

**BUREAU D'AUDIENCES PUBLIQUES
SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT**

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 Mme PAULE HALLEY, commissaire CCEK

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AU QUÉBEC**

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MOT DES PRÉSIDENTS

MR. MICHAEL GORDON

5 Thanks for having us here. My name is Michael Gordon. I was surprised to see my name up there with all those dignitaries, but I would like to sit amongst the laymen, if you don't mind.

10 Thanks for being in town and we hope that we get some information from you with regards to the reasons why you're in town. And I myself am not quite sure where this is headed, where this has come from, but before the day is over, I'm sure we'll be asking questions with regards to the water management in Québec and in Nunavik. And hopefully we'll have an idea, we'll get an idea where this is headed.

15 I myself would like to know what powers you may have with regards to water management and who is on the board. Is this the board?

20 Anyways, we're glad that you could be in town. I'm sorry that there's not so many of us here today. I'm not sure if that's because of the weather. But Tommy did go on the air this morning and announced that there is going to be public hearing on water management for our region in Québec.

25 Thanks for coming in, being in town. When the time comes, I will come back here to ask some questions, but I would just like to... hope you have a good stay and hope that this is profitable while you're here.

MR. TOMMY GREY, KEAC chairman

30 I had a letter written to me concerning water resources. The Inuit use the rivers and they believe they shouldn't be impacted. There is sewage that goes through the land. The person next to me will do the introduction of the experts who came in.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

35 Thank you very much, Mr. Grey, for your presentation and invitation for our Commission here today.

40 My name is André Beauchamp and I'm the President of the Commission of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement, which is called shortly BAPE, which is responsible of the consultation, public consultation in all the Province of Québec about water management in Québec. There is a general document about this question.

Our mandate started on March 15 of this year and will end on March 15 of year 2000. The mandate of our Commission is to consult the public of all Québec about the policy on water, what are the uses of the water, ground water, underground water, drinkable water, sewage systems and so on, the health, the human health and also the health of the rivers itself, and the sources of pollution and also the problems like climate change and so on.

This is a very large consultation, not on specific projects here and there, but mostly on the goals we must pursue, what is the good policy to be ready for the coming twentieth century. Do we have the good policy on water and, if we don't, which policy would be better with be best results in the situation.

Since March 15, we did travel all around Québec in every region. And I went in the North in May, but we decided, with the Environmental Kativik Committee, to make a special work together. It's the reason why we have a joint board now.

I'm here with my colleague, Mrs. Gisèle Gallichan who is a member of the Commission of the BAPE, and three members of the Environmental Kativik Committee. We did agree together to have this day here and another day in Kuujjuarapik tomorrow.

Today, we want to have your opinion, your questions, your feelings about water. If you have questions, we invited different experts from different departments of the government, of the ministries, and I'm glad to present briefly these people there.

On the left side of the table, Mrs. Nathalie Camden is working for the Ministry of Natural Resources; also Mr. Meunier, responsible also at the Ministry of Natural Resources; Mr. Robert Langlais who is working for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs; also Mr. Daniel Gaudreau from the same ministry. After that, there is Doctor Serge Déry who is a specialist in health. And he's here also with Mrs. Josée Brazeau from Environnement-Québec, Daniel Berrouard also and Mr. Jocelin Dufresne. These three people are from the Ministry of Environment. Mr. Dufresne is responsible for the region.

On the second table there, Mrs. Michèle Bélanger from the Ministry of Social Services and Health; Mrs. Spiegle from the Ministry of Environment, Philippe Gentes also from the same ministry and Mr. Luc Proulx who is working in Québec and responsible of the Ministry of Environment here today.

So, there is a large bunch of different experts. If you have questions, I think they will be very happy to give you answers if they have. If they don't, we will be asking them later on to make an answer to your question and to be sure that there is nothing forgotten in this working day.

I must tell you also that there is a regional water resource profile for the North region and there is also a translation of these documents in Inuktitut on the table at the back.

90 So, for the rest of the meeting, I will ask first Mr. Jocelin Dufresne to give you a short portrait of the region. And after that, anyone who has a question can come here. We ask you to tell your name and, after that, to address the question to the board and we will see which expert can answer your question. If you only want to talk, to tell us what you think is your experience, or your problem, or your feelings about this consultation, it will also be good. It's not necessary to have a specific question. But don't be surprised if the members here of the Committee do ask some questions to the experts to be sure that we are working as well as we can in the situation.

95 Is that correct, sir?

MR. TOMMY GREY, KEAC chairman

100 Yes.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

105 Thanks. Be very free to speak in the language which is your. We do have translation from English to Inuktitut and from Inuktitut to English, I think. If there is someone who speaks only French, there will be a translation from French to English and, after that, from English to Inuktitut.

110 Excuse my bad English, but I did the best for me. At this moment, I will ask Mr. Jocelin --

M. JOCELIN DUFRESNE

115 Thank you Mr. Beauchamp and Mr. Grey. I would like to thank you for welcoming us in Kuujjuaq. It's a pleasure for us to present this part of the consultation on water policy. And before to present you the regional portrait of water, I would like to remind you some principal events that took place in the last few years concerning water in Québec, in the province of Québec.

120 In 1996, the government produced a draft policy on ground water. And in 1997, we had a symposium on water management that has been held in Québec.

125 In 1998, the government proposed a draft bill on dam safety. In 1999 at the beginning of the year, the government produced a discussion paper on water management in Québec. This paper, this document is available at the rear of the gymnasium in English if you want to consult it.

130 And like Mr. Beauchamp told you in a while, the BAPE received the mandate to
organize a vast consultation on this matter. And we are at the end of the first phase of this
consultation that has been held in every region, administrative region of Québec. And we are
here in Nunavik today and tomorrow at Kuujjuarapik.

135 After this first phase, there will be deposits of memoirs from the communities
everywhere in Québec and then Québec will produce a first draft of its water policy. That's the
main orientation concerning the water policy.

140 The document that is at the rear, the general document on water management is
presented in four principal themes. The first one is concerning ground water; the second one,
surface water; municipal infrastructures and water service management; and water as a
global strategic issue.

M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE

145 Monsieur Dufresne, on va donner maintenant une petite chance à madame de traduire
puis, après ça, on recommencera.

M. JOCELIN DUFRESNE

150 So, the document is presented under these four themes. And now for the regional
portrait of water in the northern Québec is presented with these tables of contents:

- a brief socioeconomic portrait of the region;
- a quantitative portrait of the resources, surface water;
- qualitative portrait of the surface water;
- 155 — portrait of the ground water;
- municipal portrait;
- industrial;
- agricultural portrait;
- and wildlife and recreational-tourism portrait.

160 So, let's go to socioeconomic. The region is a vast region, the biggest region, largest
region in Québec, but the least populated. The region starts at the level of the 49th parallel to
55th, to the limit between the Bay James territory and the Nunavik territory north of the 55th
parallel, from Hudson Bay to Ungava Bay, to Labrador limits.

165 So, it's the biggest region, but the least populated with some 38, 000, 39, 000 people
in all this region and approximately 9, 000 people in Nunavik.

170 The northern region represents approximately 55% of all the territory of Québec. It's
important. The presence of Native people since time immemorial, we can say that Natives

occupied the territory for 5, 000 years. But the non-Natives occupied the territory progressively in three phases.

175 One from 1935, 1940 was the colonization in the south of the region. The second one was during the 1950s and 1960s with the mining and forestry development resources. And the last one is during the 1970s with a big hydroelectric project.

180 And the last important thing to say concerns the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement, treaty, which has been signed in 1975 and the Northeastern Québec Agreement in 1978, the two conventions that determine the way this territory has to be managed.

We have on the table 1.2 the principal characteristics of territorial and socioeconomic of the regions.

185 We can say that the forestry industry represents -- the region is the third most productive region in Québec with 99% of public lands.

190 The mining industry, the region is the third one, third most productive in Québec with 13 establishments.

We can say that tourism activity is important and James Bay hydroelectric development too.

195 Now, the second part of the portrait concerns quantitative portrait of the resource, surface water. For the rivers, the region has the most important rivers in Québec. The table indicates in yellow the nine most important rivers. Those rivers represent an area basin of more than 22, 000 kilometers square and six of these rivers are in the Nunavik. They represent the most important watersheds of Québec and, as I said, nine watersheds in excess of 20, 000 kilometers square, with average flows of between 370 cubic meters/second and 1, 330 cubic meters/second.

200 The lakes. We have many lakes in the regions and they have many uses. We have lakes for like reservoirs for hydroelectric projects. We have fishing lakes, vacationing and camping, source of drinking water. And all these lakes that are indicated in this table, eight of these lakes are reservoirs in the Nunavik. And these lakes are the most important of the region and they have many uses.

210 They are, like I said, countless and variable in size, the biggest natural lakes of Québec like lac à L'Eau Claire, Mistassini in the south. They have main vocations associated with sport fishing and traditional activities. And we have reservoirs for hydroelectric.

