9 (laughing).

10 MR. JAMES CAESAR: Hello. Can you guys hear me good?

11 All right. My name is James Caesar. Born
12 February 17, 1954.

13 I'm going to try and limit my presentation
14 to my traditional knowledge and the best that I
15 can remember. And I want to affirm that whatever
16 I say is the truth as I know it and experienced
17 it, just for the record.

18 To begin and to really articulate the reason
19 why we're here, I just wanted to let everybody
20 know that might be listening in and watching us
21 on the Zoom link, good afternoon to everybody
22 that's listening.

23 Again, the reason why we're here is Imperial
24 Oil Resources N.W.T. Limited is the actual
25 applicant for continued operations in Norman

1 Wells, and the extension of that licence expires
2 December 31st of this year. So Imperial wants to
3 continue their operations and extend that licence
4 to December 31st, 2034.

5 The second application has to do with
6 repairing a line break between Goose Island and
7 Bear Island, and the Canada Energy Regulators
8 want to hear us and learn from our oral
9 Indigenous knowledge and see how we live both
10 currently and, in most cases, how we lived a long
11 time ago and what kind of changes have happened
12 over the years.

13 So I'll begin by saying that if you had
14 heard my brother, John T'Seleie, yesterday, me,
15 my brother and my siblings all grew up under my
16 parents, Louis Caesar and Mary Caesar. The
17 majority of our time on the land had to be up in
18 the Ramparts River area and in the foothills, up
19 the mountains.

20 And we did quite a bit of travelling on the
21 river in the early years, '60s, mostly '70s,
22 later on, and later on in the '80s.

23 Just by travelling around, we noticed a lot
24 of changes, as a lot of people have indicated,
25 mostly with the water levels changing, river

1 channels changing, you know, and we noticed all
2 these differences. Some places where we were
3 able to go, we're not able to go any more because
4 of low water levels. Can't go up the river as
5 far as we would like to. And it's limiting our
6 harvesting opportunities in that sense.

7 And so anyway, just a couple of things that
8 I wanted to add on to my brother, John
9 T'Seleie's, presentation yesterday.

10 As I said, we spent a lot of time up on the
11 Ramparts in the summer up here, which is
12 about -- on a map it's just about 14 kilometres
13 from the point here, and the place name is
14 Feraæzen. It's quite a traditional camp area for
15 generations and generations for a lot of
16 different families.

17 So anyway, we talked about fish a number of
18 times with the presenters and just to give you a
19 little bit of an idea of how we prepare fish to
20 eat and how to prepare fish to make dry fish and
21 to preserve it for use throughout the year in all
22 seasons, winter, spring. And what we use the
23 dried fish for, mostly for dog teams. In the
24 past, '50s, '60s and '70s, there were still
25 people that had dog teams. Most families had

1 maybe six to eight dogs per family for use.

2 So the fish had been used to feed the dogs,
3 and so that part is quite important to us. You
4 know, we want to travel here and there over long
5 distances in the winter, and we had to use dog
6 teams to do it.

7 Just to give you an example, during my
8 father's time, they had travelled from the
9 Ramparts over to Dawson City over land by dog
10 team. So you could imagine, you know, how much
11 dried fish they had to take along to feed the
12 dogs to make that trip. And they did that
13 because they wanted to get some supplies and sell
14 their fur, the winter harvest. So it was quite
15 important for the dogs to have the fish, the
16 dried fish, and anything else that they could
17 feed to their dogs.

18 So they travelled great distances, you know,
19 to survive, I suppose, in the most common sense.

20 And while we were in the fish camp, my
21 father used to set nets here and there, in the
22 eddies mostly, and we would catch white fish,
23 coney, and cisco -- that's the herring, I guess,
24 in the English language. And we would spend all
25 summer.

1 And the way we prepared it to eat it
2 sometimes is to boil it and supplement it with
3 potatoes and onions, all grown locally. The RCM
4 mission had a big garden. We would get some
5 potatoes and onions and turnips and other
6 vegetables like carrots from the mission in
7 exchange for dried fish. So that was the kind of
8 bartering system we had with the dried fish.

9 The dry fish bales, the two most was the
10 cisco and the white fish and the coneys, and we
11 would create that with the RCMP, the teachers,
12 and anybody else that was in town that couldn't
13 get the dry fish.

14 So that was kind of life during the summer
15 months with the fish.

16 And when we actually sit down to have fish,
17 we would cook the fish and we would eat the fish
18 with berries, and that was a real treat. And we
19 never got tired of it. You know, we'd have it,
20 you know, every day if we had to. You know, the
21 bigger fish like the coney, you know, we'd even
22 cooked the coney head on the open fire. And you
23 know, that was a real treat for us.

24 So you know, looking at all those things
25 again and thinking about it now, you know, like

1 we hardly ever get those kind of things again.
2 So it's receding further and further away from us
3 because, you know, like someone's testimony,
4 something's wrong with the fish, you know, so
5 we're not likely to eat fish that we suspect is
6 contaminated or sick or some other thing that
7 might be wrong with the fish.

8 The other thing that I want to bring up,
9 too, is some fish have disappeared. About
10 1957-58, springtime, around this time after the
11 Rampart River ice had went, there was a
12 whole -- there was a whole lot of families that
13 had spent the spring hunt in the Ramparts. So
14 after the ice went, everybody came out at the
15 Ramparts River to the Mackenzie River, and we
16 seen that there was lots of ice still jammed up,
17 just up here. And the -- if you look at the map
18 of Good Hope, you'll see that there's kind of a
19 bottleneck up here in the Ramparts. So there was
20 a lot of ice buildup.

21 So the families had decided to set camp at
22 Blue Fish Creek. So there was a good 15 families
23 there. All the families had gathered there.
24 There were some other families that had come out
25 from the Mountain River, Hume River, and some had

1 come out from the lakes where they had spent
2 their spring hunt.

3 So all these families had gathered at Blue
4 Fish Creek. And Blue Fish Creek, as you know, it
5 has its name and it's -- there was a bump and
6 railing there. And my father, Louis Caesar, and
7 the late Gregory Shay had built a fish trap there
8 and they had harvested thousands and thousands of
9 grayling there, you know, enough to feed all the
10 15 families.

11 Not too long ago, I went back there again.
12 I could still see the remnants of the fish trap
13 that they had built, Caesar built with big rocks,
14 you know, configured into a big V. But there was
15 hardly any water in that creek any more. There
16 was just a little stream along the lock and
17 everything.

18 Where did all the water went? Where did all
19 the fish go? So it was the kind of question I
20 had for myself. You know, something's happening
21 somewhere, you know, to stop the fish. And the
22 water levels are really low for some reason.

23 The other thing that I would like to say
24 about that, 1981, I think that was one of the
25 last times my father, Louis Caesar, had spent

1 spring with us. And after the ice went, he had a
2 fishing spot, you know, on the lake. In my
3 language it's called -- (Dene Kedə Language
4 Spoken) in my language, so that's what it's
5 called.

6 And he said the net there -- there's a creek
7 there that goes from the Ramparts River into that
8 lake, so he always set his net right where that
9 creek is. And usually he'll catch some whitefish
10 that makes its way up the Ramparts River from the
11 Mackenzie River, but this time he set his net for
12 a whole week and he only caught one. And when he
13 did come back to the tent, he was having a
14 conversation with my mother, and he was telling
15 my mother that there must be something going on
16 because, you know, that fish -- there should be a
17 lot of fish because that's where they eat for the
18 whole summer and then they go back out into the
19 Mackenzie River and they spawn there.

20 So he was really confused as to why the fish
21 is not making its way back to their food source.
22 And he was telling my mother there must be
23 something going on in the river. He said the
24 water level is okay, you know, there's no
25 blockages that's stopping the fish from going to

1 those lakes where they eat.

2 So that was his observation at the time, and
3 this was in 1981. And when I look back and think
4 about it, the Norman Wells Imperial Oil
5 operations had made plans to expand the
6 operations by adding six new artificial islands.

7 And that summer, I had told him that -- I
8 had told my father that the Imperial Oil group in
9 Norman Wells was building these artificial
10 islands right in the river in front of Norman
11 Wells. And he was kind of saying, "Well, you
12 know, if they take rocks from the ground and use
13 that to build up those islands", he said, "maybe
14 the rocks might have something to do with, you
15 know, fish not being able to go in the river
16 anymore because", he said, "there's a difference
17 between the rocks that are on the river and the
18 rocks that are on the ground". So he kind of
19 made that observation.

20 Now, thinking about it today, that could be
21 true because some of the rocks that were used had
22 some undissolved minerals in it and, you know,
23 it's been like that for millions of years until
24 it was deposited into the Mackenzie River for the
25 artificial islands.

1 So that's one observation that he had made.

2 In 1956, again when my parents had taken me
3 and my two siblings, my brother, John T'Seleie,
4 and my late sister, Markina T'Seleie, all the way
5 from Good Hope all the way down to Aklavik by
6 boat. And along the way, we had passed and
7 visited some families that had fish camps all
8 along the riverbanks all the way down. So -- and
9 today if you go down those, there's hardly any
10 families that have, you know, fish camps, you
11 know, very little, and not as much as we had seen
12 when we were going down in 1956. So that's a big
13 change.

14 What's happening? You know, I don't know
15 what's happening. People are not using the river
16 any more and like it's a question that's still
17 out there that we don't know what's happening,
18 so.

19 The other thing about water, water comes
20 into all kinds of different states. You know,
21 there's air, you know, water itself in liquid
22 form, and in winter it's ice. So growing up, we
23 had no water reservoir like we have today. There
24 was no running water in most of the houses. We
25 had to haul ice in the wintertime by dog team,

1 mostly along the riverbank up from the point.

2 And we had tried our best to get blue ice,
3 you know, because we could see if there's any mud
4 in it or anything else, you know, in the ice.
5 We'd like to get the purest form of ice, and it
6 was blue ice. Blue ice or clear ice. So that's
7 what we had to use for drinking water, you know,
8 like for tea and cooking and everything else.

9 And you know, today, as Gordon Kelly had
10 indicated, that there's no more solid blue ice or
11 clear ice. It's all rubble ice and it's all, you
12 know, coloured with mud water or anything,
13 sediments. So that part of using the river ice
14 is gone.

15 The other thing that we had used in winter
16 was snow water. So you know, usually in the
17 bush, you hardly ever use lake water in the
18 wintertime. We just use strictly ice water
19 and -- or snow water, and we used the crystal
20 ice, you know, taking the top off the powder part
21 and then digging further down. So we had used
22 that.

23 And when I think about it today, you know,
24 that must have been a really, really good source
25 of clean, healthy water. You know, today we're

1 not consuming good, clean, healthy water any
2 more. We're treating it with chlorine and
3 everything else to keep it safe. So it's a big,
4 big, big difference that I notice.

5 The other thing that I really wanted to talk
6 about was the changes that happened in Norman
7 Wells, as -- they are a part of my -- I guess my
8 employment, I guess you might call it.

9 I was employed by Imperial Oil 1976, '77,
10 '78 working at the Norman Wells operations. Over
11 the years, you know, I mentioned the actual name
12 of the applications, and at that time there was
13 Esso. Esso Resources Canada it was called.

14 A few years later it was Esso Canada and
15 then Imperial Oil Canada, Imperial Oil Resources,
16 Imperial Oil Limited, so all kinds of different
17 names that Imperial Oil had used over the years.
18 But their operations have been ongoing since
19 1921, as everybody knows now.

20 And the changes that I see is that we worked
21 at Portco. Portco was kind of a refuelling
22 depot. They used barrels, 45-gallon barrels were
23 reconditioned and reused, and we would fill those
24 reconditioned 45 gallons with turbo fuel, turbo E
25 and turbo B fuel, heating fuel, diesel fuel in

1 different forms. But no gasoline.

2 All the gasoline was brought in by barge in
3 10-gallon barrels at the time. But the 10-gallon
4 barrels were shipped back south, I guess for
5 refilling. So the time that we had spent there,
6 we were doing quite a bit of work with those
7 things.

8 At the same time we'd take part in some of
9 the actual operations, scheduled operations, you
10 know, we'd be running picks through the whole
11 lines, helping out with meter readings, water
12 meter readings, and sometimes we'd help out with
13 some of the construction activities.

14 This one summer, I believe it was in 1977,
15 we had hand-dug a trench from the Goose Island
16 causeway up to Goose Island Terminal No. 4. And
17 the reason that we had used hand digging was the
18 equipment, heavy equipment could not go on the
19 soft soil. It was kind of digging in and
20 couldn't be controlled very well. So we had to
21 go in there and dug about 60 -- 60, 70 feet by
22 hand.

23 At the same time too, there was no pipeline
24 that was connecting Bear Island and Goose Island.
25 All the production from Bear Island and Goose

1 Island had to be transported using a small
2 tugboat with a barge. Took the barge, we'd land
3 at the Goose causeway and haul production back to
4 the mainland. On the mainland, Esso had its own
5 dock and it was all treated with, you know, hoses
6 and pipes to empty the barge when it came back on
7 land.

8 But over the years, that system of hauling
9 production from Bear and Goose had become a
10 liability. The liability had stemmed from the
11 barge being over filled with crude oil and ending
12 up in the river. The one year that this incident
13 happened, they had estimated between 45 gallons
14 and 45 barrels. These are 45-gallon barrels I'm
15 talking about. So 45, 45 gallons to 75 barrels
16 of oil that was released into the Mackenzie
17 River. So it had become a liability for Imperial
18 Oil.

19 And so as part of the expansion in Norman
20 Wells in 1980, part of the expansion was to build
21 six artificial islands and run gathering lines
22 under the ground, and they were all trenched.
23 They were not directional drilling at the time.
24 So those pipes are still there. They're still in
25 use. I'm not sure what kind of condition they

1 might be in. This is about over 40 years ago
2 now.

3 Now we find out that the 490 pipe corridor
4 had failed because of river bed scouring. So my
5 best guess is that the waterline had broken
6 because the produced waterline, the pressure in
7 it is quite high, I believe somewhere between
8 7,000 and 7,300 KPa. There was quite a bit, and
9 then they had that kind of movement in a pipe
10 that's got -- containing that kind of pressure
11 would be easy to burst.

12 So now we come again to replacing that pipe.
13 You know, I'm going through the application and
14 all the activities associated with it, I kind of
15 believe that, you know, like if there was really
16 good responsible activities associated with the
17 construction, that you know, any kind of
18 unforeseen, I guess unforeseen incident would be
19 minimal.

20 The other thing that I had seen on this map
21 and I'm not really sure how I could put it to
22 words. The original 490 corridor was connected
23 between Bear Island Terminal No. 4 and Goose
24 Island Terminal No. 4. And the reason for that
25 is to maintain some sort of control right at gate

1 4.

2 So on the new construction, it almost seems
3 like the 490 replacement is going to bypass gate
4 4 controls and tie right into the production line
5 from gate 4 to CPF on mainland. So you know,
6 that kind of tells me that, you know, why pass
7 all those control points and just tie directly
8 into a production line that goes straight to CPF?
9 I kind of question myself, you know, why is that?
10 And the only reason that I could come up with is
11 it's all part of the progressive reclamation, and
12 progressive closure of the Norman Wells
13 Operations.

14 So you know, I really want to be clear on a
15 lot of the things that are happening now with the
16 water, and air, and animals, and everything.
17 Bear Island is home to a lot of moose, some
18 caribou cross the river and, you know, they eat
19 on Bear Island and some on Goose Island. These
20 are big animals that need to use this part of the
21 river and, you know, when you look at it, like we
22 want to keep those animals in good condition,
23 safe.

24 As long as, like you know -- as far too with
25 migratory birds landing on Goose Island, feeding,

1 and Bear Island, Frenchy Island. We want to be
2 clear on those things that we want to keep these
3 animals safe and safe for consumption, human
4 consumption.

5 Fish, we want to keep them safe and continue
6 our traditions, you know, and harvesting these
7 animals. If we run out of these animals, you
8 know, what are we going to leave to the
9 generations that are following us? This is one
10 chance I have to say something about these
11 things. So at least we could leave some sort of
12 legacy for the generations that are going to be
13 following us.

14 Water is already becoming questionable. We
15 don't have no control on those things, you know?
16 The water has been jeopardized or contaminated
17 even a long time ago from all the oilsands
18 operations all up in northern Alberta. You know,
19 we believe these things are happening.

20 There's been numerous studies and research
21 that's been done on what kind and what impacts
22 these contaminants are having on fish species,
23 birds, and everything else. So you know, we need
24 to keep industry accountable, you know, with some
25 kinds of terms and conditions that we might be

1 able to attach.