We have in the region an important equipment we call dams and dikes. The region counts 296 dams and dikes. The majority are operated by Hydro-Québec. And in the

215 Nunavik, we have one near the Raglan mine in the north. The main ones are in the south, it's
LG-2, LG-4 and LG-3, that are operated by Hydro-Québec.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

220 Excuse me. I want to interrupt you quite briefly because there is a classroom of young
people here who want to ask a question to the Committee.

You'll excuse me, because I forgot to introduce also to you Mrs. Paule Halley and Mr.
Claude Abel who are members of the Environmental Kativik Committee.

225 Now, these young people have another course later on in the afternoon. So, they will
come and we do agree, I think, to receive their questions. We will note them and, after that,
the responsible of the Ministry of Environment will give the end of his speech. And after his
speech, we will ask the questions the young people want to ask to the Committee now.

230 Do you agree with that? It will be wonderful. They are young people. So, if there is
one or two braves from you who want to come to the microphone and to ask the question you
want to ask to the Commission.

Mlle KITTY GORDON

235 Monsieur le Président, est-ce que l'eau du lac est nettoyée avant d'arriver dans nos
maisons et comment?

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

240 Could you tell me your name please?

Mlle KITTY GORDON

245 Kitty Gordon.

M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE

250 Merci. Alors, voulez-vous traduire en anglais s'il vous plaît?

Merci. Si tu permets, on ne répondra pas tout de suite à ta question, mais on va la
recevoir et, tantôt, on y répondra. Est-ce que ça va?

MLLE KITTY GORDON

255 Oui.

M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE

260 There is another one, une autre personne qui est prête à venir poser une question?
Peur des micros. Vous savez, il faut venir tout naturellement. Ce sont d'excellentes questions
et ne soyez pas gênés de les poser.

MME CATHERINE GENTES

265 Mon nom est Catherine Gentes.

M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE

270 Oui.

MLLE CATHERINE GENTES

275 Monsieur le Président, l'eau qui arrive dans nos maisons par camion est-elle bonne à
boire et doit-on la faire bouillir?

M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE

280 Est-ce qu'il y a une autre personne dans le groupe qui va venir poser une question?
Est-ce que vous avez d'autres questions qui étaient préparées?

MLLE CATHERINE GENTES

285 Non, pas d'autres questions.

M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE

Donc, vous avez ensemble deux questions sur vraiment l'eau potable.

290 **MLLE CATHERINE GENTES**

Oui.

295 **M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

C'est ça qui est l'inquiétude des jeunes qui sont présents?

MLLE CATHERINE GENTES

300 Oui, exactement. On en a parlé avant de venir dans la classe, puis c'est ça qui est ressorti, là, dans les questions.

M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE

305 Et vous avez l'impression que c'est la question la plus importante pour les jeunes qui sont là?

MLLE CATHERINE GENTES

310 Oui, en tout cas ceux qui sont là. Je ne sais pas si ça représente toute l'école, là, mais ceux de ma classe, oui.

M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE

315 D'accord.

MR. JOHNNY ADAMS

320 Johnny Adams, I'm the Chairman of the Kativik Regional Government. First of all, I would like to welcome everyone to Kuujuaq. I see a lot of familiar faces that I have met over the years from the government's side.

325 I just would like to offer a few observations and I would like to say as well that through the Regional Government for the October meetings that we will have briefs that will be submitting on behalf of the Kativik Regional Government.

330 But I would just like to say a few words with regards to our present situation at the Regional Government. I'll start by our regional master plan, the Kativik regional master plan which supposedly has jurisdiction above the 55th parallel. Like any other municipality, our municipality is 55th parallel and above.

335 And this particular master plan has been worked on over a period of many years. I remember starting in about 1991 when I was still with our municipality. I'm still with our municipality.

340 It took all these years to realize after many, many consultations with many different bodies of regional organizations as well as governmental organizations. We had this regional master plan finally approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. And this was supposed to be a tool for us to monitor what goes on in our region, but we've been told that there isn't any funding to implement this master plan.

345 We've spent, let's say, close to \$500, 000 over the years to come out with this master plan. But we've recently been informed by the government that there isn't any funds available to implement our master plan.

350 At the last meeting, our representatives were told that there is a surplus in this particular organization called Kativik Regional Development Corporation. This government person said, «There is a surplus. Why don't you access money from that particular fund? » This was last week.

355 There isn't any surpluses available in this particular organization. And it's not a regional responsibility, it's a government responsibility. We don't want to take programs away from other sources to start funding government programs that are supposed to be funded through the government.

360 So, this is one particular issue. We want it to be the avenue in the region to be able to process applications for instance in mineral exploration permits. The Ministry of Natural Resources at the moment issues these permits, but there isn't any follow-up by Environment-Québec to see what happens with these exploration sites.

365 This has been an ongoing, I'd say, concern with our region where we've had to spend not only KRG funds, but Makivik's compensations funds to try and -- I guess you'd say document these abandoned sites that the government has issued permits, but has never done any follow-up to clean these sites. There is many, many sites in our region.

370 You'd think our region is a virgin territory, but it's not. We're trying to use our own funds to document these. And we've recently been informed of one particular site by Laval University people that there are different types of acids that are out there, that are very, very dangerous and nobody is doing anything about these particular environmental dangers that are out there.

So, this is one particular concern. That's a major concern for us, because there is many abandoned rusting barrels and whatever chemicals you have near lakes. Especially when you're doing an exploration, you dump everything on to a lake, because you're hauling

375 mostly by float planes. And most of these chemicals or whatever are usually right near major
water sources sometimes.

So, this is one particular area of concern. And the other one is the same thing, the
Minister of Environment and la Faune issues outfitting permits and, as far as we know, there
380 isn't really any follow-up by Environment-Québec as well with this particular issue as well.

So, these are issues that we wanted to be given the power of delegation from the
government to be monitoring these sites in our region, because we know where they are. We
have a fairly good idea. And it's so much easier to administer them out of our region instead of
385 a few thousand miles away in Québec City. But we're being told, «Sorry, we have no funds
available.»

These are just two particular issues. Another issue is with our agreement, we have
committees, the KEQC, Kativik Environmental Quality Commission, and KEAC, the Kativik
390 Environmental Advisory Commission. And these are bodies that are supposed to be
monitoring what is going on in the region, but they're not given the tools to do their job. It's a
sad situation where we have all the mechanisms in place, but there isn't just any funds
available to do the work that they're supposed to do.

I mean, environment is a big issue for everyone, but we're not putting money where
our mouths are. And we have this situation with these commissions where the secretariat has
been down south for many years, because it's cheaper to keep it down there. I mean, why
don't everybody just move down south if it's cheaper? Why live up north if it's too expensive?
400 But that's not the issue.

The issue is that we have to do something about these lack of funding that we're facing.
We want to do the work, but we're not given the means to do the work.

We ran around and worked over many year to come out with a regional master plan
405 and then, after it's finally done, we're told, «Sorry, we've got no funds available.» It's not
correct.

And in terms of the drinking water situation in Nunavik, as you're well aware, we're
pumping from water trucks from one house to the other. And we never know if these water
410 trucks sometimes could be contaminated or the lake itself.

We're given some tools, but we're not in a position to be able to give answers to the
people right away. We have to send these samples to the major centers. Like in Ungava site,
they have to send these water samples to be tested in Kuujuaq or Radisson for that matter on
415 the other side.

420 Like the students asked, is the water we're drinking safe? For sure, you're drinking good water. I mean you're not drinking from the tap water that is available here. And to answer them, we don't know. I mean you never know. It could take a week before the sample or the results finally come back. And by that time, a lot of people could be getting sick.

425 So, I think that's one issue that will be addressed to you, that each municipality should have the tools to be able to monitor their water sample on a daily basis if need be. But at the moment, we don't have that.

430 And with regards to drinking water, most of the people in the communities don't drink or make tea from the chlorinated water, because it tastes bad. It turns tea very dark. So, the majority of the people are getting their own tea by getting water that's not treated or that's not chlorinated.

435 And we know that chlorine is a cancer causing agent. We're using it, because it's cheaper that way. It's cheaper for the government to keep providing chlorine treatment to our drinking water, because the other methods are too expensive to implement.

435 So, this is one other point that should be looked at seriously. We're talking about the health of the population.

440 These water plants that have been put up in the municipality are fairly new. Over the past ten years, they've been built. There's still one community up the coast without a water plant and all the rest have theirs.

445 And the last point is with regards to... you mentioned sewage treatment facilities as well. We finally last fall signed an agreement with the government to be able to address that issue. None of the municipalities in our region have proper sewage treatment facilities. And now we're just starting to address that because, up to that point, we didn't have the funds available to work on these projects.

450 So, when you look at our situation in Nunavik, we feel we're not being taken seriously when we're talking about these issues, because we're not getting any funds for environmental areas of concern. Is it because we're too far and we're small in numbers that the government can afford to ignore us when we're discussing environmental issues in our region?

455 I think this is where you have the opportunity, after we've submitted our briefs, to be able to address the issues on a serious basis. As any taxpayers, like any Quebecer that's a taxpayer, we should expect a minimum as anybody else that's available down south. We don't have the facilities as you have down south. We strive for those same types of services and facilities that is available down south, but it's always a cost factor.

460 Like why do you think we're delivering water by water trucks? The government said it's
to expensive to put a piping system from house to house. So, we're sometimes relegated to
second-class citizens of the province when it comes to services being provided or the
environmental regulations not being supported.

465 I mean we've got very hard working individuals at different environmental commissions
or committees. They're very serious in their work, but there's not being given the resources
necessary to do their job or ours to do our job.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity of saying a few words. And you'll be
hearing a lot more after our briefs are submitted in October.

470

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Thank you, Mr. Adams. I think you did address a lot of questions. I was not sure that
the question period is already gone, but it is. You did it. And I think it is more important to ans-
475 wer, to make a research already on that than to return to the exposé of the beginning, I think.

But you spoke a lot. Is the lady ready to translate what you did tell? Is it necessary, do
you think, if it is? Yes? Thank you.

480

MR. JOHNNY ADAMS

Tommy, maybe if I speed up the process, I've asked people in the back if all of them
understood what I said and if it was necessary to translate into Inuktitut. They said it's not
necessary for them and... because there's others that would like to say a few words beside me
485 as well.

And it's not that I don't like the interpreter, she's doing a great job, but everybody there
in the back understood what I said.

490

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Well, sir, at this moment, I think that you asked a lot of questions. Maybe because
the young people were there also before you and they did ask also questions about the quality
of water, the drinkable water related to the health, so, I will ask first to the Ministry of the
495 Environment, do you have data? Do you have facts on the situation of the drinkable water in
Nunavik?

And after that, I will ask the Department of Health, do you have some indication about
risks about the health? And does anybody of you know something about the solution which we
500 are facing?

M. JOCELIN DUFRESNE

505 Yes, we have some data concerning drinking water. So, I'm just looking for it. What we can observe in the Nunavik region is that it's the impossibility of putting in place an aqueduct network due to the permafrost, it's a major factor; the dispersion of villages and the distribution by tank trucks using surface water or water from a reservoir. It concerns the question of the students and how we distribute the water and what is the quality of this water.

510 In the Kativik sector, the water is chlorinated in most villages, in 11 of them. And the distribution in effect presents a high risk of contamination due to a large number of intermediaries from the reservoir to the trucks, to the private houses.

515 And we have a table here illustrating data from 1998 concerning the samples of drinking water collected in each community. The first column represents the number of samples collected. The second one represents the number of samples analyzed which are conform to the process and the results of these samples. In the last column, we have the results in percentage of samples that have been contaminated in each of the village.

520 What we observe is a difference, quite a difference between some villages that have a very low percentage of contaminated samples to villages that have a quite high percentage of samples contaminated.

525 I asked Josée Brazeau to explain the way the water is distributed to the houses and maybe some more specific information on this process.

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

530 I will try my best to answer the questions and if I missed something, just tell me, O.K.?

535 Basically the raw water from the lakes are of pretty good quality. The water in each community is analyzed once a year or twice a year, depending on the population of the community. That is the physical chemical analysis of the raw water. So, basically it's of good quality.

540 So, the next thing is the treatment of the water. The water is only chlorinated. So, there's no filter or thing like that. It's just chlorinated. The students asked if it was cleaned before getting to the houses. It's only chlorinated. There's no filtration or other treatment other than that.

They also asked if they have to boil the water...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

545 And why do you chlorinate it?

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

550 It's to eliminate the coliforms from the water. The chlorination is not eliminating other parasites or something like that. It's only the contamination that comes from coliforms.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

555 But Mr. Adams was telling you before that there is a cheaper way to do. Is that right? Is it the cheaper way?

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

560 I don't understand...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE

Il disait que c'était la solution la moins coûteuse, la chlorination.

565 **MME JOSÉE BRAZEAU**

Probably. It's probably the least expensive treatment. When we talk about filtration, you have more cost to the treatment.

570 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Okay.

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

575

For the distribution of water, I can understand their worries about the contamination from the trucks and from the tanks in the houses. But generally the contamination comes either from the truck or the tanks in the houses that have not been cleaned as often as it should be.

580

So, the water can be drank directly from the tap. If there's some contamination, the technicians that work here know about it. So, they must emit a notice to boil the water. Other than that, they can drink the water quite safely. So, they don't have to boil the water each time.

585

They say it tastes bad, I can understand that. It's a question of taste. So, it's hard to eliminate that factor from the water.

The most important thing, I think, is that the tanks in the houses are cleaned regularly. The contamination comes from there, because the raw water, it's of good quality.

590

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

So, the raw water is good, but the drinkable water, sometimes you have problems with it?

595

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

Yes.

600

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

In the point of view of health, Doctor Déry, do we have a big health concern about drinkable water?

605

MR. SERGE DÉRY

First, I would like to ask the regional experts about the drinking water sampling that are sitting at the... like Tommy Grey and Minnie, I think they can tell us first the process, how it is sampled, because I met with these people a few weeks ago and these are the people who know about the system.

610

So, can we have just first how it works and, I would say, the percentage of sampling that we have?

615

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Okay, yes.

620

MR. SERGE DÉRY

Before going to the health aspects that we can document.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

625

Yes, yes. And if you want to come back, Mr. Adams, it will be easier. Maybe you have sub-questions on the questions you asked before. You can come and sit there and we shall have a real exchange.

630

MR. SAMMY TUKKIAPIK

Hi! My name is Sammy Tukkiapik. I work for KRG, I'm a environmental technician. I haven't been on that job that long, but I can already see that there could be improvements made about testing the water that people drink up north.

635 Like first thing I saw not too long ago is this IDICS, innovators in diagnostics. The Crees Indians already use this diagnostic testing system there. So, one of the questions was that why are we still using these water sampling bottles that we're sending down from up the coast when they can get the test results the very next day, 18 to 24 hours when they can get it? This was one of the questions that I wanted to bring up.

640

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Do you have an answer to that? He's asking why don't you use this way of checking water in...

645

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

650 The system that he's talking about I know quite well. So, it's called Colilert. And they cannot use it for now for testing their water, because the regulation does not permit that kind of analysis, because drinking water analysis must be done by an accredited laboratory. And the Ministry cannot accredit a sampling method or an analysis method. So, for now, the drinking water has to be analyzed by the laboratory down south.

655 I know that it causes problems, because we often have problems of transportation. And I know that this system would be good, because it would solve some of the transportation problems. But for now, it cannot be used, because the regulation does not permit to use it.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

660 Does the alternative method seem to you better than the one you're using now?

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

665 No. The methods, we can compare them and they both give good results. It's a good method, it's simple to use. But like I said, the method for now cannot be accredited.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

670 In the project of the new regulation, will that method be also accepted?

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

675 I know that the new regulation gives place to that kind of method. So, I don't know, in a couple of months, couple of years...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

You don't know when?

680 **MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU**

No, I don't know when. The regulation has to be changed before we can use that method.

685 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Yes, but there is a provision on this side?

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

690 Yes.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

695 Mr. Adams?

MR. JOHNNY ADAMS

700 Just a quick question. The Crees, is it because they're on federal reserves that they're able to have different types of regulations to monitor their own drinking water on a daily basis if need be?

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

705 Yes. It's the main reason why they can use that method, because the regulation about drinking water does not apply on Category 1 land on the Cree communities. So, that's why they can use that method to analyze their drinking water.

710 Here, the drinking water regulation is applied. So, that's why... it's the main difference. The Crees can use it because the regulation about drinking water does not apply on their land.

MR. JOHNNY ADAMS

715 But do you agree that it takes way too long to get the results for communities or water samples being lost in transport?

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

720 Yes, I agree that there is a problem. But I don't want to say that Colilert... Colilert will solve some of the problems, but it can also bring some other problems, because there's a training involved. We're talking about the Crees, it took over a year to implement the new methods and we still are doing the regular method of analysis along with Colilert. So, it takes a while before we can do it safely.

725 **MR. JOHNNY ADAMS**

730 Yes, just a point. We're always looking forward to train our people on new methods and new techniques. So, we welcome any types of training that are going to give our people more autonomy to look after themselves.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

735 Thank you on that. But you did understand, Mr. Adams, that there will be a change in the regulation and these new techniques will be available also, okay?

Yes, Madam.

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

740 I would like to add something. Mr. Adams, you talked about chlorine that can cause cancer. I just want to precise something, that we hear about chlorinated water than can cause cancer, but I want to add that it's the «organochlorés». I don't know how to say it in English, but it's a composite of chlorine and organic matter that can cause trouble with... you know. It's not only the chlorine in the water. It has to be combined with something else like organic

745 matter. And your raw water is very poor in organic matter. So, it's less probable that the composite will form in your water. I just wanted to precise.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

750 Maybe it will be safer, because it's a quite an important question, that you tell it in French and Mr. O'Neill will translate, because I think it's important.