2 So with that, I'll turn it over for
3 questioning. Thank you very much for listening.

4 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: Thank you, James
5 Caesar. The Panel doesn't have any questions.
6 But thank you for telling us today about some of
7 your own family history at the Ramparts and as
8 well what you've seen at the operations there as
9 well. Thank you for your time with us today.

10 MR. JAMES CAESAR: Thank you to the Panel for coming
11 to our community. Imperial Oil, for listening to
12 us. To all the presenters, I want you to
13 encourage you to continue to voice your knowledge
14 of our land, animals, and everything else that we
15 hold sacred. So thank you very much again.

16 (APPLAUSE)

17 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Good job. Thank you, Jimmy.
18 Thank you for your words.

19 You know, back in 2010 or 2011, we did some
20 work in Norman Wells. I was working for
21 Schlumberger Oilfield Services. And we were
22 asked to run down Bear Island, the north end of
23 Bear Island, very bottom end there. We were to
24 do some work on a well. To pull out the tubing
25 there and to cap the well. There was six of us.

1 I was the only one from the region here. The
2 rest are from all around Alberta that work up
3 here with me.

4 We went down to the service rig that was
5 working at the bottom end of Bear Island and we
6 brought our trucks down along with our cementing
7 stuff to cap off the well. When we got to the
8 job, the rig site, the push for the rig came out
9 to us and told us that they're having a hard time
10 extracting the tubing that's in the well.

11 The well sat there -- that was one of the
12 very first wells that was drilled on Bear Island.
13 So as they were extracting the tubing and it was
14 right on the edge of the riverbed, of the island,
15 the tubing was so rusted that every time they
16 pulled a little bit, the tubing part, so it took
17 them about four or five weeks to extract that
18 tubing before we could get back onto there to
19 help them cap off the well.

20 But the reason why they were also doing it
21 was because the well was right alongside the
22 island where the island was getting chewn (*sic*)
23 away by ice every year, so they only had so much
24 time to cap that well off.

25 But that just goes to -- the story I'm

1 telling you is some of these wells are left
2 there, not touched until it's too late. But
3 that's just something that I thought I'd throw in
4 there.

5 Before we carry on to our next speaker, I
6 want to -- I think we had the high school
7 students here and -- they were around someplace.
8 Maybe they're outside having a breath of fresh
9 air.

10 But I would like to recognize them and thank
11 them for coming. These are the very people, very
12 people that we want here in the meeting with us
13 to know and to hear what kind of stories we have
14 for them, to share with them that they will carry
15 on to the next generation.

16 But with that, we will carry on with our
17 next speaker, who is Joseph Rabisca, aka Trapper.

18 MR. JOSEPH RABISCA: Hi there. My name is Joseph
19 Rabisca. I'm an employee, plant operator of
20 Power Corporation, former employee for Guardians.
21 I used to work for them last year, but Power
22 Corp. got me by the hook now, so.

23 I just wanted to touch base on a few little
24 things here. I'll just tell you a little bit
25 about myself and my work history.

1 As a young man, I lived in the bush my whole
2 life, all my life. Two weeks after I was born, I
3 was brought to the bush. I stayed out there all
4 my life. We go out for four, five months at a
5 time.

6 My dad was raised in the bush, so he raised
7 me also out there. Most of my young years was
8 out there.

9 I have a lot of experience in working in the
10 oilfield also. I've worked out in the oilfield
11 for 12 years of my life. I was crew boss, line
12 boss, troubleshooter, I was a blaster for
13 dynamite. I was a coordinator in charge of 50
14 workers or so.

15 I was born in 1983. I'm 40 years old now.
16 But I had a very colourful life in my work
17 history. I started working when I was 15 years
18 old. I haven't stopped since.

19 I've been with Power Corp. for five years
20 now. I'm a plant operator, and I think that's
21 where I'll stay for the next 26 years.

22 In the oilfield, too. I spent a lot of
23 years there, 12 years. I seen a lot of things.
24 I seen a lot of country. I've been to Alberta.
25 I worked all over B.C. A lot of jobs in Alberta,

1 too. All over the north. I worked down in Tuk.
2 I worked around Delani, all over Taveda.

3 I spent 10 seasons at KP 160. It's about a
4 two-hour drive from Tulita upstream. I spent a
5 lot of time in the mountains across from Norman
6 Wells. That's where we finished. I believe we
7 finished 25 kilometres down from Norman Wells.

8 I did a lot of work for different companies.
9 I worked for Shell, Husky, MGM, ConocoPhillips.
10 I worked for a lot of different industries back
11 then. I also had a lot of training in the
12 oilfield, too.

13 But something that I seen in the oilfield
14 was a lot of times was spills, stuff like that,
15 stuff that weren't reported. And also, like
16 Danny Maz said earlier, the chain of command only
17 goes so high with my position. So a lot of those
18 spills were reported, but nothing was ever done
19 about it.

20 And like these pipes that you guys want to
21 change out and put a new line in, some of these
22 lines are 50, 60 years old, 70 years old even.
23 The integrity of the steel was unknown back then.
24 They didn't have the laser tools that they have
25 today to check the integrity of the steel. So

1 those old pipes, they're going to rot in there,
2 and not only that the leakage that happened
3 already, that oil is going to sit there and how
4 would that be cleaned up. That would be one of
5 my questions there.

6 To put another pipeline back in, you would
7 have to do fracking in order to do that. So with
8 fracking, there's a lot of chemicals, a lot of
9 sediments that are going to flow back into the
10 water.

11 The fish is already going bad. Like Twyla
12 said, people are scared to eat the fish. I also
13 am a fisherman. I do a lot of fishing in the
14 summertime. The last few years, though, I
15 haven't gone out because like back in the day
16 when me and my dad used to set net, we used to
17 never get film on our nets. They used to come
18 out green every time we'd pull it out. But now
19 you set a net, you pull out your fish, you've got
20 all this sediment all over your net and you
21 actually have got to wash it off to get it off.

22 I just recently did some losche fishing and
23 half of those losche have bad livers. They
24 should be a nice maroonish bright colour, but
25 instead we had losche there where there was black

1 spots on it, so we had to dispose of those.

2 And I was also raised the old way in the
3 bush with no TV, stuff like that. Back then it
4 was all radio.

5 My dad raised me to respect the Elders, so
6 that's just the way I am. And I do a lot of
7 fishing. Like they said, we do the fishing. We
8 have to go Cove Lake or wherever else.

9 Me, I live in the country further north from
10 here up in the lakes. I do a lot of fishing up
11 there, too. I bring back a couple hundred fish
12 every season.

13 I usually sell a little bit just to make my
14 money back from the gas, the food, the labour to
15 get out there and get it. But I also come back
16 into the community to give out fish to the
17 Elders, all the Elders, just because I don't want
18 them eating fish from the river. So I do a lot
19 of that.

20 I also do a lot of hunting, and I usually
21 just get just enough caribou for my family and I
22 also cut up a lot of it and I hand it out among
23 the community so the Elders get a lot of it.

24 But on the river, though, the moose, a long
25 time ago you used to get a moose. Oh, they were

1 fat. They were really, really fat. And now
2 today I rarely ever get a fat moose any more.

3 Mooses, they live in the water, they swim
4 across the river, they drink from the river, and
5 not all of them are healthy. I noticed there was
6 a lot of mooses that we shot that had black spots
7 on them. Could be from ticks, could be from
8 water.

9 Just two or three years ago, me and my
10 friend were going for a boat ride and just across
11 here on the river we saw the moose, ugliest moose
12 that I ever saw in my life. He had this
13 bushy -- and he didn't look good at all. We just
14 let him go.

15 After thinking about it, I should have shot
16 him just to check the integrity of the meat, the
17 liver, just to do some testing on it. But I
18 really felt sorry for that moose.

19 I understand that you guys are going to be
20 removing some of these islands in the near
21 future. What kind of sediments is going to be
22 dumped into the Mackenzie River flowing down to
23 us?

24 And then also the fracking for a pipeline is
25 going to dump even more sediments and stuff and

1 chemicals and everything else into the river. So
2 for the near future, it'd be nice to know if
3 there could be more testing done, more funding
4 for testing, just to keep up and have a close
5 update for the people so they understand what's
6 happening, as a lot of people in the community
7 don't really understand.

8 Me, I was fortunate enough to get a job with
9 the Guardians last year to do some testing, some
10 permafrost testing. I learned quite a bit from
11 them. They gave me a lot of training also. I'm
12 very grateful for that, Alexa and the Guardians.

13 As you've seen, I was in some of the videos
14 up there. I was doing some of the water testing
15 and stuff like that. I got a good knowledge of
16 that.

17 Just spending a lot of time in the oilfield,
18 I didn't realize what I was doing and the impact
19 that I was causing to the land that I so much
20 care for.

21 And my job in the oilfield was to look for
22 the oil that we're sucking out of the ground
23 today. I didn't realize back then when I was
24 younger that what I was looking for is actually
25 the thing that is destroying our land, and our

1 way of life, and our culture.

2 Even back in the day, I used to -- I used to
3 be able to speak my language and everything. I
4 didn't know much about TV back then. I never
5 interacted with people until I was about seven
6 years old. I was scared of people. I didn't
7 know what it was like to be in a community so
8 much.

9 And now that I'm a little bit older and now
10 that I know what I was doing, what I was looking
11 for, what we were getting out of the ground is
12 actually very harmful not only to the land but to
13 the people, not only Fort Good Hope, but other
14 communities down the river, like Tsilgehtchic,
15 Aklavik, Inuvik. They also get water from the
16 rivers, and it's not only the Mackenzie River.
17 There's a network of rivers that flow out of it
18 and it's going further out. There's incoming
19 rivers, there's outgoing rivers.

20 My dad told me one time, he said, back then
21 it was okay. We could -- the fish was good. The
22 water wasn't as bad. And he told me once, he
23 said, "One day you're not going to be able to
24 fish out of this river. So that's why I take you
25 out to the lakes, so you know what you're

1 getting. You're getting good fresh fish." And
2 today, that's what I still do today.

3 But the last few years, the water has gotten
4 so low that I can't cross the creeks to get down
5 to my camps further north. So for the last two
6 years I had to make a road to Colville just to
7 get fish. And like I said, I got a great respect
8 to the Elders so I bring that fish home and I
9 just give it away. I sell a few to make a few
10 dollars to keep going.

11 Yeah, and these islands are going to be
12 moved. They had rigs on them. There was a lot
13 of oil spills on them. There's vehicles running
14 on them, leaking oil on them. You guys are going
15 to tear those out? I guarantee you there's going
16 to be a lot of chemicals, sediments, all kinds of
17 stuff being dumped into that river. You could
18 see it, like, when the water goes high enough,
19 all the groundwater goes in, so the water will
20 get brown. You tear those islands out, I
21 guarantee you it will be brown, very brown.

22 And like the photos you've seen there of the
23 oil on the shores of Norman Wells below the Esso
24 dock, the reason that oil is there is because the
25 water went low enough for it to actually be

1 visible now. If it wasn't for the water going
2 that low, you wouldn't never have been able to
3 see it. So that's maybe one good thing that came
4 out of the water going that low.

5 It's not only going low right here in our
6 back yard, it's going low all over the world. I
7 have a friend in Yellowknife that I buy fish off
8 all the time when I'm down there. Even him he
9 told me, he said he's never, ever seen it this
10 low before. A lot of that has to do with global
11 warming, permafrost thaw.

12 Something that I learnt last year from the
13 permafrost training that we did with the
14 Guardians, was -- a lot of people don't know
15 this, but in the Northwest Territories, has the
16 most carbon in the ground, and how that carbon is
17 being released because there's H₂O in carbon, they
18 run on a balance. If you set a fire to the
19 ground, the permafrost is going to melt in that
20 area very fast and what's going to happen is
21 they're going to get more carbon into the
22 atmosphere which can create different weather,
23 lightning, snow, like even in January I believe
24 we had rain here in the community.

25 The forest fires have a big impact on that

1 too. And also, I took a training with the
2 guardians there, the Beat the Heat training. At
3 the end of the training course, we looked it up.
4 The average of forest fires in the Northwest
5 Territories is average 6 million hectares. Last
6 year, last year alone was 26 million hectares
7 burnt. So you can imagine how much permafrost
8 thaw we're also going to have.

9 And tearing these islands out is going to
10 put more sediments in the ground. The fracking
11 for the pipeline is going to put more chemicals
12 and everything else in there. Also the
13 permafrost thaw. That's a big one too. That's a
14 pretty horrible one. We should be managing that
15 better because with permafrost thaw, you're going
16 to get -- you're going to get a lot of different
17 sediments from the landslides pouring into the
18 river. It's all going to go into the water.

19 Right now, we're just speeding up that
20 process. We're not trying to slow it down or
21 nothing. It's like Paul T'Seleie said, put a
22 clay ball there and it's heavy when it first
23 starts. After it dries up, it's light. Right
24 now we're mutilizing our water sources so
25 badly -- the world is 75 percent water. But soon

1 we're not going to have water, drinkable water.
2 Everything will have to be filtered.

3 These sediments that are going into the
4 water are making people sick. In the last 20
5 years -- when I was a boy, there was a lot of
6 Elders here. There was a lot of people here, a
7 lot of different names that are not around no
8 more.

9 A lot of them died from cancer in the last
10 15 to 20 years. My father included. I lost my
11 father 11, 12 years ago. I try not to reminisce
12 on him too much because it's too painful. I also
13 lost a couple of my uncles on my dad's side.
14 Same thing, all to cancer. But we really got to
15 start thinking about the future and how we're
16 going to go about this.

17 I think it would be safer to say that we
18 need to work together as a team because not only
19 us, we're drinking the water. You guys are also
20 drinking this water too. There's other people
21 that are having babies and stuff like that.
22 They're not being born properly because of the
23 water and what they're drinking.

24 And like my dad said, "Pretty soon you're
25 not going to be able to eat the fish." And like

1 they said, people are scared to eat the fish. So
2 we've really got to think about that. We've got
3 to try to find a way where we can cope together
4 and work our way through this. Like information,
5 data, stuff like that, we got to use it better
6 for the people that are using the water, like
7 Esso. There's probably a lot of things that Esso
8 is not telling us but should be.

9 It's good that the Guardians are doing this,
10 starting their own sampling, their own testing.
11 We're downstream from all this, so we're going to
12 have to start working together to get a
13 better -- better oversight on everything that's
14 going to be happening. Like a lot of people here
15 in the community didn't know that you guys are
16 going to remove those islands. A lot of people
17 probably didn't even know there was going to be a
18 new pipeline going in.

19 And fracking is not the best thing. My
20 older brother, he's a mechanic, he works up
21 around B.C. area -- or Alberta area, and he's not
22 proud of what he does. He works in the tar sand
23 mines. He tells me all the time that he's not
24 proud of what he does because he keeps their
25 machines running and he knows the impact of what

1 they're doing.

2 I was just talking to my boss there and he
3 was just talking about the Cree people and
4 Indigenous people down around that area. He said
5 they lost so much people to cancer that's being
6 caused from the tar sand mines, and if we're not
7 careful, the same thing is going to be happening
8 here, and we can already see the impact of that
9 happening.

10 So we really got to think about coping with
11 one another better, sharing with information
12 better. Like when that pipe burst there, we
13 should have been notified almost immediately.

14 I'm not really much of a politician or
15 anything like that, but I did work hard all my
16 life and didn't know until I was older what
17 impact -- I realized what I was doing to the land
18 that I love so much already. Not only that, the
19 animals, the people, the health, especially for
20 that poor little moose that I saw. I think about
21 that all the time. It's always in the back of my
22 head.

23 Yeah, so I guess my point here is better
24 communications, better information shared, the
25 sooner the better, not five or six years down the

1 road, by the time the damage is already done,
2 then we finally found out, we probably introduced
3 more mercury and all the bad chemicals that come
4 with it.

5 I heard once two cups of machine oil can
6 contaminate a whole aircraft freshwater supply,
7 and these aircraft carriers are made to go out
8 six months at a time. Two cups of machine oil.
9 There was probably about 20 gallons sitting on
10 that shore right there. So imagine how much
11 water was contaminated just from that one little
12 spot right there. Imagine what's down the river
13 that people don't even see that they dry by every
14 single boat trip they come back from Norman
15 Wells.

16 Like Twyla said, you boil a cup of tea,
17 you've got this film on there. That's the same
18 film that I'm talking about that's on my net.
19 And you have to actually wash your net to get it
20 off.

21 I think that's about all I got to say about
22 that.

23 So, any questions?

24 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: Thank you. We don't
25 have any questions, but thank you to you, Joseph

1 Rabisca. We appreciate that you took time to be
2 with us this afternoon.

3 (APPLAUSE)

4 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you.