MME JOSÉE BRAZEAU

755 On a entendu beaucoup parler que, bon, le chlore dans l'eau pourrait causer le cancer à long terme. Il faut comprendre que c'est les organochlorés qui... on pense que ce serait ces composés-là qui pourraient éventuellement causer le cancer.

760 Les eaux ici sont très pauvres en matières organiques. Et c'est le chlore qui s'associe avec les matières organiques, qui cause ce qu'on appelle les trihalométhanes, entre autres. Ce qu'il faut comprendre, c'est juste que le chlore est associé aux matières organiques et c'est ce qu'on pense qui pourrait causer le cancer à long terme.

M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE

765 C'est ça. Et comme la quantité de matières organiques est...

MME JOSÉE BRAZEAU

770 Très faible.

M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE

775 ... est faible, est très faible, l'éventualité de création, entre autres, de trichlorométhanes est plus incertaine?

MME JOSÉE BRAZEAU

780 C'est moins probable, c'est ça.

MR. MICHAEL O'NEILL

785 This is important as it would be with water that has many much organic matter in suspension which causes the creation of trichloromethane which contributes to these health hazards. Is that pretty well right, Josée?

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

It's mostly a south problem than a north problem...

790

MR. MICHAEL O'NEILL

It's a south problem, yes.

795

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

... as we understand.

MR. MICHAEL O'NEILL

800

Yes.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

805

Yes?

MR. JOHNNY ADAMS

I've got a specific question for you again, Josée. Would quantity matter? Like you said it's not a concern of north, but would the amount of chlorine that's being put into the water have an effect on the amounts like, for instance, that have been mixed with the water?

810

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

I don't know if the amount of chlorine... how much amount is dangerous. I cannot answer that, I don't know. Maybe...

815

MR. JOHNNY ADAMS

Because it sometimes varies from community to community as to how much they're adding on to the water.

820

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Do you have any precise condition in which the chlorine is added to the water? How can you check the amount of chlorine put in the water?

825

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

830 I know that there must be a way of... I know that there's a method to analyze the chlorine that is still in the water when you put it in the reservoir. Like there's a small kit, I think that Minnie and Sammy know about it. At the water plant, they must have that small kit. But I can check to let you know how much, is there a limit in the chlorine that we can put in the water? I can check for that.

835

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Mrs. Bélanger at the back wants to speak I think.

840

MRS. MICHÈLE BÉLANGER

845 It's not the chlorine itself, it's the byproducts of chlorine that cause the THM. And I don't know if you have data on it, at the Ministry of Environment, the THM here. And that's what could cause some risk of colon cancer. But I don't know what are the data here. But it's the byproducts. That, you have to understand. The chlorine, it's good, because... well, it kills germs and things like that. But the byproducts, when the turbidity or «matières organiques»...

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

850

Organic matter.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Organic matter.

855

MRS. MICHÈLE BÉLANGER

... organic matter that could cause THM to go high. I don't know if you understand what I'm trying to explain to you.

860

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Yes. But the second question Mr. Adams asked is if there is a limit about the chlorine itself.

865

MRS. MICHÈLE BÉLANGER

The chlorine itself...

870

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

If you drink too much, you will drink Javel water.

MRS. MICHÈLE BÉLANGER

875

Anyways, you should put enough to kill the germs. I don't know what is the right...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

880

But there is no specific disease related to the chlorine itself?

MRS. MICHÈLE BÉLANGER

885

Byproducts of chlorine.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

No? Okay.

890

MR. TOMMY GREY, KEAC Chairman

Paul, if you can come up and tell us, let's say, for example for Kuujjuaq alone, how much chlorine mix you put to the water before you put it in the reservoir before being pumped by a water truck? Or you or John can give us the information?

895

MR. JOHNNY ADAMS

Just another observation. Through the municipality over the years, we get a lot of, I guess, notices to boil during the spring time when there's a lot of caribou migration going on, when there's a lot of activities in the lakes. This is when we see a lot of fecal and coliform numbers going way, way up.

900

MR. TOMMY GREY, KEAC Chairman

905

How many gallons a day?

MR. PAUL GORDON

910 When I do my readings, I can't say offhand, I will have to look it up in my books. But we use about... through a year, we'll use about, say, six barrels a year of chlorine which is... I can't put it down to my size with the books. So, I can't really answer that right now.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

915 Six barrels of which quantity for each?

MR. PAUL GORDON

920 It's 45-gallon barrels. So, in a week, we would use about, say, 60 liters or less. I can't really say it offhand.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

925 Okay.

MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner

930 Does this quantity tell you that it's very dangerous or just a little bit dangerous drinking chlorine? Ce que je demande, c'est si cette quantité que monsieur vient de nous décrire de 45 gallons multipliés par six barils par année... alors, par année, six barils de 45 gallons chacun, est-ce qu'une telle quantité est dangereuse? Is such a quantity dangerous for health?

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

935 I don't know. I really don't know the level of chlorine that could be dangerous.

MR. SERGE DÉRY

940 I think one thing that we have to consider is the total volume of water which...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Naturally.

945 **MR. SERGE DÉRY**

... the dilution solution.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

950

Naturally.

MR. SERGE DÉRY

955

So, maybe that quantity in Kuujuaq for the whole people here, it's not too much, but it will be too much for Opaluk where this very few people. So, I think the report with the total amount of water that is transported will have to be made before saying it's dangerous or not.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

960

And do we have any idea of the quantity of the drinkable water used in the community here? We don't? Do you have these kinds of statistics? No?

You want to speak? Yes.

965

MRS. MINNIE ABRAHAM

970

My name is Minnie Abraham. I'm one of the new environment technicians and I was still learning about this environmental technician since June. And I've been going through a lot of problems and also I've been receiving a lot of complaints from other communities for the lack of receiving bottles and T-forms after ordering. And they take a long time to come up here. Is there a way to make them rush or urgent requests?

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

975

We already asked the lab in Québec how do they send the bottles up here. And we have the same problem, it's that they're using the most rapid transportation possible. So, we have no control over... we know when the bottles leave Québec but, in between, everything can happen. So, because it transported from Québec, it has to be transported to the airport and by plane. It must be switching plane somewhere. Sometimes the bottle get stuck somewhere and we have very little control over the transportation. We are doing our best, but it's the mail, it's plane, bad weather. So, we're doing our best, but it's a very hard thing to control.

980

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

985

But do you have a chart? Est-ce que vous avez un système de contrôle des délais dans lesquels c'est fait qui vous permettrait d'identifier les causes des retards? On va traduire la question.

990

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

No.

995 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

No?

1000 **MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU**

No.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1005 Okay.

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

1010 The only thing that I can say is we know... like for the T-forms, they're made in Rouyn. We know when they leave. It takes a couple of days, sometimes a week or two to get here.

For the bottles, they're coming from Québec City and they're sent to each community. So, it's hard to control.

1015 For the T-forms, that's the sheet that they have to write down the place that they take the sample and everything. That's easy. We make the T-forms in Rouyn and they are sent, all of them, to Kuujuaq. And from Kuujuaq, they send the copies to all the communities.

1020 For the bottles, I order the bottles or Minnie or Sammy order the bottles in Québec, but they are sent to each community. So, it's hard to control. But it's been a problem, I know that it's been a problem. But I've been at the regional office for two years and it's been a problem for the last six months. Before that, I never heard about a problem. I know it always existed, but I don't think it was as much or they didn't complain about it.

1025 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Do you agree, gentlemen and ladies, we will take a ten-minute break and after that we start again?

1030 (SUSPENSION DE LA SÉANCE)

(REPRISE DE LA SÉANCE)

1035 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

I will receive your question, Madam, and after you, before the next person, I will go back to a few questions Mr. Adams asked and they are important, I think, about funding and about what he calls the piping system to the houses. We will have information about that.

1040 But you are there, Madam, would you ask your question please?

MRS. MINNIE ABRAHAM

1045 My next question is we have lack of receiving results from Val D'Or for Hudson coast. Starting from Salluit to Kuujjuarapik, we get results from Val D'Or. And instead of receiving them by fax, we receive them by mail which is another week to wait.

1050 And I've been receiving phone calls for the lack of receiving results from Val D'Or. So, I would like to make another request to make sure, for the next results to receive, instead of mail them, please fax them. That's my other comment.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1055 Yes. About your comments, do you have a short list of fax of every community? Would it be possible to use it?

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

1060 The procedure is supposed to be... the results are supposed to be faxed to each community. I will talk with the lab in Val D'Or to make sure that they follow the procedure.

1065 But I think it's a bit of a misunderstanding, because if the water is contaminated, they will fax immediately the results. If the water is good, that's why they send the results by mail. But if you want to receive them by fax, either contaminated or not, I will tell the lab in Val D'Or, no problem.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1070 The principle is no news, good news!

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

That's it.

1075 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Okay.

MRS. MINNIE ABRAHAM

1080

It would be a good idea to receive them by fax instead of receiving them by mail. It takes a while for me to do the reports.

1085

And also for the mailing for the bottles, sampling bottles, how do they ship them? Is it by first-class or fourth class?

MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU

1090

I don't know. I will have to check with Mr. Beaumont in the lab in Québec.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Okay.

1095

MRS. MINNIE ABRAHAM

Thank you. I have no more further questions.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1100

Thank you, Madam.

Yes, you can come, but you will wait a few minutes, because I want to have answers to two questions Mr. Adams asked.

1105

First of all, do you have, people here, some information about what Mr. Adams said about the funding for the plan or the... Yes, sir.

MR. DANIEL GAUDREAU

1110

About the question of Mr. Adams for the implementation of the master plan, the Ministry of municipalities is very concerned about that. And Mr. Adams sent to Madame Harel last spring, the 30th of April, a request for the implementation of the master plan.

1115

Actually, we search with the other ministries in the government of Québec to find money to implement the master plan. And we expect, in one or two months, to have a favorable response about your request to find money to implement the master plan.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1120

Mr. Adams also asked why don't you put a piping system to the houses? We do have a system by transportation of water by trucks from the lake. Did you have any research on the alternative solution like installing piping from the source to the houses?

1125 **MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS**

Since, I would say, 1980, the government of Québec, through the Municipal Affairs, financed many improvements in northern villages for municipal infrastructures, particularly in the drinking water and the waste water. And this improvement is coming gradually.

1130

Before the 1980s, all villages, they took their water in the rivers and the lakes directly with the trucks and there was nothing else. And there was no big tanks or pipes inside the houses. Now, they got everything in those things.

1135

But for, I would say, the water supply, now almost each village, they now have a water supply system that takes the water into the lake or the river with a pipe, and this water comes through the village in what we call a distribution system for trucks. And from that place, from the lake to inside the village, now the trucks, they take the water and they deliver in each house. It's an improvement.

1140

So, for the pipes, where we are now, from the lake to the village, for 13 villages, the problem has been solved.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1145

Okay.

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

1150

So, from now, we have to solve the other part of the system. And recently the government put another \$45, 000, 000 for a new program to pursue the improvement. And from this \$45, 000, 000, at this point, at least half of it, \$22, 500, 000 are for drinking water and waste water to solve problems in those things.

1155 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

In which communities? In the communities of the north or in all Québec?

1160 **MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS**

No, no, only for the 14 communities of the north.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1165 Okay. Is it a published document?

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

Pardon me?

1170 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Is it written on a public document, documentation?

1175 **MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS**

Yes.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1180 Yes?

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

1185 Yes.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

It's on a report?

1190 **MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS**

Yes. And...

1195 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Would give me the report please?

1200 **MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS**

Oh yes. We have things about that.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1205 Do you know this kind... no, you don't know. So, you will...

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

Because the program is really new.

1210

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Yes.

1215 **MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS**

And this new program, it's different from the one that was before.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1220

Wonderful.

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

1225 And this program will be managed by the KRG, Okay? So, it means that they will define their own priorities and they will allocate, will choose themselves the kind of project they want to realize with those \$45, 000, 000.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1230

It's a public paper?

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

1235 Yes.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Yes? So, you will give me a copy of that?

1240

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

Yes.

1245

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

And I will be very happy to give also a copy to my friend, Mr. Grey.

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

1250

Okay. So, it's a five-year plan.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1255

Wonderful!

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

Thank you.

1260

MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner

If I may, Mr. Chairman. Did some of you, ladies and gentlemen in the ministries that are there, have ever studied the possibility of having wells here? I think we are in continuous permafrost or maybe a little part of the area is discontinuous permafrost. But is there possibility in your mind to find ground water and maybe look if it's possible to make this technique more available? And the cost maybe for the first time is very high, but at last maybe it could be less expensive for people and for the government. Is this a possibility or if it is an utopia? Because I swear, I heard somebody this morning telling me that there is here in Kuujuaq two or three wells. So, did you hear about this?

1265

1270

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

We're mostly involved in financing projects than finding solutions. But what I can say, here in Kuujuaq at the KRG, there are some engineers that can answer this question, I think, if they are still here, because I think there's a problem with the underground water, to find some.

1275

MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner

1280

Yes.

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

1285 But maybe they have some answer to this, I don't know.

MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner

1290 Is there somebody here in the room...

MR. TOMMY GREY, CCEK Chairman

Yes, there's an engineer down the back.

1295 **MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner**

Yes?

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

1300 This is the man.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1305 Because a professor in the University of Québec in Chicoutimi gave us articles and research articles on these topics about wells in the permafrost regions. So, I think it's an important documentation, it is in the documentation of the Commission now. And maybe there is a way, not for the year now, but in the short or long range of time to find new solutions in this way.

1310 Do you remember the name of the professor, Gisèle? Do you know? Professeur Rouleau?

MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner

1315 Professeur Rouleau.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1320 Professeur Rouleau.

MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner

From Chicoutimi, the University of Québec in Chicoutimi.

1325

I think he worked with Mr. Hamelin from the Université Laval for a while.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1330

Gentleman?

MR. JEAN ROBITAILLE

1335

Yes. My name is Jean Robitaille, I'm an engineer at the KRG. It is true that there's wells in town. There's private people who are actually drilling wells, like five at least I think. And they found water underground. And they are on their own, they pay for everything, all the drilling equipment, and the time, and everything. And I found them very brave, you know, to try a new technology on their own. They're going to dig, they're going to drill. They find water, they pump it.

1340

Now, they are sending some samples to be tested, to see if it's very safe. And they're going to try to pump the water out of this, even in the winter time. But it's only private persons who do that right now.

1345

MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner

And do you know if, in wintertime, there is... je veux dire, des inquiétudes probably that it could be frozen, the pipes and also the water?

1350

MR. JEAN ROBITAILLE

Yes. That's the main concern, I think, from those guys. It's the permafrost layer that they dig through might cause a problem, but they have a heat... I cannot say heat cable, but they will have a mean to solve the problem by keeping this part hot all the time. So, I have two questions related that.

1355

One is it seems that in your report there's a very big problem, concern about the permafrost for piping system. But in Northwest Territories there is piping system in towns. Like in Iqualuit, you have a piping system to each house. It's delivered through pipes and it's in permafrost. You have that in Iqualuit right now and it's working.

1360

I know it's expensive but, you know, the people there are Canadian. I'm Canadian and if it works there, it works here. And the technology, it's there already. And I think it's 4,000 people in Iqualuit and they have this system. And I'm sure it's existing elsewhere in Baffin Island too. So, this is one thing.

1365

The second thing is we have some strange laws that we have to fight all the time and it's giving us a real problem. We're constantly fighting against the cold, because we're...

1370 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Yes.

MR. JEAN ROBITAILLE

1375

We fight the cold all the time. The water, the problem with it, if it freezes, you're stuck. You have no more pipe, the water is like a block of ice and you need to wait the spring and then the summer so the ice and the pipe will thaw.

1380

So, the way to fight that, you could have the water moving all the time; that's what we do. You could heat the water; that's what we do. But if all those things fail, you need to rely on heat cable, okay? That's a small cable that runs around the pipe, and you switch the cable on and the pipe will thaw, and the water will start again flowing.

1385

The problem is for a town like Kangirsuk, it's 45 kilowatts of electricity which is mainly ten stoves, house stoves. The capacity of my heat cable is equivalent of ten stoves, which is not much. But Hydro-Québec said all the time, «You are not allowed to use these heat cables, period! because it's a mean of heating the water and it's against the law.» That's the regulation from Hydro.

1390

And we have a problem with that, because we think the law was meant to take into account the hot water inside the house. It's normal to heat the hot water with oil and not with electricity. Like in Montreal, I have an electric hot water, because the electricity came from a turbine, from water. But here if I use the electricity from a hot water heater to heat my water, this electricity came from the Hydro-Québec plants which is produced by a generator, okay? And the output of the generator is 40 %. I use one gallon of oil and I'm going to lost 40 % in heat to generate electricity that I will use to heat my water, which is completely ridiculous. You're going to need a lot of oil and you're going to need more tank. So, I understand that law for the hot water heater.

1400

But for a small heat cable, it makes no sense to say, «You cannot heat your water with a heat cable, it's against the law.» So, what we have to do, we have to equip all our water plants with generator, so the generator will produce the electricity for our cables, okay? And this is costly. The generator, it's the emergency system and if it fails, I want to be able to use Hydro-Québec electricity. I won't put the Hydro-Québec plants down because I use 45 kilowatts of electricity.

1405

So, each time we present our project, we have to hide to Hydro the fact that, you know, the electricity... at the end, we're going to use Hydro-Québec electricity no matter what,

1410 because it's more important for the population to have a water plant that works in the
wintertime than to have Hydro-Québec being mad at us. So, that's my other question.

And my third question is related to the answer from Ministère des Affaires Municipales.