5 Thank you, Trapper. Thank you for that.
6 That's a lot of information and good information
7 I felt.

8 We'll move on to the next speaker. We have
9 Arthur Tobac.

10 Before we speak, Arthur, here also is a
11 former leader of the community, sat as the
12 President for Yamoga Land Corporation and was
13 also a former Chief of the K'asho Got'ine People
14 too.

15 MR. ARTHUR TOBAC: Hello. Thank you for that, Chief.

16 I was wanting to address the Commissioners,
17 and the Panel, and the various representatives
18 here, to our community, Fort Good Hope. It's
19 always good to come together when there's an
20 issue that's before us. You know, I wanted to
21 mostly welcome you because you're visitors here.
22 And I think mostly you haven't never been here
23 before prior, and you may not have the
24 information, the knowledge, of how our community
25 functions and flows and everything else. So in

1 that sense, I wanted to really acknowledge your
2 presence here.

3 I also wanted to acknowledge the leadership,
4 the President and the Chief, you know, for
5 working to give us an opportunity to present to
6 you our concerns, our views on this application
7 that's before us.

8 I think I wanted to bring this up before I
9 get into my notes and everything and try to lay
10 it out so that the importance of what we are
11 doing here is acknowledged. Had it not been for
12 our leadership, I don't think we would be here
13 presenting all of our concerns to you.

14 And I wanted to thank them for that mostly
15 because, you know, in my former role as
16 leadership and Past President, I was very active
17 during the Mackenzie gas project days and there
18 was so much activity and impacts to the community
19 at that time and it's -- this is so much
20 different than back then, although the importance
21 of it is no less, no less important.

22 Today I wanted to actually inform everybody
23 that's listening that, you know, in prior year
24 panels there was always notes that were presented
25 to me and we talked on issues, and I presented to

1 many panels and to many groups in various roles
2 in my position. In the work I do, I do talk to
3 governments, departments, and agencies within
4 both the federal and territorial governments.

5 But this, sitting here at this panel and
6 everything else, it has confronted me and I
7 wanted to present events and items from my own
8 personal views and from my own personal life.

9 So I will get into my notes with that. I
10 just wanted to inform you of that because, like I
11 said, you're new to the community. You're not
12 quite -- you wouldn't see the way the community
13 functions. We live on a river, the banks of the
14 river. Whether it's wintertime, spring, summer,
15 or fall, we live here, you could see the flow,
16 the traffic that goes out to the Mackenzie,
17 people going out, fish camps, cabins, hunting.
18 It's just a constant flow of in and out.

19 And that was why it was sort of difficult
20 for me to prepare my notes to present to you
21 because it's like -- and I just had the
22 invitation to present yesterday, and so I thought
23 about presenting and it's just a snapshot. I
24 thought it's just a snapshot that I'm presenting.
25 It's not the whole video or the whole animated

1 scene that takes place in a community like Fort
2 Good Hope.

3 And so, I hope that what I present to you
4 today is a little different, that you can take it
5 in that sense that this is what the community
6 does, this is how it functions.

7 And so, with that I will get into my
8 presentation. Thank you.

9 Good afternoon. My name is Arthur Tobac. I
10 am a member of the K'asho Got'ine People of this
11 land. I am also a registered member of the
12 Yamoga Land Corporation, a land claims group here
13 in the Sahtu region. I live here in Radeyilikoe,
14 Fort Good Hope, downstream of the Norman Wells
15 oil fields. My parents are Dominic Tobac and
16 Marie Tobac. There were seven brothers and five
17 sisters within my siblings. Today there are
18 still eight of us living here in the Sahtu
19 region.

20 In my working life, I have worked in a
21 number of industries, from trapper, in forestry,
22 firefighter, working at Portco at the Imperial
23 Oil production centre in Norman Wells.

24 I began my career in housing with the
25 Radeyilikoe Housing Association back in the early

1 '80s as a housing maintainer. I was also
2 president and vice president of the land
3 corporation. I have served one term as the Chief
4 of Fort Good Hope.

5 And so, my leadership capabilities was
6 served in privilege to the people that have
7 elected me back then and I've always taken it
8 very seriously. When we do serve as leadership,
9 we've always taken oaths of office and I've
10 always taken it seriously. And so given this
11 many years after these roles, I still consider
12 myself part of the leadership, and with it the
13 responsibility. I speak up when I have to, and I
14 think this is one of the occasions when I should.

15 I am also a residential school survivor,
16 taken from my home and family at six years of
17 age. I went to Grollier Hall in Inuvik in the
18 years 1966-'67, 1967-'68, 1968-'69. These years
19 were spent surviving there.

20 I want to state that this part of my life
21 and the trauma I went through has affected so
22 much of my well-being in later years, and I want
23 to speak on the healing and the spiritual growth
24 from this point on.

25 After my return from residential school, I

1 was dealing with a lot of personal issues that
2 were a result of the trauma that I had
3 experienced. I relied on alcohol as a coping
4 strategy, which eventually led to alcoholism for
5 many years. With help and support from family
6 and friends, I managed to recover sobriety and
7 maintain it.

8 To deal with the underlying issues, I
9 undertook a healing journey to restore a healthy
10 balance in the four areas of wellness. For my
11 spiritual wellness, the connection to the river
12 and the land was crucial. Here I restored self
13 identity, and I developed an awareness of the
14 Creator. The river and the land are gifts that
15 help heal the human spirit.

16 I want to mention this because other people
17 have talked about the importance of on the land
18 healing, these programs are part of recovery from
19 addictions. And for me having lived and
20 experienced this, I am in agreement with this
21 assessment.

22 I was born dependent on the land and the
23 river. I am a land user, a traveller of the
24 Mackenzie River in both directions. In the
25 summer of my youth, my parents took us to our

1 annual fish camp upstream from town to a place in
2 the English language called Willow Point, in our
3 Dene today, Kapowan(ph).

4 We spent the entire summer harvesting fish,
5 and this was for subsistence purposes. Food for
6 dogs in the winter. Dried fish for our family to
7 survive on throughout the year. We harvested
8 lots of herring, whitefish, and coney in nets set
9 out by my father. The quality of the fish was
10 very healthy then. The fish were fat. The roe
11 or fish eggs were plentiful and abundant in each
12 species.

13 My parents lived life on this river. They
14 fed and nurtured their children from this river.
15 At certain times of the summer, we would
16 accompany my mother to pick berries, such as
17 cranberries, blueberries, blackberries, knuckle
18 berries, either on top of the cliff behind the
19 camp or we would boat across the river to a place
20 called Chekoniqon(ph), a berry-picking area just
21 on the top of the lower cliffs.

22 The river was and is a highway for us. In
23 the winter we travel on the river to access
24 hunting areas upstream or downstream. I lived in
25 the Rampart area in my younger years, a number of

1 years spent learning to hunt from my late uncle,
2 Norbert Caesar, my mother, and my father, and my
3 Aunt Verna.

4 I learned many things about respect.
5 Respect is critical to being a Dene person. It
6 is learned hands-on. Respect for the land,
7 respect for each person, respect for animals,
8 respect for yourself and your teachings, and
9 especially respect for water. Water is life,
10 life for all living things. Respect for water
11 when travelling on it, either on the river or on
12 the lakes.

13 In the area of socioeconomics, and I dealt
14 with this many times throughout my career. My
15 work with the K'asho Got'ine Housing Society in
16 the area of community housing has taught me a
17 number of things in this area of socioeconomic
18 issues that have impacted our community members,
19 such as high cost of living and price of food in
20 both the Northern Store and the Co-op store.

21 Without food from the land, families would
22 be hard-pressed to keep their children and
23 themselves eating healthy meals. Food from the
24 land is fresh, nutritious, and high quality,
25 while the food we get from the stores is often

1 expensive and it doesn't have the nutritional
2 value found in country foods. People rely on
3 good country foods to stay healthy. Food from
4 the animals and the fish that we harvest from our
5 land and our river.

6 And I wanted to bring this up because in my
7 work with housing, we try to house people, but
8 the high cost of fuel, the high cost of food is
9 such an issue here in our community, and there
10 are times when we are made aware that maybe young
11 mothers are having to choose between food or
12 fuel. And so, when every time prices increase in
13 either fuel, or power, or food, there's always
14 decisions that they have to make and it's not
15 always a good thing to view when you have limited
16 income. And so the importance of the food that
17 we get from the land is why I'm bringing this up
18 as a socioeconomic issue.

19 A couple years ago my wife and I decided to
20 build a cabin upriver. In the summer months we
21 used the river to travel there by boat, and in
22 the winter, once the skidoo trails are put in
23 place, we haul material up there. We are still
24 very much in the construction phase of the cabin.
25 It is located on the east side of the river, and

1 it offers a beautiful view of the river and the
2 shore as well as the islands. There is an
3 abundance of wildlife in the area, and the creek
4 that runs this close by the build site that is
5 fresh, clean water. We try not to drink the
6 water from the river.

7 Our hope, once the cabin construction is
8 complete, is that we will go there to refresh and
9 reenergize our weary souls and reconnect with the
10 land and river. It is a place to get away from
11 the stress and pressures of community life. We
12 also hope to leave the cabin to my son when the
13 time comes.

14 There are fishing spots where you can set
15 nets close by in either direction, and I hope to
16 start harvesting fish once we are able to live up
17 there.

18 Last year when we heard there was an oil
19 spill, many people pulled their nets out of the
20 water for fear of contaminated fish. This fear
21 has stayed in my mind. I don't want to be in
22 fear. I don't want to live with that hanging
23 over our lives every time we're up there fishing.

24 And I wanted to say that, you know, there
25 was even fear here in town. Everybody at that

1 time -- you know, people were bringing fish to
2 the field where we have cookouts, and it goes on
3 through the summer when you have cookouts every
4 week and that sort of thing.

5 But with the news that there might have been
6 a spill upriver, upstream, people pulled their
7 nets and even the fish that were brought down to
8 the field for people to cook, people were not
9 quite comfortable cooking and eating that fish.
10 So the fear is always there, there's some sort of
11 issue upstream about a possible spill. And I
12 think for me that is why I put this in there,
13 that, you know, any break in any line, we should
14 have information passed down to people ahead of,
15 you know, anything else. The communication, like
16 they're talking about, should be very rapid.

17 We are, like we said, downstream. You know,
18 there's not a lot of ways that we can be told or
19 informed other than social media sometimes. But
20 even that is slow in coming sometimes.

21 I wanted to conclude my comments by saying
22 that life on the land has humbled me, made me a
23 better person. I have a son and I have a
24 daughter and two grandsons. And I was there
25 during the Berger Inquiry, and I heard the older

1 generation speak up in regards to protection of
2 our lands and our waters on our behalf.

3 We were too young to speak up for ourselves
4 at that time. I feel it is my responsibility to
5 speak up today because we are now enjoying all
6 the land and the water has to offer, and I want
7 to thank future -- and I want future generations
8 to be able to enjoy it. And I thank the older
9 generation for speaking up back then because
10 things were so much different then.

11 I wanted to say that I grew up in a time
12 where basically there was very little in terms of
13 modern living. I grew up before electricity
14 came. I grew up before we had running water.
15 And I grew up in a time where I travelled by
16 dogs, no skidoos.

17 We learned to appreciate all of these good
18 things, but, you know, every time we were in
19 town, you know, without government help, it's a
20 hard thing to try to get something to eat in
21 town. But you knew that once you got back onto
22 the land that you would eat well, you would sleep
23 well, you would rest well. Not the way it was in
24 town.

25 So you know, when we say we appreciate the

1 things that, you know, you work hard to achieve,
2 and in the community I think we work hard to try
3 to get to the modern area. But no matter how it
4 is, we've always gone back to the land and we've
5 always gone back to our mothers.

6 Like one Elder said in the hearings, "The
7 land and the river are like a mother to us", so I
8 wanted to re-emphasize that statement that was
9 made in Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Berger Inquiry.
10 Thank you.

11 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you, Arthur.

12 Does anybody have any questions for Arthur?

13 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: No, we don't. We were
14 listening very carefully, and you said that you
15 were just going to give us a snapshot, but that
16 was a lot of information in that snapshot. So
17 thank you for doing that with us today.

18 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Máhsi. Thank you.

19 I just want to recognize something here,
20 that so far we've had four previous Chiefs that
21 have come up to talk from old leadership. And I
22 seen on social media that somebody put once
23 you're a Chief, you're a Chief for life and you
24 swear an oath to your people.

25 And having these four leaders come up and

1 speak so -- their oath still stands today for
2 them. They put words to protect our people and
3 fight for our people. So I want to recognize
4 that on behalf of these old Chiefs, and I know
5 there are still other leaders that are trying to
6 make their way up to speak. I thank them for
7 that, for their good words.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: With that, we will go onto the
10 next one. Our Fort Good Hope Métis President,
11 Aurora McNeely.

12 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: Chief Pierrot, we've
13 had a lot of content that we've heard. Would it
14 be all right -- and this is not to want to delay
15 hearing from the President, but maybe let's take
16 10 minutes and we can settle in and be refreshed
17 and ready to continue listening attentively.

18 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Yeah, okay. Okay. We'll give
19 you a brief two minutes (laughing).

20 Okay. Let's take 15? Okay. Fifteen (15)
21 it is. Thank you.

22

23 (RECESSED AT 2:51 P.M.)

24 (RESUMED AT 3:14 P.M.)

25

1 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Good afternoon. If we could
2 take our seats again, maybe we'll get started
3 again here. We still have a number of people to
4 go through, and I think everybody wants to check
5 out the game tonight, too, so.

6 Maybe if it's going through the game, maybe
7 we'll just put the game up on the screen and
8 we'll continue going. When everybody yells, we
9 know somebody scored.

10 But yeah, we will continue on. Our next
11 speaker is going to be our Métis President Fort
12 Good Hope, Aurora McNeely.

13 MS. AURORA McNEELY: Good afternoon. I am Aurora
14 McNeely. I'm Fort Good Hope Métis Land
15 Corporation's President. I've lived in Fort Good
16 Hope all my life.

17 I represent the rights of the Fort Good Hope
18 Métis people under the Sahtu Dene Métis Land
19 Claims Comprehensive Agreement.

20 My family, my parents have a cabin down the
21 Mackenzie River at they call it 30-Mile Point.
22 I've gone there with my parents plenty of times.
23 We got our food off the land from the river.

24 Now I -- my husband hunts for our family,
25 but we're worried about the health of the animals

1 to consume the food, like moose, fish, birds,
2 rabbits. So with that, now my husband goes to
3 Cold Lake to go hunting for caribou and gets the
4 fish from the lake there in Cold Lake as well.

5 We are very concerned about the state of our
6 water and river, and we don't have information to
7 make proper decisions to ensure we are protecting
8 our health, our families and our community.

9 The water is very low in the river. This
10 has started happening in recent years -- in the
11 recent years, so we can't get the barge as we
12 normally did from the upstream routine -- I mean
13 route.

14 We have no idea why the water is so low. It
15 could be from the climate change, dams, oilsands
16 use or other upstream water uses. We also don't
17 know if water levels will get lower in the future
18 years or if this will impact operations at Norman
19 Wells or if this will impact the concentration of
20 contaminants in the river from upstream sources.

21 We are in a state of total uncertainty about
22 the health of our river and what will happen to
23 it in the future.

24 In the Sahtu Dene Métis Comprehensive Land
25 Claim Agreement has an entire chapter on water

1 rights and water management. According to this
2 chapter, we have the right to have water in the
3 Mackenzie River remain sustainably unaltered as
4 to quality, quantity and rate of flow where the
5 river passes by Sahtu settlement lands.

6 This water chapter includes legal mechanisms
7 for protecting our rights to water and creates
8 implementation responsibilities for us in water
9 management activities in the co-management
10 framework, but we have never been able to use or
11 assert water rights in the land claims because of
12 complete lack of implementation funding from
13 Canada.

14 To properly use water rights in the
15 agreement, we would need the capacity to engage
16 in long-term and comprehensive water monitoring
17 activities and the capacity to interpret and use
18 the results of the water monitoring in the way
19 required by legal framework of the land claims
20 agreement.

21 We can't do any of this work because our
22 land corporations have never received
23 implementation funding from Canada. We have
24 never received consistent funding for that that
25 would allow us to assert our water rights or to

1 participate effectively over the long term in the
2 co-management framework established by the land
3 claim agreement. Canada only offers our land
4 corporations piecemeal participant funding
5 whenever they want to approve something through a
6 regulatory hearing. This is not significant
7 support for us to actually protect our rights
8 that were negotiated in the land claims
9 agreement.

10 Thank you for coming to our community and
11 hearing our concerns.

12 (APPLAUSE)

13 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you, Aurora, for that.

14 I don't know. Does the Panel have
15 questions?

16 COMMISSIONER WATTON: I have one question. Just a
17 matter of clarification.

18 When you made reference to the lack of
19 ongoing capacity funding, was that specifically
20 with respect to the Fort Good Hope Métis or with
21 respect to all of the signatories of the Sahtu
22 land claim agreement?

23 MS. AURORA McNEELY: I think that includes everyone
24 within the Sahtu land claims agreement.

25 COMMISSIONER WATTON: Okay. Thank you.

1 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Any more questions?

2 Okay. Thank you for that, Aurora.

3 MS. AURORA McNEELY: Thanks.

4 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: We will move on to our next
5 speaker, Bonny Kakfwi.

6 MS. BONNY KAKFWI: Hello, everyone. Welcome to our
7 community.

8 My name is Bonny Kakfwi. I'm the President
9 of the Fort Good Hope Renewable Council. I am a
10 K'asho Got'ine and a Dene, and I've lived in Fort
11 Good Hope for my entire life.

12 At the Renewable Resource Council, we
13 represent the harvesters in the community and we
14 are responsible for them under the land claim
15 agreement to participate in wildlife management
16 and conservation activities.

17 First thing I want to say is the damage is
18 done. Damage to our land has been done, and this
19 has damaged our culture and our way of life.

20 I have been going on the land out on the
21 Mackenzie River my entire life. As a child, I
22 travelled with my grandmother, and I've learned
23 everything I know today from her. She always
24 used the water from the river. We never had to
25 carry water with us or worry about filtering

1 water or boiling our water.

2 Most of our Elders and adults have been
3 growing up here drinking the water right from the
4 land, from the creeks, the lakes and the
5 Mackenzie River. Historically, we never used
6 bottled water or filtered water or water from the
7 town treatment plant. We had drinking water from
8 the land. That's how we lived our lives as
9 K'asho Got'ine, and that's our right.

10 We cannot do that any more. Now we have to
11 travel on the Mackenzie River and bring clean
12 water with us. We are scared to even make tea
13 with the water from the river. When you make tea
14 from the river, you can see a black film on top
15 of the tea. So when you pour that tea into your
16 cup, that black film is around your cup, and
17 that's supposed to be fresh tea. And that
18 residue that is stuck to your cup. I'm so
19 concerned about this that I won't even wash
20 dishes or wash my hair with the Mackenzie River
21 water anymore.

22 We carry gallons of water with us from town
23 whenever we travel out on the river. I raised my
24 children from the food from our land, like fish,
25 caribou, moose meat. And I'm proud to share that

1 here today. Now I'm really concerned about
2 contamination in the river. It's making its way
3 into the fish, meat of the animals, and the
4 drinking water.

5 People have seen before meats and fish,
6 animals that make us think there's contamination
7 in our river. I want my children to continue
8 eating the traditional foods from our land, but I
9 am worried about the risk of their health if the
10 fish and meat is contaminated. I am concerned
11 about this. I am so concerned about this that I
12 had to get people to go hunting for me in a
13 community called Colville Lake. It's further
14 inland and I know that meat and fish won't be
15 contaminated from the river or the lake that it's
16 in.

17 We have seen increasing rates of colon
18 cancer and all other types of cancer that I think
19 could be the cause of consuming contaminants in
20 our water and the country food.

21 I had a family member who had passed away a
22 number of years from colon cancer. We have never
23 had cancer rates like this before until in the
24 1980s.

25 Our community also gets our municipal waters

1 from the Mackenzie River. The water reservoir is
2 filled twice a year. The water goes through a
3 treatment plant before it is trucked to the
4 houses and the buildings. I am concerned about
5 what they have to do to treat that water.
6 Potentially contaminated water from the river.
7 Do they remove all the contaminants? Do they
8 test for all the possible contaminations? And do
9 they have to add chemicals or other things to the
10 water as part of the treatment process?

11 The municipal water here seems heavily
12 treated. I've noticed the difference between our
13 municipality offers and the municipal water in
14 places like Yellowknife. Here our water, you
15 have a shower, your skin is all dry. There's
16 eczema. There's other stuff going on with
17 people. We have no choice but to have showers
18 with that water.

19 We have no other good options left to get
20 clean water. We don't like drinking the water
21 from the treated municipal water, but we can't
22 drink water from the land anymore.

23 I told you the damage is done to our
24 Mackenzie River. It has had an impact to our
25 culture, our way of life, and this is very

1 important to us. Our culture is connected to the
2 land. K'asho Got'ine have historical sites like
3 fish camps along the river, from here to Norman
4 Wells. We also have culturally significant
5 sites, places, names, and stories along the
6 river. These sites might look like they are just
7 an island or a rock to outsiders. But to us
8 those are significant sites. With the stories
9 about them and that are an essential part of our
10 culture.

11 We practice our culture and pass it on to
12 the youth by going out on the land, visiting
13 these sites. We teach our youth the places,
14 names, we tell them about stories of these places
15 and different sites. We also do the same thing
16 when we fish, hunt, and harvest things from the
17 land.

18 We have Dene names and stories about all
19 kinds of animals and things on the land. This is
20 also how our Elders teach our K'asho Got'ine and
21 language to our youth. We cannot teach anything
22 about our language when we stay in town. The
23 language is a land-based and we have to be out on
24 the land hunting and fishing to teach everything
25 about the language.

1 We have the right to practise our culture
2 and the language and pass it on to the younger
3 generation. That is a fundamental human right.
4 Our ability to do this is impacted because we
5 cannot travel and live on the Mackenzie River
6 like we used to.

7 And one last thing that I would like to say
8 is I wonder if, as you guys leave here, you would
9 have any compassion for my people. I am proud to
10 be a K'asho Got'ine. These people are strong
11 people and they're trying to make a statement to
12 you guys. We live off our land. This is who we
13 are. So think about that, please, I'm begging
14 you. Thank you.

15 (APPLAUSE)

16 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you for that, Bonny.

17 That's a strong statement.

18 Does the Panel have any questions?

19 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER: No, just again to say thank
20 you. We are glad to be able to hear from you as
21 a member of the community and on behalf of the
22 council as well. So thank you to Bonny Kakfwi.
23 Thank you.

24 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: I know that Bonny sits as
25 President for our RRC Renewable Resources

1 Council, but Bonny also sits on my council and
2 represents -- from her words clearly represents
3 our community very well. Thank you again, Bonny.

4 Yesterday we had an Elder that spoke -- one
5 moment. The Elder that spoke yesterday, Edward
6 Kelly, he has a few more words that he would like
7 to say, so we're going to sit him back up here
8 again.

9 ELDER EDWARD KELLY: (Dene Kedə Spoken)

10 MS. BELLA T'SELEIE: He said he was born in 1936 and
11 he believes he's 88 now.

12 ELDER EDWARD KELLY: (Dene Kedə Spoken)

13 MS. BELLA T'SELEIE: He's talking about way, way back
14 before even explorers came down the river. He's
15 talking about a story called Tútsigə and this is
16 one legend that's passed down. It means that
17 Dene know that we were not discovered. We were
18 the ones that discovered there's other people up
19 the river from us.

20 ELDER EDWARD KELLY: (Dene Kedə Spoken)

21 MS. BELLA T'SELEIE: So he said they found -- the Dene
22 here, they found woodchips not made with stone
23 axes, and people had stone axes here. They knew
24 that this woodchip was really different. It was
25 made with some other tool, and so the person

1 called Tútsigq, and that means dry loon or skinny
2 loon or something. He proceeded up the river,
3 probably by boat tracking, or something, and he
4 made it to some other people, and he said they
5 were living quite different. They were in white
6 tents -- I've heard different versions. Some
7 people said they live like in a cliff kind of,
8 you know, like formations which could mean brick
9 buildings and then some people say in tents.

10 ELDER EDWARD KELLY: (Dene Kedə Spoken)

11 MS. BELLA T'SELEIE: So he spent a lot of time with
12 them, and he said they were very pale people,
13 sounded like Móla/white people and he said he had
14 no communication with them. But people used sign
15 language to talk and they were able to
16 communicate a bit and then Tútsigq made his way
17 back here and he told his people that he ran into
18 some very pale people, and they didn't have a
19 name for them right away. In fact, some elders
20 said they were called (Dene Kedə Spoken) and then
21 eventually it just came Móla, like different
22 people.

23 ELDER EDWARD KELLY: (Dene Kedə Spoken)

24 MS. BELLA T'SELEIE: After that -- I'm trying to speak
25 my own language (laughing). So after Tútsigq came

1 back here, the people that he seen in the south,
2 they started wondering about the land here, and
3 he said it was quite a few years after that that
4 Mackenzie, Alexander Mackenzie came down the
5 river, and we called the big river, Deh Cho, and
6 for some reason the river, the Deh Cho, became
7 the Mackenzie River.

8 ELDER EDWARD KELLY: (Dene Kedə Spoken)

9 MS. BELLA T'SELEIE: After all that, a trade system
10 was started because there was a lot of fur around
11 here, fur-bearing animals and like it was rich in
12 food and fur-bearing animals. And so these big
13 ships, at first, you know, there was people who
14 rode to -- there was no engines, so that's how
15 they got around.

16 ELDER EDWARD KELLY: (Dene Kedə Spoken)

17 MS. BELLA T'SELEIE: I was taught by my dad, and he
18 told me to always respect Elders. He said if
19 you're walking on the road and you meet an Elder,
20 don't walk another way. He said, actually greet
21 that person. Oh, yeah. And then he also said if
22 you're good to Elders, you live a long -- a good,
23 long life. That's the old belief. If you treat
24 Elders good, you treat your people good.

25 ELDER EDWARD KELLY: (Dene Kedə Spoken)

1 MS. BELLA T'SELEIE: And it's always important to show
2 common courtesy. You see an Elder carrying
3 something that looks heavy, you have to run and
4 give them assistance. Just common-sense things.
5 He said just keep watching in what ways you could
6 help.

7 ELDER EDWARD KELLY: (Dene Kedə Spoken)

8 MS. BELLA T'SELEIE: And he said a lot of the advice
9 he got from his dad was ancient but very, very
10 good advice. He said if you see Elders sitting
11 together, they're talking, he said there's
12 nothing wrong with going in and sitting with
13 them, and you should spend a lot of time
14 listening and try to learn as much as you could.

15 I just wanted to add something little to
16 that because it was common practice when I was
17 growing up. I was brought up by Elders, and
18 whenever my mother was going to -- not my dad.
19 My dad, he went visiting, I always liked to go
20 with my mom. So I sat quietly and listened to
21 the things they talked about, and they kept
22 gossip and stuff that's no good out of the way.
23 They're also observing the fact that a young -- a
24 youth is listening and learning, and so that's
25 really good practice.

1 And he said if you ever find yourself in a
2 bad situation on the land, he said all this talk
3 from Elders is going to come into action for you.
4 It's going to help you make decisions and it
5 could even save your life.

6 ELDER EDWARD KELLY: (Dene Kedə Spoken)

7 MS. BELLA T'SELEIE: So he said he knows his teachings
8 he received from his dad, it was passed down from
9 ancient, ancient times and is very valuable.
10 When you collect information like that, he said,
11 it stays with you and it's a life skill that you
12 can use.

13 ELDER EDWARD KELLY: (Dene Kedə Spoken)

14 MS. BELLA T'SELEIE: So he said in the past -- it's
15 different now from the past. He said it's not
16 the same.

17 He said in the past you could look at the
18 setting sun, you could look at the rising sun,
19 and you look at other -- mostly the sun and the
20 moon will tell you -- you know, forecast weather
21 for you. But he said nowadays it's like the
22 signs are different and he said the weather is
23 more like unpredictable. For him that's really
24 different.

25 ELDER EDWARD KELLY: (Dene Kedə Spoken)

1 MS. BELLA T'SELEIE: He said that's about all he wants
2 to contribute now. Máhsi.

3 ELDER EDWARD KELLY: (Dene Kedə Spoken)

4 MS. BELLA T'SELEIE: He wants to know if you have any
5 questions.

6 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: We don't have any
7 questions, but I would like to say how glad we
8 are that Edward Kelly came back again to be with
9 us today so we could hear more. So thank you for
10 that. And I think if I get it right, Máhsi cho.

11 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Okay. Thank you.

12 (APPLAUSE)

13 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you for that, Uncle
14 Edward.

15 We will move on to our next speaker, another
16 Elder that we have coming up, Michel Lafferty.

17 ELDER MICHEL LAFFERTY: Hello. Michel Lafferty from
18 Good Hope here. I've been here all my
19 life -- most of my life. I've been to Aklavik
20 residential school for five years and then my dad
21 brought me back. I think his plan was to go
22 trapping rats, but it didn't work out.

23 I'm the only child of my mom and my dad. My
24 mother died, I don't know from what, when I was
25 about six, seven months old. I don't remember

1 her at all. No pictures of her. My dad never
2 talked about her.

3 But he tried his best to put me up here and
4 there with foster parents, different -- some from
5 this community and then he took me to Simpson,
6 brought me back, and then my dad remarried my
7 stepmother.

8 And then later on, I was in residential
9 school, came back, and then they sent me back to
10 the Grollier Hall when it opened in February. I
11 went down there.

12 But I just stayed for a year and then I
13 never went back. I didn't want to go back to
14 school. I wanted to be out on the land with my
15 friends, my friends about the same age as me.
16 That's all I wanted to do. And my dad never
17 protested or nothing.

18 Later on working, I got my own dog team,
19 start travelling around on the land for a few
20 years and then that one year I went out with my
21 dad. We left in November way out to Aubrey Lake
22 with a dog team. We both had two dog teams, two
23 teams, and we'd travel out there.

24 He had his own plan and that's what we were
25 working on, discovered a fish lake. He didn't

1 know exactly where but this guy came by with a
2 toboggan and they camped with us. My dad asked
3 him, like "Where's that lake?"

4 You know, call that old man -- John
5 Blancheau's(ph) dad. And he wanted to go there
6 and set net, set traps.

7 And then we went to visit in Aubrey Lake.
8 The whole family was there. That's where the
9 fish runs, from Aubrey Lake to Colville Lake.
10 They were there putting up fish for the winter, I
11 guess, and all the dogs they had.

12 And the next morning, they get up. The dogs
13 are noisy. The people are noisy. Everybody is
14 doing their chores, nets and stuff like that.

15 And this guy was moving out further on the
16 lake, came through there, and then he was on his
17 way back. He left a message. Wanted my dad to
18 go to him, him and his wife and daughter. So we
19 had to go back and take everything up, traps and
20 nets and take them back there, and then we went
21 out to Luke; that's the guy, that man's name.

22 And we camped there at Aubrey Lake. The
23 father of -- we call them in our language
24 Sah tleh, like "bear grease".

25 He was talking in his language, and I've

1 never been out there before. So he wanted to
2 know before I go out there that I would get a
3 branch or a willow or something, throw it out on
4 the lake and go over it. That is my respect to
5 the land. I didn't know that. My dad never
6 talked about stuff like that.

7 Then we went out. We had travelled out to
8 Luke's camp. We stayed there and then we set
9 traps and travelled around, hunt. I didn't know
10 nothing about hunting either. I knew how to
11 drive a dog team.

12 Anyways, we went to -- we stayed out there
13 till Christmas, New Year's, and then we moved
14 back to Aubrey Lake again. And then we moved
15 further out to hunt caribou. The ice was too
16 thick, I guess, to set a net. I don't know how
17 thick it was, maybe about eight, 10 feet.

18 Anyways, so we lived there January,
19 February, and then we went to pick up traps and
20 move back Colville Lake. From there we finally
21 came back to Good Hope.

22 There was no road. That winter road they
23 have now, that's where the road was. And there
24 was five teams coming through Good Hope.

25 The last day we were out here, in the

1 morning we took everything down, the tent, stove,
2 and everything and took off again. We met a guy
3 out here, John Blancheau(ph). He's sitting over
4 there.

5 And he was really happy because we were
6 making a trail for him and us to him, too. He
7 was making trail.

8 Anyways, we got to town. My dad went
9 through the mission, the priest there,
10 the -- Father Aubin was his name. He asked him
11 about the temperature, what was the temperature
12 that morning. It was 65 below (laughing).

13 We didn't know it was that cold. We had no
14 such thing as skidoo paths or double parkas
15 or -- you know, just double your pants and double
16 your shirts and keep travelling, moving around
17 all the time. It was part of the life that we
18 lived when we were out there.

19 And people in Colville Lake were used to
20 that cold weather. They were tough, those people
21 out there. They could go out to the nets and
22 visit the nets when it was 20 below and they're
23 so used to that.