1415 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

I thought that your first question and your second question were the same.

MR. JEAN ROBITAILLE

1420

Yes. Okay.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1425 And for this question, there is nobody here from Hydro-Québec today. They will be
tomorrow. So, we shall ask this question to the representative of Hydro-Quebec. It's a
significant question I think.

Your second question to the ministère des Affaires municipales?

1430

MR. JEAN ROBITAILLE

1435 My third question is related to all our infrastructure projects. It's true that we have a
program that allows the Kativik Regional Government to build for the municipalities some water
plants and there will be \$45, 000, 000 also. But my question, is there out of this \$45, 000,
000... or when we're going to build those water plants, or sewage treatment, or whatever the
program allows us to do, is there going to be an amount to maintain those facilities?

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1440

You want to know if there is a provision for that?

MR. JEAN ROBITAILLE

1445 Yes, because if I build a \$6, 000, 000 water plant and the people, they... usually what they said, they said, «Well, now it's yours, work with it», you know?

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1450 Yes.

MR. JEAN ROBITAILLE

1455 But it costs money to...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1460 It is a rule of law everywhere, the government pays for the investment and, after that, it belongs to you to ensure the continuity or the permanence of these equipments.

MR. JEAN ROBITAILLE

1465 Yes. Everywhere else we have a capacity to raise the tax to have the money back to pay for that. But here the taxation system is a little bit complex and it seems that we don't have this possibility.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1470 We shall ask the Minister of the Municipal Affairs about this. You did understand the question?

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

1475 Yes.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Do you have an answer?

1480 **MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS**

Maybe.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1485

Good!

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

1490

I'm not sure. There were two programs of infrastructure improvement. There's one that is about to end and there's the new program.

1495

In the previous program, there was money to take care of the new infrastructure after they were built. And for the new program, I can't answer to the question, because I'm not habilitated to answer. It's somebody else... it's another department in our Ministry and there is no answer yet. But normally...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1500

But you can have the answer...

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

1505

No.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

... and give me the answer later on.

1510

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

Yes, but...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1515

Maybe you don't have the answer today...

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

1520

No.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

... but you're able to find the answer...

1525

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

Yes.

1530 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

... and to give us the answer about that?

1535 **MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS**

But maybe the answer might not come tomorrow.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1540 No, no, but it will come.

MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS

Okay.

1545

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1550 They want to maybe make a memoir later on in November. So, if you give us an answer for the 15th of September, it will be enough to help them to prepare their memoir. Is that right, sir? Yes.

Is that the question of your group? It was yours. Now, it's your time. Yes, sir.

1555 **MR. JOHNNY PETERS**

I'm Inuk. I'm going to speak Inuktitut, it's my language. And my name is Johnny Peters, I'm elected Executive of the Makivik Corporation representing all of the Nunavik population.

1560 One of my mandates of elected representative for Makivik Corporation is to oversee the wildlife resources in Nunavik and including the fisheries, and water, and rivers, and the lakes. And those are my basic duties to represent Inuit of Nunavik.

1565 One of my mandates and my responsibility is to work... we work with Kativik Regional Government and their environmental department. And since I was a very young boy and we used to witness the mining exploration come to the north and to explore possible mining in the territory, and we have witnessed over the years that, in the lakes, there are lots of mining debris and old drums, oils being left behind by the mining exploration in the territory. We have

1570 witnessed that they have killed all the resources, especially the fish that we heavily depended upon.

And if you were an environment person within the government of Québec, it is worthwhile to look into it. And you will see the very demand in working to clear it up.

1575 The other point is that we have tried to approach governments to see if they can be cleaned up and to try to get rid of all the debris, old drums, oils by the rivers and the lakes. And if you look at it closely, you will see there are very big work to be done. And we know that it's all of the communities in Nunavik, they have witnessed it. They have called for some kind of active action plan to take effect.

1580 And to date we have not been able to do so and I think it is appropriate for you to take note that this is a requirement that should be urgent.

1585 One of the main point is that in early years, we used to witness some people don't get sick as much as they do today, because of all these debris and old barrels left behind the mining explorations.

1590 And I think that we should take a note that this kind of health hazard present in our territory should be looked at very carefully and immediately so that the environment should be left the way it was and is not the same anymore as it used to be.

1595 The last point is that you have made available of the long copies of the paper that you have present here. And in that, you say some water is very, very clean, and we witnessed that. But it's not really true anymore.

1600 If you want me to take part to clean up the environment, and we will do so, but as part of the people here in the north that we pay very high taxes, and those kind of taxes monies should be used to clean up. And I think that it seems like the government telling me that, «You clean up your mess. You clean up this mess and even though you pay very high taxes to the territory to the government.» And it seems like you're telling us that. So, I think that some kind of appropriate action should be taken to correct the measures. Thank you.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1605 Thank you. I think there are two main topics we must speak about. One is the mining sites. Mr. Adams also spoke about that before. And the other one is cleaning the environment and the lakes about these barrels and some things.

1610 Ministry of the Environment, do you have any action on these two topics please?

M. JOCELIN DUFRESNE

Concerning the cleaning of these sites, our department has now no program, no grant program to execute this cleaning. No, we don't have any program for that now.

1615

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

You don't?

1620

M. JOCELIN DUFRESNE

No.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1625

You don't. Will you have one?

M. JOCELIN DUFRESNE

1630

I don't know. It doesn't depend on us. It depends on the main authority, the minister, and the program that will be held in your department in the next years.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1635

But do you agree with the «intervenant» about the importance of this question for the environment in this region?

M. JOCELIN DUFRESNE

1640

We know that there are sites in the north that are contaminated with debris from mining exploration, things like that. We know that it exists, but we don't have any intervention. But I think that the «ministre»...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1645

The Ministry of Natural Resources, you did explain in previous meetings your plan about mining sites. Do you have any action on the sites in this part of the country?

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

1650

The program is for the exploitation sites, old mining exploitation sites...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1655 Yes.

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

... especially those when the owner has disappeared.

1660

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Yes.

1665

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

So, the government...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1670

Orphans?

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

1675

Yes, orphan sites, they took a lot of those sites and invest millions of dollars in the restoration of those sites. That was the major problems and, I think, at this time also the most dangerous problem.

As we said earlier, I think the program is complete to about 70 % and we hope to finish the cleaning in a few years, but...

1680

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

And do you know if these sites are on the Nunavik territory?

1685

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

No. Most of sites that I'm talking about are...

1690

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

South.

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

1695

In the south, oui.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1700 Okay.

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

1705 One thing I know, I think is when the Raglan mine established itself at the upward, well, they cleaned the site. There was some kind of an «entente»...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1710 Agreement.

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

1715 ... an agreement and they cleaned the site of the earlier exploration debris that were left and they got the installation.

1720 We also have some kind of a gentleman agreement with the Raglan mining and the other company that owns the Asbestos mine. So, they use the old port infrastructure but, in exchange, they accept to clean the old mining sites. I think it's about what we've done in this area.

1725 For the exploration site, we don't have that kind of program to clean the site after the exploration is finished. But in recent years, we encouraged the company who does the exploration to clean up the site after the exploration is finished. But for what was done since...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1730 But do you have any regulation to force them to make a clean job when they are making explorations?

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

1735 I couldn't answer for that. I know that there is some kind of «réglementation» for the mining site to have a restoration plan and to put money, so to be sure that they have money to restore the work after the mining is closed. But for the exploration, I don't know exactly what is... if there is some exigence.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1740 Okay.

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

But I could ask the question and try to answer you tomorrow.

1745 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Please.

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

1750

Okay?

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1755

Please.

Mr. Dufresne, I cut you before. You wanted to explain more maybe on the barrels and the...

M. JOCELIN DUFRESNE

1760

No. I just want to add that the evaluation process of all new projects in the north, the promoters are submitted to deposit a plan to clean the sites during the construction, the operation of the project. And if they cease the operation, they are obliged to clean the sites before leaving. It's new, but we can't intervene for what we had in the years before. But now it's natural, it's an obligation in every project. So, it's an improvement of this issue.

1765

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Do you have any questions on that? No? No more questions.

1770

Yes, Mr. Adams.

MR. JOHNNY ADAMS

Yes. I had a specific question for MNR, if they do any... you give the permits for the exploration companies and I'm just wondering if you do any follow-up after they finish from that site. You give the permit, but do you do a follow-up and go to the site after they've finished their exploration?

1775

1780

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

I don't think that we had a follow-up after the exploration is finished, but I will check tomorrow morning to be sure.

1785 **MR. JOHNNY ADAMS**

As far as we're at KRG, there is never any follow-up on the permits they give to exploration companies. And as far as we know at KRG, there is no program for environment to clean up in our region.

1790

He mentioned down south, but there is not a penny that we've received for cleaning up from MNR. And, in fact, Makivik Corporation, the ethnic body that represents the Inuit, has spent some of their own money to do their clean up. That's why we've been asking that KRG be delegated to give out the permits, so we can do a proper follow-up, because it's just... the problem is just getting bigger without any follow-up.