24 Then came back and -- came back to town and
25 then I think I went to Yellowknife for training

1 for heavy equipment. And later on, I went back
2 out on the land with my dad and Luke and moved
3 across in the springtime, just before Easter.

4 We lived out there and then we were hunting
5 beaver, do all the stuff we usually do. And then
6 we made a raft. I don't know how wide it was.
7 Maybe that wide, with logs, and then build
8 another -- like a floor on top of that.

9 We put everything in there. Dogs, people,
10 all the equipment, clothes, whatever they had,
11 they put on that raft and we drifted down that
12 river and it was swift. You couldn't control it.

13 One place we ran into a big boulder, the
14 raft went up like this. We had to take
15 everything down to the shore. And I mean, before
16 that, we had a canoe, a 22-foot canoe where they
17 changed the wrap-around. And they put canvass
18 wrapping on, put a skidoo, and dogs, and another
19 guy, his name was Joe, Joseph Cotchilly. He's
20 got a nickname, and they call him Pup Pup. He
21 lived with us a few times, not only that time.

22 Went down the river and got stuck with the
23 big raft and had to take it apart and rebuild it
24 again. We got everything back together and we
25 ran out of everything. Got nothing to eat. We

1 went way down and one place there's a creek, hit
2 this fast water creek, it was a bend like that.
3 We came out there and then I took -- two geese
4 flew up. I took a shotgun and took a shot at it
5 and one came down. Everybody had something to
6 eat then we took off again. And the ones that
7 they like to eat, snuff -- them too, they were
8 out of snuff.

9 They used to roll too a cigarette. We ran
10 out of that too. Then we got -- we came out of
11 that river. Those people that were spending
12 spring at the mouth of that river, they were
13 in -- they went to town and big guys went,
14 because an elderly man, his son was down there in
15 that camp. They went into town for the funeral,
16 and they came back just the day before us, we got
17 were the camp was.

18 We stayed there for a few days, and I was
19 working on an outboard motor and this little girl
20 that looked -- they were raising, they were
21 living in Colville Lake for a few years and she
22 didn't know nothing about the river. Anyway, so
23 went out and I was going to test out my motor and
24 we went out to the river and made big circles,
25 came back and landed and she ran up to her mom,

1 told her, "Mom, there's a big lake out here."
2 (laughing) That's the Mackenzie River. She
3 didn't know that. Her dad told her the kids are
4 throwing sticks in the river in town.

5 And then later on I had to bring my dad back
6 up to here and he had a contract, I think with
7 NTCL, and the pilot on the boat, used to bring
8 him up 50 kilometres or more. I never seen him
9 again until October. In the meantime, I had to
10 stay in town, look after my dogs, look after his
11 dogs.

12 And I had a friend there and he was a real
13 bush man. I was such a green horn. Me, I had a
14 boat and motor my dad bought. It wasn't a new
15 motor. It was ready to fall apart, but we used
16 it to go hunting, go visit -- and the Ramparts up
17 here. Because people who fished were staying up
18 here and a lot of people moved up that way,
19 fishing for herring.

20 I remember people, they fished -- they
21 fished in the morning, about 6 o'clock they go to
22 the net, they bring that fish back, have
23 breakfast, and then they go back by lunchtime,
24 again bring all their herring back. At supper
25 time, again, three times a day. And the ladies

1 were at home, they were working on making dried
2 fish.

3 And when they make one bale about that wide
4 (indicating) about that high (indicating), it's
5 120 herring, make a bale out of it. And then
6 they bring it to town, bring it up to the
7 Hudson's Bay Company. There's no jobs, no money
8 nowhere, so they bring their bale of dried fish
9 to the Hudson Bay manager and he'll buy their
10 fish, \$10 a bale. And they put their name on it
11 and then they put it in the warehouse and leave
12 it there.

13 So there was other people who were doing
14 that too. And then come September, people would
15 move out on the land.

16 In the middle of November, the men would
17 come into town. They'd sell their fur, and
18 they'll buy back their dried fish. They use it
19 for eating, for dog food, for trapping. And the
20 Hudson Bay really helped the people out in that
21 way. Ten dollars (\$10) seemed like not much, but
22 in those days it was enough you could fill up
23 your toboggan with groceries and stuff you need.
24 Then they'd go back out on the land. They'd go
25 to fishing lake where people would set nets and

1 catch fish. They go hunting. They go trapping.

2 And later on in my life, I got married. You
3 always wonder with people that are older than us,
4 and those guys were real trappers and people that
5 live out on the land, and they work hard at it,
6 at their trapping business, and that's the only
7 way they could get some money. I lived out
8 there, but I was not a very ambitious trapper.
9 Got a through marten, just enough to get by.

10 Later on in life I got married, lived out on
11 the land. My wife and I would go wherever
12 there's elderly people, we would go there, move
13 there with them for the rest of the winter, or
14 even in the springtime when you go out to
15 different areas of the land, hunting beaver,
16 muskrat. Just so they could survive.

17 I got married and we had six
18 children -- seven. One got killed in a skidoo
19 collision. And then later on in life, my oldest
20 granddaughter got killed too by -- somebody
21 clubbed her in the head. But most of the times,
22 it was 50 years I was married to my wife, and we
23 spent a lot of time out on the land with older
24 people. We lived out there with them.

25 It was good, good to be out there. Go

1 hunting, go hunting, I set net, travelled around
2 with dog teams, later on with skidoos. I had a
3 busy life till cancer got a hold of my wife,
4 cancer in the liver, and all of a sudden she was
5 gone. And I thought that we would have at least
6 another five years or so to be together.

7 There are some people here that are married
8 longer than us. My wife, she worked hard, raised
9 a family. Both of us, we worked hard and they
10 learned how to work, learned how to work in the
11 cold weather and all that kind of stuff.

12 One thing we did for our kids -- they missed
13 a lot of schooling, but they learned lots out on
14 the land too. They learned how to dress up for
15 the cold weather, whether it be 20 below, 50
16 below, still, "Go play outside."

17 We used to get them up early in the morning
18 and my wife would dress them up and then send
19 them out. Cold out there but they would go down
20 to the lake and they'd play for not that long.
21 Maybe 20 minutes, half an hour or so, and when
22 breakfast was done, we'd call them in and their
23 faces would just be -- they're wide awake.
24 They're wide awake and just happy. Come back and
25 have breakfast and stay inside for a while.

1 By doing that, later on in their life, as
2 they grew older when we'd tell them to get up,
3 they'd get up and they're wide awake. That's
4 what I noticed about what we did for them.

5 Now they're all adults. If they have to get
6 up early, they'll get up early and wide awake and
7 ready to go to work, or to school, or whatever
8 they had to do.

9 Another thing I did in my life was being a
10 pole burier, dig a grave and bury the person.
11 It's like a ritual that we stay up for three
12 nights and four days, till the relatives of the
13 person we buried say, "You guys can sleep
14 tonight. Go to sleep."

15 And you know what I used for a pillow?
16 You'll never guess. A block of wood. We slept
17 on the floor. And they said -- the guy that was
18 guiding me, as soon as he'd wake up, he'd jump
19 up. I did that about five, six times in my life.
20 Because the relative of the person that died came
21 to me, asked me if I could help. I never
22 refused. I said, "Okay, I'll help."

23 So by doing that, we've got a lot of people
24 around here who know what I did. They treat me
25 with respect and for doing what I did.

1 And then I did fishing -- we've got the fish
2 come down here about 20 miles, my wife wanted to
3 move there. In the meantime I was doing that, I
4 was scrounging around for material to build a
5 little cabin, or a shack, or whatever you want to
6 call it. My boys were growing up then and they
7 were teenagers and they'd haul all that plywood
8 down there, two by fours, plywood, all kinds of
9 lumber. And I put a cabin together for her.

10 After we were done, we'd go in there and fix
11 it you will up, set it all up. She just loved
12 being down there working on fish so I set net for
13 her to make dried fish.

14 Another time we went further down about 80
15 miles down. We had another cabin down there.
16 And that one evening, that time it was for
17 whitefish, broad whitefish they call them, and
18 the one down here that's for coney, and down
19 there we had started fishing early in the
20 morning, about 5 o'clock, set net. At 6 o'clock
21 I went back to clean out the net. Every hour and
22 a half I would go down. Seven o'clock in the
23 evening, she said, "That's enough now." And
24 then she kept working on dried fish. She
25 finished about 12 o'clock that night. It was

1 dark. I made 58 dried fish today. And every one
2 was exactly the same as the last one she made.
3 There were no differences. Just perfect.
4 Everything she did was to the best of her
5 ability. She worked on hides. We travelled all
6 over to places too with her sewing. Two of her
7 sisters -- and the youngest one, we went
8 up -- took her to -- she wanted to see her
9 parents, it was about 25 miles upstream. While
10 up there, people
11 were travelling back and forth the day
12 before and that time she wanted to go see her mom
13 and dad. We took off in the skidoo and we got
14 about 10 miles up and rocks came down and smashed
15 all the ice. I came around a corner like that
16 and there was thin ice. There was no frost on
17 it. There was just ice. I landed on there and
18 tipped over. The lights went out. Just pitch
19 dark. It was around the middle of November. The
20 temperature was -- later on the temperature was
21 32 below. Cold. We got out of there by the help
22 of God. The water was flowing. I could feel my
23 feet going underneath the ice. So I had to calm
24 myself down and start kicking like that till I
25 straightened up like that. And I asked God for

1 help.

2 When I think about it, how did I ever get
3 out of that water and onto the hard ice? The
4 help of God, I guess.

5 And my sister-in-law was right behind me. I
6 tried to pull her out but it seemed like she
7 weighed about 300 pounds. I couldn't pull her
8 out. I managed to get her on the ice too. Just
9 about 10 miles. No place to make fire. I had to
10 start walking. And then my other sister-in-law
11 Bella came up to me with a skidoo because my wife
12 was talking to her from the radio to her parents
13 and we didn't know this family here. My friend
14 Frank came up, met us with a skidoo and he had
15 Eider down in the sleigh and I put my
16 sister-in-law Lucy in there. I was frozen stiff.
17 Frank gave me his mitts. He took mine. So he
18 had to drive the skidoo back to town. That was a
19 close call I had with life.

20 And from that day on, I always thank God I
21 made it another day.

22 I made a trip with the drummers at Expo 86.
23 I had never been in the city anywhere before and
24 they asked me to go down with them. Anyways, we
25 travelled to Vancouver, came back, and then they

1 were young drummers, all in their 20s, 20 years
2 old. Later on I joined up with them and I'm
3 still drumming with them, traditional drumming.
4 We came back and I've been drumming with them
5 since over 30 years now. I enjoy that. I drum.
6 Drumming is good for me. It helps me stay sober
7 and thanking God every day of my life for the
8 rest of my life.

9 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Does anybody have any questions
10 for Michel?

11 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: No. But thank you.
12 We were all paying very close attention and
13 listening to all of that. Thank you for sharing
14 so many of those details with us today.

15 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Okay. Máhsi, Michel.

16 (APPLAUSE)

17 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Maybe we'll take a quick little
18 10-minute break and we'll continue on again?
19 Yeah.

20
21 (RECESSED AT 4:18 P.M.)

22 (RESUMED AT 4:36 P.M.)

23
24 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Good afternoon. Hello,
25 everybody. We will get started here with our

1 list some more.

2 We got four more speakers to go and then I
3 believe we could wrap it up for the day. It's
4 been a long day, but four more wouldn't hurt.

5 Next we will have my mother, Vicky Orlias,
6 come speak and then we will move on down the
7 list.

8 MS. VICKY ORLIAS: I'm Vicky Orlias and I come from
9 Good Hope, beautiful Good Hope. I am 84 years
10 old and I'm on the Board for (Dene Kedə Spoken),
11 a protected area because I'm just about -- me and
12 my brother are about the last people who used to
13 live up there. All the other people died on us.
14 That's why they kept me on the Board, me and my
15 brother.

16 I was in residential school for seven years
17 since I was four years old to 14 years old. And
18 after we came back -- I came back from
19 residential school, I had to go in the bush with
20 my parents. And my mom keep going to the
21 hospital with tuberculosis and just my stepfather
22 and my blind brother and my sister younger than
23 me.

24 And my first time after school, residential
25 school, I didn't know anything about bush. But

1 anyway, my dad took me out in the bush. He was a
2 good stepfather, is my dad. And then him and my
3 stepbrother went hunting and then there was other
4 women there in the camp and then one of them
5 named Rosie, Rosa Grandjambe, she came over to me
6 and said, "What are you doing?". I said, "I'm
7 trying to put the beaver hide on the frame". And
8 then she look at it.

9 Those days, the store managers, they wanted
10 just the round, to make the beaver skin just
11 rounded. It's ever hard to do that.

12 And she said -- she looked at my beaver hide
13 and then she told me, "You pulled too much down
14 here and you didn't pull up too much up here".

15 So I did exactly what she told me, and it
16 just came round. Boy, was I ever happy.

17 And my dad and my stepbrother were gone
18 hunting, and I -- the tent is facing this way and
19 the top pole was sticking out, so I put the
20 beaver skin on the frame up there where my dad
21 could see it right away when he comes back.

22 Anyway, later on he came back and they were
23 tired and he said, "My girl, you did that by
24 yourself?". I said, "Yeah, but a little bit of
25 help from Rosie". "Oh, that's ever good. Now

1 you tie the knot, it's not going to come undone
2 any more. You don't need to help any more".
3 Honestly. And then I was so happy.

4 And my poor earnest brother was having a
5 backpack heavy with beaver. I started wrestling
6 with him, throwing him all over the place. I was
7 just proud and happy. So that was my last time I
8 ever did that kind of a job. After that, no more
9 help.

10 Another time they came back with 53 beavers,
11 hide and the flesh, and the flesh, at the same
12 time, I have to make dry meat out of it. Dry it.
13 After it's dry, you boil it and you can eat it,
14 just like beef jerky. Is it ever good. And we
15 packed them away for going to town. There was no
16 freezer or anything like that.

17 So what I did with my beaver hides were dig
18 a hole in that -- the permafrost to keep it cold
19 so it wouldn't spoil. Really worked hard,
20 honestly, and my blind brother, too. Every time
21 I go out to get a clean brush, I got to drag him
22 around with me. When I go for wood, I got to
23 drag him around with me.

24 Everything I get, he's got to come with me
25 because I'm looking after -- until today, I'm

1 still looking after him. Yeah. He's getting
2 more blind, so I just really pity him.

3 And in a fish camp. In that summer, we went
4 to the fish camp. I was only 14 years old.

5 And my dad asked me if I could make dried
6 fish and he showed me once. And I keep opening
7 the front when you're supposed to put two lines
8 on the back, the back of the fish to make dry
9 fish. But after that, I got used to it and we
10 made 14 bales of dried fish.

11 Plus this woman came to help us, but she
12 didn't help. We gave her four bales for the
13 winter. And we have 14 bales by the time we
14 finished.

15 It's really hard to work on fish not to get
16 rotten and get lice -- those little things, on
17 the lice. So we have to be really fast and
18 clean. Yeah. That's what all I did on the
19 river.

20 I think that now the water we're drinking
21 is -- I don't feel too safe with it, but I've got
22 no choice but drink it and cook with it because I
23 make tea here for bingo. And not really mine,
24 but if there was a teapot before me, I'd take
25 some tea and just brown just like wax around the

1 cups. If you leave it overnight, oh, you can't
2 drink it. Got no choice but to take it. So I
3 got a small teapot and I got to clean my teapot
4 every week, scrub inside.

5 It's not really safe water, but we have to
6 take it. And maybe because of that, about three
7 years ago, I would say about that time, like
8 every day different person on the radio, they
9 keep -- this person got cancer. Oh, it was so
10 scary to live in Good Hope. And that person goes
11 to the hospital. Maybe a week or two, she or he
12 died.

13 And so scared. We have to listen to the
14 radio really closely. Again another person got
15 cancer. Just one after another. I was so scared
16 to go even visit people. It was so scary. I
17 never was so scared in my life.

18 And then people keep catching cancer, and I
19 prayed hard. I'm a Christian, and I pray hard
20 for my family not to get cancer.

21 Anyway, my brother -- I have two brothers
22 from my mom's first marriage. One of them is
23 blind and the other one was older than me.

24 My older brother got a family. He lost
25 everybody, his wife, children. He lost

1 everybody. He had about four, five boys and
2 about another four girls. They all died. Might
3 be from all cancer. And he was the only one that
4 was left, but he died about two years ago.

5 It was so scary. And then people were just
6 dying off, dying off. I don't know if it's from
7 the water or whatever. It's got to be from the
8 water. Yeah.

9 But that's where we get our water from, the
10 reservoir from the Mackenzie. And hopefully you
11 guys would help us to get another place for
12 water. Yeah. Yeah, it was so scary. Yeah, that
13 water is not safe at all.

14 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Do you guys have any questions?

15 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: No questions, but
16 thank you and I really liked hearing about your
17 skill with the beaver. Thank you for sharing
18 that.

19 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Likes the way you talk about
20 how you worked on the beaver.

21 MS. VICKY ORLIAS: Oh. Too bad I cut it too short.

22 Next time when you come back, I'll finish it for
23 you (laughing).

24 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Okay. Máhsi.

25 (APPLAUSE)

1 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Next we will move down the
2 list. We have Aron Ellton.

3 MR. ARON ELLTON: My name is Aron Ellton. I come from
4 Fort Good Hope, K'asho Got'ine.

5 Over the years I noticed a lot of changes
6 that have been going on on our lands. I'm a
7 hunter, I'm a trapper. I did some trapping this
8 winter. I harvest fish. I make dried fish.

9 Speaking of beaver, I actually skinned a
10 beaver last night for one of my friends.

11 And I've had various jobs. Like, in the
12 past years I've been working on oil rigs for a
13 few seasons. I worked on the barge. And I
14 noticed from -- I'm just at the verge of going
15 back to the barge in Fort Simpson. And when I
16 was travelling on the Mackenzie and there's the
17 water levels were so low that we were constantly
18 running into sandbars.

19 Last year they only had one trip, and now
20 that the water is really getting low again. And
21 it has a big impact on the community because like
22 the water, that's our life, that's our highway in
23 and out of here.

24 And with cancers, there's a lot of people
25 dying off with cancers. And caribou is a big

1 thing in our life because it's our food. I'm
2 also a traditional drummer for Fort Good Hope. I
3 usually play drums every time they have
4 ceremonies, drum dances, and that drum is very
5 sacred to us because it was once a life. I pray
6 with it too. I pray for -- you know, I pray with
7 the drum. And I'm really proud to be a Fort Good
8 Hope drummer.

9 And you know, being a -- working with fish,
10 I used to work -- I used to fish on Great Slave
11 Lake for commercial fishing, and it was kind of
12 weird to see some weird fish, and sometimes when
13 I catch fish on the Mackenzie, it's soft. Like
14 when it's alive and it's kicking and when I take
15 it out of the net it's -- when I make dried fish
16 you have to -- your fish has to be -- the meat
17 has to be hard. Sometimes some of the fish that
18 comes out of the water is kind of mushy. I don't
19 know, maybe it was due to chemicals in the water,
20 obviously?

21 A few years ago, I think it was RRC, we had
22 a little program. We were making fish sticks,
23 and we were going to sell it out of the Co-op,
24 and then that Covid came around and that stopped
25 everything in its tracks. So now that's another

1 new sickness that we have to live with, and it
2 kind of affects everybody, I guess, around the
3 world.

4 And also, we're burning our -- like the land
5 is burning and animals are dying off. Like,
6 caribou -- I remember caribou used to be -- a lot
7 of caribou around here. We don't used to go very
8 far to get caribou. And now this winter I didn't
9 even see any caribou around our country. Usually
10 we won't have to go very far, and we don't even
11 see caribou. We need caribou hides to make our
12 traditional drums. It's hard to get caribou and
13 even moose. Not very much people shot moose this
14 winter. There was a few of them that shot moose,
15 but not very many people shot moose.

16 So maybe the animals are getting affected by
17 this chemical or whatever is in the water because
18 water, it's alive, it brings life, and it brings
19 food to us. But we're the ones that's consuming
20 it.

21 And when I used to live in Deline, I used to
22 live there a couple of years, a few years. I
23 have kids over there. I have a daughter and -- I
24 have two daughters and a son. I raised them up
25 on caribou and fish all their lives. That's all

1 I raised them on when I was living in Deline was
2 fish and caribou, because the caribou wasn't too
3 far from the community. And that's what I raised
4 my kids on is fish and on caribou.

5 And there too they have their own chemicals
6 in their water and like that uranium. You know,
7 like there they have their own problems there
8 too. And I used to live in Fort Liard too, and
9 there they have their own problems too with oil
10 and gas. And that's supposed to be a icon of
11 gas, Fort Liard, and I used to live there and I
12 used to harvest -- hunt and harvest there.

13 When I was up in the mountains in Fort Liard
14 there hunting and on the river you could see gas
15 literally floating -- gas rings, like, when it's
16 in the water you see rings of gas. And we were
17 travelling on the river and it was like, wow,
18 look at all this gas coming out from somewhere.
19 You know? Like that town is just corrupted with
20 gas. And that's flowing towards us, because it
21 flows into the Mackenzie from wherever it comes
22 from and then, you know, it comes down to us.
23 All that goes on in Norman Wells, we're the ones
24 that get it first.

25 It would be nice to have more fish studies

1 to see if there's like, with the water because
2 I've been sitting here hearing about cancer. I
3 lost a grandma to cancer. I lost my other
4 grandma in Fort Liard to cancer and there's
5 people in Deline just dropping with cancer.

6 So you know, it would be nice to get back
7 these programs where we can get our fish sold out
8 of the co-op, like, whether it is going to happen
9 but due to the pandemic that happened.

10 I'm kind of excited for the summer, because
11 I want to open up a fish camp and start making
12 dried fish for the next big meeting that's coming
13 up in July, or June or July, whenever they're
14 having that meeting, and I would like to at least
15 make dried fish for that and fish sticks.

16 One of my friends here in town was asking
17 me, let's go do that. And I was like, yeah, for
18 sure, let's do that and make fish sticks and
19 dried fish. But due to all this talk, it's kind
20 of a little scary because of all this
21 contaminants that's happening in our waters.

22 And I have my environmental monitoring
23 ticket as well. I know they have been doing
24 water testings. And it would have been right is
25 when they found that rupture in the waters or at

1 the island, they should have located -- or they
2 should have told Fort Good Hope about it. But I
3 don't know if they did or didn't.

4 But I think due to -- now that they're going
5 to put in a new pipe or whatever it is, you're
6 going to put it in the ground or in the water, it
7 should be -- should be -- you should notify the
8 communities below, downstream of the ruptured
9 pipe.

10 And when I was working on the barge and we
11 made a trip from Fort Simpson, we did a load to
12 Norman Wells and we unloaded our load and we had
13 done our -- we were done loading up and unloading
14 the barge so we had a couple hours off. So a
15 couple of us from the barge, we went walking on
16 the shorelines of Esso's dock in Norman Wells.

17 We were standing there. And I was looking
18 out on the river, you could just see gas,
19 literally big gas rings right in front of me. I
20 was taking pictures of it. I literally have it
21 on my camera, but I lost that phone, but those
22 pictures of gas seeping out on the river. And I
23 was like, wow, what the heck is going on? How
24 come there's so much gas rings everywhere? Look
25 at that. They're just like everywhere.

1 So just imagine what's the fish like around
2 Norman Wells, what it looks like under the water.
3 Probably just muck and everything else, maybe oil
4 or whatever seeping, or you know.

5 Like within that timeframe of that rupture,
6 was there gas coming out of it? Was there any
7 kind of fluid coming out of it? You know,
8 somebody should be -- like if there was, somebody
9 should be responsible or, you know, something
10 like that because you're dealing with poisons
11 that could harm humans, that's harming us.

12 Eczema. I know one of my family members
13 have it. I know -- I think I might have it. I
14 know it's a very irritating thing to have. Like
15 I have to use cream on it and stuff. And I had
16 it for many years and I'm wondering why wouldn't
17 it go away. You know, maybe it's due to the
18 water or something. I don't know.

19 And to be a hunter and a trapper, we travel
20 on the Mackenzie from far away and, you know,
21 you're thirsty, you're going to make -- you're
22 going to dip your cup in the river. It's just
23 automatic, you dip your cup in the river and
24 you'll drink it. And we drink it. We cook with
25 it. We shower in it.

1 So it'll be interesting to get another study
2 going and keeping -- making sure the water is
3 safe for us because everybody is getting sick
4 here and there and dying off with some kind of
5 disease or, you know, cancer. Cancer is a big
6 thing up around the North.

7 Yeah. It would be good to get that going
8 and that way we could have a -- go back to our
9 good lives and be who we are as Dene people.

10 And yeah, it's interesting because I didn't
11 know there was a rupture that happened. I don't
12 know what's the -- is it still ruptured or is
13 there -- you know, has it been fixed or is it
14 fixed now? Are you going to put a new pipe in
15 there or is -- you know? Or was it just flowing
16 out or something because, you know, it'll flow a
17 long ways, that chemical, and it ends up on
18 our -- in our waters.

19 And there was another time when I was living
20 in Fort Liard, I went way up the river again and
21 there they were doing fracking around that time.
22 And you could actually see creeks that doesn't
23 look like a creek. It looks like a -- like it
24 just doesn't look like a creek. It looked like
25 chemical creek or something. It was just like

1 rough. It looked really nasty. The ground
2 around it was just brown and golden. Like
3 really, it didn't look right. And there was a
4 lot of gas seepage. You know, it not only could
5 be from that -- from Goose Island. Maybe it
6 could have been from further up, too, that
7 contaminates the water.

8 And the permafrost, I was overhearing about
9 permafrost. There is a lot -- like there is some
10 houses along the banks that are at risk of
11 permafrost, you know, the sliding. Like we got
12 to -- now we're having global warming now.
13 That's just something that we have to adapt to.
14 It's like the common cold.

15 I would rather, you know -- I would rather
16 be comfortable and go in my boat and go set a net
17 and, you know, be safe in eating this fish
18 because, again, I do work with fish and I do work
19 with other species like beavers and muskrats, a
20 way of making money and being a harvester. The
21 reason I like doing that is to keep my skills
22 sharp, to keep me at whole, I guess, to be a
23 Dene.

24 And I'm kind of really excited to do the
25 drumming for tomorrow, too, because I really love

1 drumming. It's something that I always loved, to
2 be a drummer. It does wonders, that drumming
3 stuff. It touches your heart.

4 Yeah, I'd just like to welcome you into our
5 community. I'd like to say thank you for
6 introducing -- like bringing this stuff out to us
7 and to notify us about what's going on up in
8 Norman Wells.

9 I did work on Goose Island before working on
10 the oil rigs. I did work on a few oil rigs out
11 around Tuyeta. Found some oil there. Yeah. And
12 there's a lot of changes in our waters, like the
13 water levels are going down and it's
14 unbelievable.

15 Yeah, I was kind of excited to go back to
16 the barge. I'll probably go back to work on the
17 barge this summer. I just got to phone my boss
18 there and probably next few weeks he's probably
19 going to get the boat in the water.

20 Yeah. I think that's all I could say for
21 now, I guess. I mean, like -- just off the top
22 of my head, I'm just speaking out of -- I didn't
23 have anything written down or anything, which I
24 should have writ, but I'm just kind of jumping
25 around in my head.

1 Yes. It would be nice to find out what's
2 going on with that ruptured pipe and if there was
3 leakage and stuff like that because, you know, we
4 should be notified right away if anything like
5 that ever happens in Norman Wells, I guess,
6 because we're the ones that -- we're the ones
7 that's drinking that water.

8 And then again, I'm one of the guys that
9 pumped water from the river into the reservoir.
10 I did that this spring. So you know, I don't
11 know what we're pumping into our water.
12 And -- yeah.

13 I think that's about it, all I can share
14 right now, but -- yeah. Thank you.

15 (APPLAUSE)

16 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Does anybody have any questions
17 for Aron?

18 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: We don't have any
19 questions, but thank you, especially so late in
20 the day, for staying to share your comments, and
21 we look forward to the drumming tomorrow.

22 MR. ARON ELTON: I really look forward to drumming.
23 What if -- maybe I'll talk again later or
24 something. I don't know. Maybe tomorrow or
25 something. Thank you.

1 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you, Aron. That's good
2 information there.

3 We will continue on with our list. We have
4 three more here and we are going to the next,
5 who's James Jackson.

6 MR. JAMES JACKSON: Good afternoon. Welcome to the
7 community. I'm James Jackson. I was born in
8 1966, location's right-hand side of the town
9 dock, what they called Whiskey Flats. Proud to
10 be born around that area (laughing).

11 My topics are -- I want to speak about how I
12 was brought out on the land at a early age. I
13 learned from the Elders in the '70s and I still
14 trap to this day. And I'd like to speak -- after
15 I speak about that, I'd like to speak about the
16 industry over the years after the pipeline is
17 built, how I maintained the pipeline.

18 It was funded through IPL at the time and
19 all the seismic work that happened and all the
20 Sahtu and all the fishing areas through the
21 entire Sahtu area, Cold Lake, Anderson.
22 Eventually -- I don't think I have to pinpoint
23 where I fished, but I'll give you an idea because
24 knowing what I did over the years, I know Esso
25 has -- and the federal government has all these

1 locations. They know where I'm talking about as
2 soon as they hear the names because they have all
3 these maps.

4 They're not giving -- the people, they
5 already know what's underneath, the whole Sahtu,
6 because they've been drilling for how many years
7 right across the whole North. Staked out through
8 the oil companies. They all know what's
9 underneath the ground. Like we don't. You guys
10 all have that information.

11 Well, in the '70s I grew up with all the
12 people that passed on the knowledge they gave me,
13 what size fish nets to use for herring, what
14 sizes. There's all kinds of different meshes,
15 4-inch, 3-inch, 2-inch to catch certain fish,
16 certain lakes, certain part of the river where
17 the fish runs. Where is a good place to set
18 nets.

19 Well, I've been tracking throughout Anderson
20 River, Whitefish Lake, Gassend Lake, that's
21 fairly far north, what they call the Colville
22 Lake area, and I fished towards Bear Lake where,
23 what's it called, Good Hope Bay, and I fished in
24 the Mountain River, and I fished all around
25 Norman Wells, up in the Keele River. And I

1 fished all the way down the Mackenzie, right near
2 Little Chicago, down in the east channel maybe 26
3 kilometres or 30 kilometres below Inuvik, and I
4 fished in the Peele River and I fished on the
5 Dempster Highway, Rock River, into the Yukon.
6 And I've noticed a lot of changes in the fish,
7 especially in the Mackenzie compared from Norman
8 Wells down.

9 I grew up with these Elders and they always
10 taught you, like, you had people call it beaver
11 water. All these lakes around the Mackenzie
12 River, they were all rat lakes, all fish lakes.
13 Like the river come up -- the river flows down
14 from the Mackenzie and it goes up all these lakes
15 like across here. The river goes all into these
16 lakes.

17 You've got a lot of rats, a lot of beavers.
18 Now these lakes are dried out. And I used to
19 pack in the '70s through all these lakes,
20 hunting, whatever. And you'd see little fish on
21 the Mackenzie because the water comes so high and
22 goes into all these lakes.

23 Now we've lost the muskrats. The beavers
24 used to be there, they'll plug up the creeks, so
25 there was always along the water. Now we lost

1 the rats. They make the push ups, they keep the
2 lakes deep, they push it up. The beavers push
3 the ground up to make the beaver lodges. And
4 they always had healthy feeding.

5 Now you go down these lakes all along the
6 Mackenzie River which I hunted a number of years
7 probably the late -- early '70s, late '70s, and
8 these Elders taught us how to be safe on the
9 land, like you have a little .22. They tell you
10 where to shoot, if it's a grizzly bear, they give
11 you the precise target to shoot. When an animal
12 is going to come to your camp, they tell you
13 where to shoot. If that didn't work, then you've
14 got to kill this animal. So you're taught all
15 that and you call it beaver water, everybody
16 calls it beaver water. We drank all that water
17 in that lake.

18 But they taught us when you're drinking
19 the -- hunting beaver, you've got to drink that
20 water. So what they tell us, you always have a
21 cloth in your gear, your pack sack, whatever
22 you're carrying. So you always dip your cup in
23 when you're drinking that water and you put a
24 cloth over that water and you drink from it. So
25 whenever -- whatever is in that water stays in

1 that cup. And once you drink that cup of water,
2 you're drinking more of the pure water, and you
3 take the cloth off that cup and you can see
4 what's in that cloth. This is what I learned
5 from the Elders and I'm proud I learned all this.

6 So when you're boiling water, that's okay,
7 they say, because you're boiling it, you're
8 boiling it, then it's good to drink. But if
9 you're drinking right off the lake, you use a
10 cloth. And you can see all that junk that's back
11 there in the cloth.

12 So I'm glad that I learned all these things,
13 how to protect myself on the land, where to shoot
14 animals properly. I guess those old timers back
15 in the day, they made sure their guns were
16 straight. Whatever gun you had, a grizzly bear
17 problem, or a bear problem, or a wolf problem,
18 they teach you all that, how to approach them.
19 Teach you how to send them off. If they come
20 back, they teach you how to make a kill shot.