1795

It's easy to give permits when you're in Québec City, but you don't come up here to do a follow-up. There's something not correct here and it has to be changed.

1800 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Yes. For the new projects of the minings, the promoter is obliged to have a plan to clean the site after use, is that right?

1805

Yes, sir.

MR. ROBERT LANARI

1810 Je suis Robert Lanari avec la Société Makivik. There's a difference between exploitation like Raglan. They need a closure plan of course...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1815

Yes.

MR. ROBERT LANARI

... but it is an ongoing mine. But the issue here we've been dealing with for the past few years, of which we've spent \$225, 000 to clean sites in the past three years...

1820

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

How many?

1825

MR. ROBERT LANARI

\$225, 000.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1830

Yes.

MR. ROBERT LANARI

1835

We spent.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

On many sites?

1840

MR. ROBERT LANARI

On cleaning sites. It's exploration sites.

1845

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Okay.

MR. ROBERT LANARI

1850

They're not mining sites, they're exploring sites.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1855

Exploration sites.

MR. ROBERT LANARI

1860 The mining companies have been coming in Nunavik since the 1950s. They do their exploration and they leave their garbage behind.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1865 Yes.

MR. ROBERT LANARI

1870 What I mean garbage, I mean we found bulldozers, trucks and all sorts of contaminants, acids that they use, you know, to see what type of mineral that they find. So, they leave everything behind.

It's everywhere in the territory. It's contaminating animals, it's contaminating waters...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1875 Okay.

MR. ROBERT LANARI

1880 ... rivers and lakes.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1885 Do you have any indication about the numbers of these kinds of sites? Do you have a report on the facts? Est-ce que vous avez des relevés sur les faits, sur le nombre de sites en question? Est-ce qu'il y a une documentation là-dessus?

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

1890 I don't think we have, but I will check and I hope to have an answer for tomorrow morning.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1895 Okay. Yes?

MR. ROBERT LANARI

Monsieur le Président, in fact, we're doing just that right now.

1900

M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE

Vous êtes en train de faire l'inventaire?

1905

M. ROBERT LANARI

Oui.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1910

You're doing the inventory.

MR. ROBERT LANARI

1915

We're doing the inventory. We have a project with Université Laval, with le GETIC, docteur Gérard Duhaime...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1920

Oh yes.

MR. ROBERT LANARI

1925

... Université Laval. We did a pilot project this summer and we want to identify all the sites by satellite.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Oh!

1930

MR. ROBERT LANARI

And we've done a pilot project. We should have the result within the next few weeks...

1935

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Okay.

MR. ROBERT LANARI

1940

... to see if the system works.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1945

Mr. Meunier, don't look for that, they are doing the job.

MR. JOHNNY ADAMS

We have no choice but to resort to this...

1950

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Yes.

1955

MR. JOHNNY ADAMS

... because the government is not doing what they're supposed to do. So...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1960

Yes. Great!

MR. ROBERT LANARI

1965

And just to add on this, we were told by the government, Environment and Natural Resources, they don't have any programs for cleaning up. Basically what we're saying, we're coming with a proposal...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1970

Yes.

MR. ROBERT LANARI

1975

... asking for money to clean up. So, they should get a program together soon, because our request is coming.

MR. CLAUDE ABEL, CCEK Commissioner

1980 Just for the understanding, there is a program for new sites or new exploration companies that they have now to clean up after their exploration. But what you're talking about, it's old...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

1985 No, I'm not sure of that. They are obliged to clean after a mining site. Exploration sites, are they? I'm not sure.

MR. ROBERT LANARI

1990 Anyway, if there are rules or regulations, there's no follow-up.

MR. CLAUDE ABEL, CCEK Commissioner

1995 Yes, because you're talking about the follow-up of those...

MR. ROBERT LANARI

2000 Yes.

MR. CLAUDE ABEL, CCEK Commissioner

... after those permits are emitted.

MR. ROBERT LANARI

2005 Yes. We're not trying to say... I know that SOQUEM, for example, is doing some exploration right now and it looks like... the information that we have, they're doing a good job, they're cleaning up behind them. Good! But not all the companies are doing that.

2010 But our problem is that whatever the rules and regulations that exist today, it's that many of the companies that were exploring in the 1950s and in the 1960s...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2015 Yes.

MR. ROBERT LANARI

2020 ... they're far gone. Some of them don't even exist anymore. And even if they do, they were not submitted to the new rules and regulations of today. So, they're not responsible.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2025 You can consider them like orphan mining sites.

MR. ROBERT LANARI

2030 Yes, yes.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Okay.

2035 **MR. JOHNNY ADAMS**

And for me, I don't want to be too pessimistic either, but for the present time, MNR, after they've done exploration, has done a clean up job using local resources to do the work and the moving of the sites. That's for MNR. But then again, there's no follow-up on the other private companies or junior companies that are doing work around here.

2040 So, to be fair, MNR and SOQUEM have involved Makivik Corporation and tried to use local resources. So, I have to give them credit for that, where credit is due. But the other part is still deficient.

2045

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Credit on both sides.

Yes, sir, do you want to speak? Yes?

2050

MR. MARK GORDON

2055 Yes. My name is Mark Gordon, Vice-President Makivik. Obviously, when we talk about water management or how it's used or not used, we have concerns at Makivik since we're representing Inuit people. And as one of the signatories of the James Bay Agreement, there are certain rules and steps and procedures that had to be followed when anything happens in the territory north of the 55th.

2060 What's good to see, that there's members from the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee sitting here. But what we want to know is that in the specific chapter 23 of the

James Bay Agreement, it foresees that this advisory committee would be used at any government level. So, we want to know at what point they're going to be involved, if they're going to be involved at all.

2065 I know that they're sitting with you today, but what role are they going to play in this hearings, the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee?

MR. CLAUDE ABEL, CCEK Commissioner

2070 The committee is here to co-host this commission. Our role as the committee is first to understand maybe what the committee is. The committee is an advisory committee and the committee is composed of three members from the Federal, Provincial and Inuit parties.

2075 I think that our role here is also to help this commission to set what is the major concern about people up north to this 55th parallel, all Inuit people. We are here also to hear what are the concerns of the population. We will also be part of making the report of this commission.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2080 You must understand that there is a board of mix committees here. One is the Environmental Committee of Kativik. You know this committee quite well. And for my part, I'm responsible of the Commission of the Bureau d'audiences publiques of the environment about the policy of water.

2085 So, in this commission, water commission, we have the mandate to consult all the population. So, we did agree with the Environmental Kativik Committee that for consulting for the Nunavik territory, it was better to do the job together. But there is no confusion between the committees. Your Committee Kativik is still also a Kativik Committee and we are still a commission of the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement.

2090 But naturally, when we will make the report, when we speak about this territory, about the Nunavik, we will work together with the Environmental Kativik Committee to make recommendations or to take advise from what you're telling us now. So, it's the reason why we think that it was a good strategy to consult you with the contribution of the Environmental
2095 Kativik Committee. Is that clear in the working together?

MR. MARK GORDON

2100 Yes. Well, our concern is that we want to make sure that this advisory committee is used to the full extent possible.

2105 My other question was, you have hearings in Kuujuaq and Kuujuarapik, but from what I believe, our main presentation that we will be giving will be in Radisson and why? Why in Radisson?

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2110 Yes, yes. Why Radisson? Because we are going all through the territory for the 17 regions. We must take place, we decided Radisson, why not Radisson and why not another one? But we did agree this morning with Mr. Grey that if you want to present your memoir in Montreal, or in Québec City, or anywhere else we are suppose to go, you can do it.

2115 I understand that Radisson is not a very good place for you here, but I was obliged to decide to be somewhere in the region 17. I decided to be in Radisson. But if it is better for you, for the presenting a memoir, to come in Montreal or to come in Québec City, you're well welcome.

MR. MARK GORDON

2120 Okay. There has been discussions about creating heritage rivers in Québec and obviously Nunavik would be part of whatever process takes place. What is the status of the heritage rivers in Québec today? Is that foreseen that some of the rivers in Nunavik will be identified as heritage rivers?

2125 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

2130 Mr. Meunier, I think there is two things. One, there was a consultation about the heritage rivers. You have been consulted and the report of the consultation is public now and it's accessible. The report of the consultation. You don't understand?

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

2135 Yes. As for now, I wasn't aware that the report of the consultation was available.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Yes, it is, it is.

MR MARK GORDON

2140

We haven't seen it.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2145

Yes, yes. But the second report... les consultations sur les rivières patrimoniales, elles ont été faites et le rapport, lui, est public. Ce qui n'est pas public, c'est ensuite le document de travail, ou la décision, ou le plan.

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

2150

Okay. The analysis from the ministry is not available?

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2155

Yes.

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

2160

Okay, that's all right.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

But the consultation is available.