21 Because at that time they were alive, they
22 didn't have the money to buy shells, so every
23 shot count. So you had to stretch the bullets as
24 long as they were out on the land until they
25 could get some more. So they taught us never

1 leave back home unless you have at least three or
2 four shells that will protect you to make it back
3 home.

4 So I've been through all this right down the
5 Mackenzie. And then the fish, I'm not going to
6 go way back, but maybe within the last 15 years,
7 my brother Dennis has a camp on Métis Land Corp.
8 just above D.O.T. Lake in Norman Wells. Well,
9 that river, there's a creek comes out at D.O.T.
10 Lake and whatever lakes around there, it runs
11 down right by the end of town, municipal lands in
12 Norman Wells.

13 And then in spring, I spent three years
14 living there, right there, hunting around there,
15 like fishing around there, and I can notice the
16 difference in the fish coming down from there to
17 here. And the time of year when the fish starts
18 getting -- the flesh starts getting firm and soft
19 and I noticed the changes in the fish. Like
20 right now is a good time to get whitefish right
21 now, because the water is cold and you fish good.
22 Probably used to fish good till about end of June
23 or July. But nowadays, you can't do that because
24 the fish is getting more soft earlier, maybe
25 middle of June. The firmness is not there. Same

1 with the coneys.

2 And where you guys are staying down here,
3 Esso, two years ago I had losche sitting there.
4 I caught eight losche, that was two years ago.
5 And six of those losche, the livers are all dark
6 coloured, black, brown, whatever, like spotty,
7 black spots. And then last fall, the same area,
8 I caught the same amount of losche, eight losche,
9 and there was two small ones, maybe 20 inches
10 long. There was only two good-eating fish and
11 the other losche, six losche, the same thing.

12 And what I'm saying is you guys have all
13 this technology to study all these fish, but
14 nobody is saying -- telling people what do we do
15 with these bad fish, or these bad geese, these
16 bad birds? We were taught -- these Elders taught
17 me what to look for. Every time you open the
18 fish, they tell you what parts to look at the
19 guts, the liver, everything. And you do it all
20 your life, like I do every year and I can see it.
21 I can see the difference in the fat. I can see
22 all this happening.

23 Like now you've got the '80s generation,
24 they don't know things like that. So what do
25 they do with all the fish, the ducks, everything?

1 Now you get in the last couple of years I
2 seen -- I showed a couple of friends here. I
3 shot a bunch of geese and I cut the geese open.
4 They're nice and healthy, fat, fatty tissues,
5 everything looks good. Guts look good. Liver
6 looks good. Again, you see the fat on the guts
7 and the fish as soon as you cut it open. It's
8 just yellow. In all the years I've been working
9 these animals, this bird is not right. Is it
10 bird flu? I'm not sure.

11 Just in January I was telling this young guy
12 that. He come up in me in January this past year
13 and everything. What do you see? You have
14 obviously what you are looking for in birds? And
15 he says Ted, how do you know that? Now they come
16 out with this on pictures, and you told me this
17 two years ago. How do you know that? I answered
18 again, "This is what I learned back in the '70s
19 and the '80s." All these people are all gone.
20 They told me what to look for and that's how I
21 got my knowledge on them.

22 But he told me this two years ago and now
23 it's sitting on the table and the offices and you
24 already knew that. So we had very awesome
25 people, Elders, that taught us things before they

1 even -- they were even discovered. That's the
2 way I put it.

3 And now in the '80s, we did seismic all over
4 the land. All funded -- seismic was all funded
5 by Chevron, Petro-Can, Esso. Then you have all
6 these new oil wells.

7 Danny Masuzumi was working with me at that
8 time. There were all these drill rigs. They had
9 monitors. They weren't trained to be monitors.
10 They were just told what to look out for and that
11 was it.

12 Then you have all these air drill rigs,
13 conventional air rigs, and then you had
14 conventional rigs with diesel coming out to suit
15 off -- so you're diving, what, 19 metres down.
16 And they have to throw drill bits in through
17 these holes and the ice was so thick those years
18 and you had seismic camps sitting on fish lakes
19 like Aubrey Lake, all these fish lakes.

20 And these drills would change oil, drill
21 holes into the ground. You know what they do
22 with all the oil, all the bits? They throw it
23 down the hole and they fill it up with dirt. How
24 long that's been going on?

25 Nobody knows about monitors.

1 Monitors -- they decided to put monitoring
2 together then. They just hire bush people right
3 off the land. They weren't told. I was only
4 like 17 years old, but I grew up seeing all this.

5 They've been doing this right across through
6 Cold Lake area, all over wherever they had
7 seismic. And seismic's been going on since the
8 '50s, '60s. So how long was this going on?

9 This is pollution to the whole land. Not
10 only the water, the whole land.
11 Everything -- the Mackenzie River Basin, it's the
12 lowest part of the Mackenzie. Everything that
13 damages on the land pours into the Mackenzie.
14 One way or another, it makes its way.

15 And the old timers used to say anything to
16 do with metal, water touches, water damages it.
17 There's no way scientists can say, oh, the thing
18 will never rot. Water eats everything in its
19 path. So there's nothing safe in the Mackenzie,
20 with all your pipes.

21 Now you see the pictures Twyla showed.
22 Those pictures have been on -- I mean, they're
23 there for at least 10 years that I know of.

24 When the water comes down, you see the
25 islands, the Mackenzie River is high, the ice

1 moves, and like the government says, gravel
2 cleans the water. And where does that sediment
3 goes? You go along the islands there, you see
4 the islands, all the sediment is there.

5 Where does it go? You see the ice Mackenzie
6 move. They take out all these islands. I know
7 the three islands all the way down.

8 And the old people used to say the river is
9 going to get shallow because when the ice moves
10 over a number of years, it takes out the islands
11 and all that stuff that's in the sediment washes
12 down in the Mackenzie. That's what changes the
13 channels, and the sediment goes all the way down.

14 You don't know where the sediment is going
15 to be going. You know it's in the river, but
16 where? So where are you guys doing your testing?

17 So you go to the island 12 kilometres down
18 from Norman Wells. It's there every day for a
19 number of years. You can see the changes that
20 come out of the rocks even now. You go down
21 there, you see a rust colour from them wells,
22 like you see all the oil stuff.

23 You go along that shore, even to this day,
24 and you can see the shoreline, the change of the
25 colour. The further down you get the lighter,

1 the lighter, the lighter. So eventually,
2 everything's going down the Mackenzie.

3 My suggestion is if you're sampling, you're
4 taking samples of the water, why don't you start
5 from there, see how much chemicals from Norman
6 Wells as you go down all along that shoreline?

7 But every year the water current changes, so
8 you might be sampling here one year. Next year
9 the current will be different.

10 When the river is high in the spring, like
11 now, it's not that high, but where the river is
12 flowing now that's a boat channel. But as the
13 water goes down, the water drifts off somewhere
14 else in different parts of the islands.

15 And now you look in the '80s, you guys lost,
16 what, 450 drums of fuel that floated off on the
17 river, came up in Norman Wells, it all ended up
18 down this way. And all Esso was offered was \$10
19 to return them drums full of gas.

20 Well, we harvest those barrels, but we
21 didn't give it back to Esso. Why give us \$10?
22 It takes a lot of work to load them onto the boat
23 and bring them back to land.

24 So what we did was a barrel of aviation gas,
25 whatever, to fly people back over to the land so

1 they're paying -- paying to fly people back. We
2 use that same gas to fly people back out and
3 there's barrels all the way down that I know of
4 because I was the one of them collecting. We
5 collected over 40, 60 drums.

6 But we never turned it back to Esso because
7 they only offered \$10 a drum. Go to the shore
8 and tell them where it is and they'll pick it up.
9 So whatever happened to all the barrels? You can
10 still see -- trail down on Mackenzie up on the
11 high bank, you can still see 45s here and there.
12 Maybe they were gas. Maybe they're all rusted
13 out now. Maybe they're all in the Mackenzie,
14 too.

15 And when I look at this map -- when I look
16 at this map, this is the only area you're looking
17 at and we're talking about the fish, wildlife and
18 everything. Where's the map of the Canol?

19 When the pipeline came through from
20 Whitehorse and when Canol was stationed, they had
21 barrels all on the Canol all along that shore.
22 The reason I'm telling you this because my older
23 brother, Dennis, has all these maps. All the
24 locations where the waste sites were, where the
25 trucks were all buried, he has it to this day.

1 And these surveyors from the federal
2 government came in and he was working with them
3 and he asked the boss if he can have a copy of
4 that map of the whole what is happening in 1920
5 when they first built that pipeline. He has his
6 maps right now. And his boss told him, "I'm not
7 supposed to give this information out".

8 But eventually, he gave it to him in future
9 years and he still has his maps hidden today with
10 all the locations of Canol, where the airport is.
11 It's all marked on that map. He has it to this
12 day.

13 So I know you guys have this. The federal
14 government has it. Esso has it. Why aren't they
15 showing all this?

16 And then you talk about climate change,
17 1986, 1987. Monica Loomis, which is my
18 godmother, was on the Mackenzie and I was working
19 for Norman Wells Transportation at the time.
20 They said these people that, what do you call,
21 taking samples from the ground -- what do you
22 guys call them? The depth of the frozen ground,
23 permafrost.

24 You guys knew it in the '80s because I asked
25 these surveyors from Ottawa -- they hired me to

1 guide them, take them to certain locations to
2 test the permafrost.

3 And I questioned them, "Does the communities
4 know?". "No, we're hired right from Ottawa to
5 come up here".

6 And they did one between Tuyeta and Simpson
7 and one above Norman Wells maybe 15 kilometres or
8 20 kilometres, and they put a more dense area,
9 and this is in July. And then another location
10 was above -- between Sandsu and Cartage River and
11 it's 100 square metres. And they got this pipe
12 into the ground right in the middle. Every
13 square metre they have a metre. Then you push
14 down into the ground and they take measurement.

15 And at that time I asked them. No, the
16 community don't know it, so why didn't the
17 communities know then? So this is why I know you
18 guys have all the information, the government has
19 the information, because they told me they were
20 hired right from Ottawa to fly up here and do
21 this.

22 And why is that? Because of the pipeline.
23 They're doing all these tests because of the
24 pipeline, so they already knew the Mackenzie
25 Valley was already thawing out one inch a year.

1 Now they're talking about 30 years later,
2 which they already knew. The federal government
3 knew it. Esso knows it. Where's all that
4 information?

5 So that tells a lot of the story there.
6 What are you guys hiding?

7 They've done that work. I was there to see
8 it. They were teaching me, telling me all this.
9 So there are things like that I've known for a
10 long time. Like Canol, like I've seen these
11 pictures myself.

12 And that creek from -- from the D.O.T. that
13 runs down, you got minnow coming up there, little
14 fishes like that, maybe two or three, lots of it,
15 going up that creek to D.O.T. When the water
16 comes down, we can't cross, when they came to
17 town right there we have to go 200 metres up and
18 then you have a little bridge here and you walk
19 over to the trucks and drive into town.

20 I think my brother Dennis has pictures of
21 all these fish, they're all dead in the water, in
22 the creek. All dead. Why? It's all
23 contamination.

24 And before Gerald Loomis sold out Norman
25 Wells Transportation and I was working for him,

1 and he told me this whole land behind the gas
2 station, it is all contaminated. And he said
3 they were supposed to clean that up. But he sold
4 us out. He sold -- sold out. It was never
5 cleaned up. Still like that. And that's right
6 on top of the riverbank where it has all that
7 stuff go into the Mackenzie.

8 Then now you come to a town like Good Hope.
9 You see the dump site. You got batteries, you
10 got hosing, oil tanks, which there's probably
11 still oil in them, all piled up at the dump.
12 That's what the housing -- government brought
13 into town. And that same dump site
14 runs -- there's an underground river that runs
15 right down through the reservoir, then the lake,
16 down the reservoir and it comes out by Michelle
17 Lafferty's house. Where does all that go? It
18 comes right through. Right down to the -- right
19 down this whole valley right into there, right
20 back into the river.

21 So this is all government's doings.
22 Whatever they are covering up, what is it they're
23 covering up? And at a certain time of the year,
24 you get fish in the Mackenzie and I've noticed
25 it. Like right now is a good time to get

1 whitefish, right now, and they're going to do it
2 this evening and get some ducks. Well, lately
3 I've been making fish sticks, dried fish, usually
4 until about like before I said, like the middle
5 of June it's already getting soft.

6 And maybe about eight years ago up at Sansu,
7 I had nets in there, there was fish there year
8 round. The same Mackenzie River fish goes up the
9 Mountain River. When we're done fishing, we're
10 going up for moose. Then you began, the river
11 that's halfway to the mountains. And they got
12 lots of eddies in there and it's the same coneys
13 from the Mackenzie River. Me and my brother we
14 used to throw our lines out and get a couple of
15 coneys. We come back to town. Boy, were they
16 healthy eating.

17 And my father, Wilfred Jackson, we'd cook
18 some up for him. We didn't tell him nothing. He
19 said, "You guys didn't get this coney from the
20 Mackenzie River." We didn't have the time. He
21 knew. So we told him we were go up -- we got it
22 from up the mountain River and the river flows
23 from the mountains. It's so clear that water,
24 it's so tasty, so beautiful. So that tells you
25 there's something wrong with the Mackenzie River,

1 the water, compared to the waters coming out of
2 the mountains. These coneys are healthy, two
3 weeks later after the fish is all mushy and
4 everything, you can't work with it.

5 And then you go -- I still keep in contact
6 with my friends that trap down in the delta,
7 McPherson. I fish up there. And we talk about
8 the stuff we're talking about, like how is it
9 this year, how is the fishing this year and I
10 tell them. And I got friends in like -- friends
11 pretty well down Inuvik, even like 10 years ago
12 and they tell us how do you guys drink this river
13 water? They don't drink it. They won't even
14 take fish from the Mackenzie.

15 Even the McPherson people, they know fish
16 comes from the Mackenzie. Like, the hunters
17 there, like what I do? They tell me they won't
18 take fish from the Mackenzie now. They still do,
19 but certain people that live in the bush all
20 their lives, they don't. They only want lake
21 fish now.

22 So it's affecting -- to me it's affecting
23 everything. When I tell them these stories, they
24 tell me, oh, you guys have it worse than us.
25 What they tell me, what they're doing out on the

1 land and what I'm telling them, what I know about
2 this area. So it kind of tells me it is.

3 And I fished up in across the McKay River
4 Archie's(ph) camp, I stayed there in the fall and
5 eating there -- like, what? That's another
6 hundred and something miles from Norman Wells.
7 And I noticed the whitefish and the fish in the
8 Keele, I noticed the taste to be more healthier
9 than what we get here.

10 So you can bring -- I don't know what
11 they're doing, but everybody has their own
12 judgment. I'm just presenting what I know over
13 the years, and every time you see goose -- you
14 see geese, lots of geese. Esso knows all of this
15 oil slick and all that. They still blame it on
16 natural seepage. What are they hiding? They
17 know it's been going on for a number of years and
18 it's finally coming out. Like, what can they do
19 now? What can they do to save?

20 About six years ago, the springtime, the
21 geese are just coming. My brother Michael came
22 up from Sansu, he got to Norman Wells and I was
23 staying there with my brother. He didn't say
24 anything. He said he's going back down to Sansu
25 to get some moose. So I came behind him maybe

1 about six hours later, and 40 miles down the end
2 of Oscars, I seen this moose. It was so pitiful.
3 There was no hair. Just a little bit of hair
4 here and there. It was weak. I never thought
5 nothing of it.

6 Another 20 miles town, I had Michael, my
7 brother, and Paul Dixon, who worked for Land and
8 Water Board was there hunting geese with him and
9 I mentioned it. And when Michael told my I was
10 looking for him, I seen that moose. On the way
11 down I was trying to kill it but I didn't see it.
12 I said, that's the same moose I just seen. And
13 he told me well, try to kill it on your way back
14 up.

15 So I went back. I decided to go back to
16 Norman Wells and I couldn't find that moose. I
17 looked for him, but he made his way. But it was
18 a pitiful sight to see. There was no hair on
19 this moose, just spots here and there. I don't
20 know if it was ticks, I don't know whether it was
21 cancer. I'm not sure. So whatever happened,
22 maybe it just died there. Maybe other animals
23 consumed it. Who knows? We'll never know.

24 A lot of the situations I've seen over the
25 years through the lakes, through the fish lakes,

1 my father, brothers, all over. Thunder River,
2 went fishing way up in those hills, Chicago. Now
3 we can't get there because it's lack of funding,
4 lack of everything.

5 So I really don't know what to say, but it's
6 my experience. My brothers they know it.
7 They're out on the land. They probably want to
8 say something about what I'm saying. So how many
9 years has this thing been going on and you've got
10 to be here 100 years? How much damage to the
11 land? Now you go across from Sansu, all these
12 lakes, they had funding to clean up all the
13 lakes, barrels, fuel, oil left from early on
14 projects, seismic projects, '50s, '60s, there's
15 still barrels out there I see. So it was never
16 really cleared up.

17 So this is all I have to say and thank you
18 for listening, attending the communities,
19 listening to the people, and this is all I know
20 and this is the information I give you. And like
21 I said over the years I'm only giving you
22 information that's going to help with what's
23 going on in the last 15 years. But this thing
24 has been going on years before that and so I
25 already know.

1 So thank you very much and welcome to the
2 community.

3 (APPLAUSE)

4 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you, Teddy.

5 Does anybody have any questions? Nothing?
6 Okay.

7 Thank you again for that. We will move on
8 and go to -- pardon me? To Danny Ellton.

9 MS. HAROKI MASUZUMI: Hello, everyone. My name is
10 Haroki Masuzumi. I'm K'ahsko Got'ine. I
11 currently go to school in Ottawa for Bachelor's
12 of Nursing.

13 Thank you for allowing me for the
14 opportunity to speak today. I want to address a
15 matter that holds great significance to me, the
16 impact of oil wells on our environment and the
17 lack of opportunities for people to work with
18 Imperial company.

19 Being K'asho Got'ine means more than just a
20 cultural identity. It encompasses a deep
21 connection to the land and a responsibility to
22 protect it. The land is not just a physical
23 space to us. It holds our history, traditions
24 and spirituality. It is our duty to preserve and
25 safeguard it for future generations.

1 The adverse environmental impacts caused by
2 oil wells directly affect our Indigenous rights.
3 The destruction of our land, water and air not
4 only harms the environment, but infringes upon
5 our cultural practices, traditional knowledge and
6 our ability to sustain our way of life. It
7 threatens our sovereignty and our inherent rights
8 we have as Indigenous people.

9 We must demand transparency and
10 accountability from the oil company. Accurate
11 information and reports on the environmental
12 consequences of oil wells are essential for
13 informed decision-making. Independent studies
14 conducted by unbiased organizations can help us
15 understand the true extent of damage and find
16 ways to mitigate it.

17 Additionally, we cannot ignore the lack of
18 opportunities for our people to work with the
19 Imperial company. Our community possesses
20 valuable skills, knowledge and expertise that can
21 contribute to the industry in a meaningful and
22 sustainable manner. It is crucial for the
23 company to actively involve and encourage and
24 engage with our people, providing them with
25 employment opportunities that align with our

1 cultural values and respect our rights.

2 In conclusion, we must prioritize the
3 well-being of our environment and our people.
4 Holding the oil company accountable, demanding
5 transparency, and ensuring our voices are heard
6 are vital steps towards finding a balance between
7 economic development and environmental
8 sustainability.

9 Together let's work towards the future that
10 respects our rights as Indigenous people and
11 safeguards the land for generations to come.

12 Thank you.

13 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you, Danielle -- oh.

14 Does anybody have any questions?

15 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: No questions. No
16 questions from the Panel, but thank you for
17 taking the time to be with us in the middle of
18 your studies. Good wishes to you to continue
19 successfully going through those.

20 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you again, Danielle.

21 Thank you for that.

22 (APPLAUSE)

23 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Next we will have a guest
24 speaker, another one, Cara Manuel.

25 MS. CARA MANUEL: Hi. I'm Cara Manuel. I have been

1 living -- from Fort Good Hope and have been
2 living here for the majority of my life. And the
3 only time that I have left was to pursue
4 schooling. I'm currently in full-time studies to
5 become a counsellor. I'm also a mother, a
6 sister, a daughter, a granddaughter. And my
7 family -- my family has come from here, but I
8 also have family and relatives that live all
9 along the Mackenzie River, from up towards the
10 delta all the way to Fort Chipewyan and even
11 further towards the Yukon.

12 It's an honour to be here and I'm very
13 thankful that I got asked to speak.

14 When I got asked to speak and -- talking
15 about Imperial Oil and talking about our land,
16 our culture, our way of life, our people, our
17 homelands, our well-being and about how all of
18 these things are interconnected with one another
19 and it's not just looking at Imperial Oil or
20 looking at the land or the water, but all these
21 things are so interconnected with one another.
22 You can't look at just one thing, you have to
23 look at everything together.

24 And what stood out to me was just taking
25 everything into consideration, our history,

1 history of our people, the history within
2 colonialism. And what stands -- there's many
3 things to stand out to me, but it's like the
4 historical oppression of our people and that
5 we're still here.

6 And my ancestors, my community, we've
7 overcome historical oppression and we're not
8 supposed to be here, but we are and we're
9 exercising our rights. We are reclaiming our
10 voices. And we are speaking up today with love
11 and passion, taking into account that there has
12 been resistance, survival and resilience for
13 hundreds of years.

14 And so what stood out to me was the rights
15 to the quality and quantity of water under our
16 land claim agreement and the importance of the
17 water for our people and that we do drink our
18 drinking water, how we wash our clothes, how we
19 take showers and even cook with this water that
20 we get from the Mackenzie River. That speaks
21 volumes.

22 And what these studies are showing us is
23 that the water's fine, the water's fine. And I'm
24 thinking, like, is -- are these studies -- these
25 studies don't line up with what our people are

1 saying and our lived experience is just as valid
2 as what these studies are showing us or that
3 they're trying to tell us. And how strong, how
4 valid are these studies? Because I'm wondering,
5 a second opinion -- did they get a second opinion
6 to these studies?

7 And like I'm looking at more thorough
8 information. And based on what these water
9 studies, these fish studies are telling us is
10 that everything's fine. And we may have found
11 some fish that the liver's not good, we may have
12 found some fish where the -- like the fish are
13 soft. But it's -- and then to offer their study
14 with everything's okay.

15 But based on what our people are -- based on
16 the lived experiences, the stories, and this is
17 valid information because we're the ones who have
18 the lived experience, we're the ones who live off
19 the land and live with the land and take care of
20 the land and we have been doing this for our
21 whole lives.

22 Our ancestors have been doing this for their
23 whole lives. And these are important traditional
24 practices. These are protocols. These are our
25 own laws and these are our own world views and

1 this is where we clash with one other.

2 It's because the colonial western world view
3 is totally opposite of how we live in harmony
4 with our community and how we have this close
5 connection with the land, with the animals, with
6 the water. And it's not us taking and taking and
7 taking until we run dry.

8 And that's so significant to say that
9 because if you look at the water levels and how
10 lower and lower they're getting, and how much the
11 land is changing year after year, and it's not
12 small changes, it's drastic changes. And I
13 remember at one point -- at one point I was
14 wondering how drastically things are changing in
15 the weather, the way the land is changing. And
16 at one point I had a lot of empathy and
17 compassion for the animals who have to live on
18 the land, and how are they trying to figure
19 out -- how are they surviving on the land with
20 all these changes?

21 And some seasons they have to starve due to
22 the level, the water levels, the levels of the
23 snow, too much rain, not enough rain, the
24 landslides, chemicals being in the water. How
25 are they doing and how is that affecting their

1 health? How is all of that affecting our health
2 in the community?

3 And there was an oil spill a couple of
4 summers ago, and Imperial Oil made it sound like
5 it was just a little bit of oil. And to actually
6 finally see some numbers, like that's hundreds of
7 thousands of oil spilt into the Mackenzie River.
8 And that was concerning to me, because I'm trying
9 to backtrack two years ago and thinking back on
10 what I seen, and the water looked different.
11 There was something different about the water.
12 You could just see it.

13 And then over a year ago, I used to drink my
14 water from the tap. I would filter it with a
15 Brita jug and that was good for me until I
16 started getting heartburn every day. And I
17 thought it was just -- I thought it was just
18 heartburn, I thought it was a part of my diet
19 that I needed to change up, and I thought it was
20 maybe eating too much acidic foods. But it got
21 to a point where it was every day for a few
22 months, it must have been, three or four months
23 that I was experiencing heartburn, and it was
24 just getting to a point where I couldn't really
25 eat anything without getting heartburn.

1 And I was trying to figure it out. And what
2 it came down to was that it was the water.
3 Because before I switched over to filtering the
4 water from the tap with a Brita jug, I was
5 drinking water that we get from the Yamoga
6 office. And so I switched back to drinking water
7 from the Yamoga, and that's when this heartburn
8 stopped. And so any time, like -- I drink lots
9 of water. I drink lots of water every day. And
10 so any time that I do get heartburn, it's from
11 like tap water.

12 And so, like these stories that we're
13 sharing aren't just any kind of stories. Like we
14 see it, we're living with it, we're experiencing
15 it every day, every season, every year, and we're
16 the ones who see the changes year after year.
17 And so when these studies -- when Imperial Oil
18 does their study, all these questions come up and
19 I question their perspective, because their
20 perspective does not align with how we see it.

21 And I'm not trying to be biased or anything
22 but then there's no congruency and there's a lack
23 of transparency trying to communicate with
24 Imperial Oil or even having that relationship
25 where we can work together. And there's so many

1 questions for Imperial Oil, but they're very hard
2 to work with and the only time they come into our
3 community is when they want to tell us, or they
4 want to talk to us, and it's never -- it's never
5 a discussion or it's never where there's
6 transparency.

7 So I'm just -- I'm -- I have a lot of
8 questions for Imperial Oil, and I -- I'm sort
9 of -- no, I'm going to say it. I am feeling that
10 there's distrust with Imperial Oil, and it just
11 always comes down to what they're saying doesn't
12 line up with what we are experiencing, nor do
13 they ever involve us in their studies.

14 And I just see a lot of questions come up
15 about the studies that they're giving, and I do
16 understand that in order to make things better,
17 it may take some time. But there's always going
18 to be in clash of world views because they're
19 after capitalism and we're after protecting our
20 land, protecting our animals, protecting our
21 people, and also preserving that for the future
22 generations.

23 And I also wanted to share about the water
24 and the importance of it, is that the human body
25 is made up of 80 percent of water. And so,

1 wherever any human being is from and wherever
2 they get their water source from, we get our
3 water source from the Mackenzie River. So that
4 makes 80 percent of our body made up of the
5 Mackenzie River. And what does that tell us?
6 What does that tell us?

7 And I also -- I also wanted to share like
8 how our relationship to the land, to the water,
9 to upholding our livelihoods and our way of life
10 is so important to us, and this is something that
11 is -- it's priceless. You can't put a dollar on
12 it.

13 I had this one experience a couple of
14 summers ago, and to put it into perspective, I'm
15 in recovery, I'm in addiction recovery, and this
16 was within the first year of being sober. And we
17 were paddling on the Mountain River and this is
18 400 kilometres and in the Mountain River water
19 where the water is fast flowing and it's intense
20 and powerful, and the water feels like it's
21 coming in all directions.

22 And we were paddling this one day, and the
23 land just looked so beautiful, and this was like
24 where ancestors used to travel from the Yukon to
25 here. And there was a moment that I had where

1 there was just -- we were surrounded by
2 mountains, we were paddling, and I was just going
3 about my day. But I had this moment, I had this
4 moment where I felt the love of my ancestors with
5 me and I was so thankful, I was so thankful that
6 they really fought hard for us.

7 They fought hard for us during residential
8 school. They fought hard for us during the land
9 claim agreement. And just to think back about
10 the land claim agreement, a lot of our
11 grandparents, our great grandparents were fluent
12 speakers and just trying to transfer like a land
13 claim into Dene Kedə, that is incredible. They
14 fought hard for us to have that land claim
15 because they thought that was the best decision
16 to make for the future generations.

17 And our community fought hard when they
18 tried to put the Mackenzie gas pipeline through,
19 and we said no. And I'm just like very thankful
20 for how hard my ancestors and my family have
21 fought hard for us to be here today.

22 And so I was taking all that in while I was
23 paddling, and it was in that moment in that canoe
24 where I was paddling and I felt a sensation
25 through my body and it was in that moment that I

1 felt that sense of freedom. And I've never felt
2 a sense of freedom like that before, and I just
3 wanted to share that story because that's what
4 the land means to me. Thank you.

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Thank you, Cara.

7 Does the Panel have any more questions for
8 Cara?

9 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: No, we don't. But I
10 would like to say thank you and you spoke about
11 voices and thank you for taking the time to share
12 yours with us here today.

13 MS. CARA MANUEL: Thank you.

14 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Máhsi.

15 Well, that wraps up our speakers for today.

16 I want to mention a few of you there, that
17 all the speakers that came out today, for you
18 guys that are sitting up there as the Panel,
19 you've heard all of it for today.

20 Not only do we harvest and take from the
21 land, but it's our Elders and our parents and our
22 community members that embedded in us that we
23 have to look after the land, we have to look
24 after the animals, we have to speak for the
25 animals and the land and the water. Like you've

1 heard it before, it's we, the K'asho Got'ine
2 people, we are the voices for the land, water and
3 the animals. The reason why we're here today, we
4 were here yesterday, and we will continue to be
5 here on this land to talk for our land, for our
6 rights to live on this land and the rights to
7 continue to live here.

8 We will close this meeting off today, but I
9 want you to remember to keep this in your head
10 not only for today, but for tomorrow and for the
11 rest of the week, weekend, week, what you've
12 heard here and what you see here is how we live
13 here, how we will continue to live here every
14 day, not only us, but our children, our
15 grandchildren.

16 We thank you for coming and listening and I
17 will continue to thank you every day for coming
18 and listening. Máhsi.

19 (APPLAUSE)

20 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: We will close the meeting off
21 unless you guys have anything to add to the
22 hearing.

23 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: I'll just confirm that
24 we'll start again at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning
25 and we'll let -- we'll start at 9 o'clock

1 tomorrow morning and, as I understand it, we'll
2 continue till about 3 o'clock tomorrow. Is that
3 right?

4 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: 4:15 tomorrow the sked leaves.

5 PRESIDING COMMISSIONER LUCIUK: Sounds good. I'm just
6 saying so those that are following tomorrow if
7 they are wanting to follow and listen what things
8 will look like for us tomorrow. We will be here
9 tomorrow morning and in the afternoon and, of
10 course, into the evening with you as well but we
11 will start again tomorrow.

12 Will you close with a prayer today, Chief
13 Pierrot?

14 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Before I do, our Land Corp.
15 President is going to say a few words, but I just
16 want you to know that you don't have to worry
17 about the sked leaving before you. Imperial can
18 always charter a plane here.

19 MR. EDWIN ERUTSE: Just like something quick that
20 comes to mind as we're sitting back there, we
21 have a map in front of us but we don't tell our
22 people what we're talking about as our people are
23 talking. It comes to mind, though, is that when
24 we're talking about the replacement of Line 490,
25 maybe we need to point it out on a map what we're

1 talking about is one thing. And for our members,
2 I guess that would be the line that's running
3 right between the two islands, Goose Island and
4 Bear Island. So they're going to replace that
5 line next to it, is one thing.

6 So that's the conversation that we're going
7 to be having and that's what we're actually
8 talking about. So I wanted to point that out.

9 The second thing I wanted to say was, it's
10 been a long day. You see me running in and out,
11 but I missed -- I was trying to not miss the
12 store. We want to thank you, though, for your
13 patience. We know you missed the store, too.

14 Generally we like to go there and get our
15 groceries and everything before the end of the
16 day so we know you might have missed it to get
17 your things. But nonetheless, we want to say
18 thank you for your patience and your time for
19 coming here and spending all day with us,
20 so -- but we'll do this again. But we're
21 definitely looking forward to catching up and
22 getting to the hockey game for sure.

23 With that, thank you very much. Máhsi cho.

24 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: I know it's been a long day.

25 We've heard a lot of good comments, a lot of

1 positive words come out from everybody. When we
2 go home, we leave anything negative on this floor
3 here and we don't take it home with us. Not to
4 our families. Not to our loved ones.

5 So we pray today, make sure that everybody
6 has a good and quiet evening and has a good sleep
7 and comes back to us to sit back on this table
8 with us tomorrow again.

9 (PRAYER)

10 CHIEF COLLIN PIERROT: Máhsi.

11 Just for everybody, tomorrow morning we'll
12 try to start exactly at 9 o'clock.

13

14 (ADJOURNED AT 6:21 P.M.)

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CERTIFICATION

WE HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing has been
reported and transcribed to the best of
our skill and ability.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CB', written over a horizontal line.

Chris Brower



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. Denton', written over a horizontal line.

Brian Denton