2165

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

Yes.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2170

There are two documents. The first one is already available which is the report on the consultation itself. But the ministry report, the decision on the heritage rivers, is not completed and is still in study at the ministry.

2175

MR. MARK GORDON

Yes. If those could be made available to us...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2180

But you want to know if the rivers of the north will be included in this policy?

MR. MARK GORDON

2185

Yes.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Yes. Could you answer to that?

2190

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

In that strategy, I would say that...

2195

M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE

Dites-moi le en français.

M. PAUL MEUNIER

2200

O.K.

M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE

2205

Après ça, on fera traduire. Ça va être plus simple.

M. PAUL MEUNIER

Le volet rivières du...

2210

M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE

Est-ce que des rivières patrimoniales concernent aussi les rivières de la région du Nunavik?

2215

M. PAUL MEUNIER

Normalement, oui.

2220 **M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

Oui.

2225 **M. PAUL MEUNIER**

Mais ceux qui pourraient répondre le plus à cette question sont les gens de Faune et Parcs qui avaient la gestion de ce programme-là. Le ministère anciennement, c'était le ministère de l'Environnement et de la Faune, ainsi que le ministère des Ressources Naturelles...

2230 **M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

Oui.

2235 **M. PAUL MEUNIER**

... qui étaient les deux promoteurs de cette consultation-là, se sont adjoints d'autres ministères, comme on vous l'a dit lors des récentes audiences.

2240 **M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

Oui.

2245 **M. PAUL MEUNIER**

Et puis le répondant pour la section rivières du patrimoine était... actuellement, ça c'était fourni par Québec. Donc, c'est eux autres qui pourraient aller le plus loin. Et puis c'est le contenu du rapport de consultation aussi qui pourrait nous renseigner sur l'extension qu'on veut donner au réseau, puis toutes ces choses-là.

2250 **M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

Mais il est prévu que les rivières du nord, du Nunavik seraient...

2255 **M. PAUL MEUNIER**

Il n'y avait rien d'exclu.

2260 **M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

Pouvez-vous traduire au moins pour la partie qui concerne les rivières du nord.

MR. MICHAEL O'NEILL

2265 The portion of the heritage rivers consultation tour that was done a few years ago by a joint working group formed of people from Parcs-Québec — I believe there's a representative of Natural Resources on that group and someone from the Department of Culture and Communications — did include Nunavik area within its study.

2270 However at this point in time, there is no definite recommendations that have been tabled in regards to the consultation tour that was done at that time.

 The leadership of that dossier rests with the Québec Parks Department at this time. And I believe one of the... just to complete on Paul Meunier's answer, I believe the person responsible at this present time or at that time was a fellow called Roch Allen, if I'm not mistaking.

2275

MR. MARK GORDON

2280 Obviously when we talk about water management, whether it be for dams or diversions of water to ship south or sending it by tanker, sending bulk water, we have concerns. As you know that, we have very limited economic opportunities in Northern Québec, very few. So, when there are talks of shipping bulk water south, you know, obviously we have to be consulted. Our people have to be consulted.

2285 We normally advise our people in our 14 villages to the events taking place when we speak with different government departments, whether it be federal or provincial, that we have to consult with our people about any major events that might take place, that will have an impact on their daily lives.

2290 As you know, we use the waters for transportation, hunting, fishing, for water consumption. So, water is something that has been accessible and needed here in this territory.

2295 So, when very large scale projects are talked about, obviously we had to be consulted, as we did back in 1975 which led to the signing of the James Bay Northern Québec Agreement, which was a diversion of the Caniapiscou and the damming of some of the rivers in the James Bay area.

2300 One case in point here as an example, maybe with Québec being involved, the oil tankers, they come to Kuujjuaq... I mention Kuujjuaq, because Kuujjuaq is inland about 30 miles. So that the tanker or any other cargo vessel ship has to come up a very narrow channel which is shallow at some points and with very high tides and currents and a fast river flow.

2305 If the tanker hits the bottom, it's going to contaminate, you know, all the area from here 30 miles downriver. So, what can we do to safeguard an event that might take place, that could be catastrophic for us and the water that we depend on?

2310 One solution that the mayor had mentioned was the building of a pipeline from this town to a point further south and further north in the river, so that it would be at a deep water port and any event like that would be avoided. So, would Québec be willing to take a look at proposals of making a pipeline from this community to a deep water port further down the river?

2315 That's just a comment I'm making. I'm sure it's going to be coming up in the near future. So, you could say that you heard it here as well as the comments we made to Bouchard directly.

2320 When we talk about using the rivers for transportation, obviously large scale projects, whether it be mine sites that take place in nearby communities, they have impacts on marine... I mean mammals in the area, whether it be seals or fish.

2325 Obviously, when we'll make our presentation in Radisson, if you don't change it, we will be including that in our brief.

2330 Once again, when I mentioned earlier bulk water shipments, today it may be just, you know, murmurs or whispers but, you know, who knows in 10 years, or 15 years, or 20 years from now, you know, it could be an actual fact. What would it do to our environment? I should know that we have many rivers that flow to the sea, whether it be Ungava Bay or Hudson's Bay. They all have effect on the temperature of the bays, the currents and the quantity of salt or fresh water in the system.

2335 And many of our people have already complained that with the diversion of the rivers that took place 25 years ago, it has changed the currents in Hudson's Bay and that the patterns of some of the animals that live in the areas, you know, had changed. So, when our people are relying on these animals as a livelihood, it is very important to us that we are consulted and protected because, you know, right now our food is very costly, everything is flown in, except for the brief two months of the year that we get sea lift and that we live in one of the costliest areas in Canada, if not, you know, one of the most, taking into account the taxes that we pay, 2340 since we pay both federal and provincial, whereas in other places, they pay only the federal, unless the new government will be charging a territorial tax.

2345 So, taking into account that where we live is very costly, and it was mentioned earlier in the day about the water quality as well, you know, about the different systems that are used to eventually put water in your house from the lake to the treatment center, from the treatment center to a truck, and then from a truck to the house, and that the house, you know, if the water tank is not cleaned on a regular basis, it's contaminated there, we use water pumps,

because we don't have a central pumping system, and every house has their own pump. Since it's mechanical, they rust and that's going to contaminate the water as well.

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So, there are a lot of areas where we have concerns about quality of drinking water at home. It's nice for you to go back to the suburb or the city where you live and you don't have to worry about it. The water comes out of the tap as by magic. Where we are, you know, our reservoirs at home are 250 gallons. If that runs out, then you have to wait until the next day before you get your water, where the septic tank is full and, you know, wait till next day before it's pumped out.

2355

We know that this system creates jobs, employment for the communities, but we feel that, you know, we could use a combination of both. I'm sure that, you know, if Québec does not have all the funds they need today, that they could do it in stages and not do everything at once.

2360

The final comment that I'm going to make about... what Johnny Peters was talking about was the mining, the old mining garbage that's been left in our land. And when Québec was trying to find out, you know, what they were doing about it and obviously nothing. And what will they do about it, I've got an answer for them. They're going to say that, «We'll get the money from Canada. We'll clean up the garbage that was left behind.» I mean that's what normally comes from today. Canada have a program where they cleaned up all military sites, other sites that were done years old in the Arctic.

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2370

But obviously us, we live in a province and we were exempted from that program completely until we made noise and said, «We're Inuit too, we live in Arctic area. We live in a province but, you know, don't leave us out.» We were able to manage to get some funds to clean up Killiney and a couple of other sites, but here in Québec, you know, we consider ourselves as Quebeckers even though we're Inuit. I think Québec has to realize that they have... part of their territory of Québec here is Arctic. It's obviously different from the southern regions. So, rather than just hire us on expensive issue to be dealt with, you know, when there is money, obviously which will never happen, because there's never any money. And there's special advertise to be made to release funds to do a lot of things that should be done, things that you take for granted.

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2380

When we talk about waste management, you know, waste management here is the top in the sewage behind the hill. I don't think you do that very much back in the south, maybe some of the smaller communities, but obviously the more developed ones, you know, waste management is a very big issue. And anything that's environment, it's taken as an important issue.

2385

We, who live in the Arctic where the conditions are very harsh, and clean-up efforts, if something does happen, is very tough, preventive measures to ensure the safety of our people of the land, I think you should take the message back home and say, «We know it's

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going to be costly, but it has to be done.» I don't see why we have to wait another 20 years before something is done.

2395 It took us many years to catch up to the very basic, you know, quality of housing up to some certain standards, plumbing in the houses, electricity. These are all new to us, but Québec did not give it because of the kindness of their heart. Well, the Federal Government did not do that. It's because we spoke out and we said, «Enough is enough. Let's get things done. We want to live a normal life. We live in the 20th century, we use computers like you do. We have fax machines. And we know how the rest of the population lives in the south.
2400 We're not different from you. We eat, and sleep, and do everything else just like any normal human being.»

2405 So, what we're talking about is our young generation that's growing up, we want them to have a better life than what we have today. We don't want them to see that their septic tank is dumped in the backyard which we call, you know, «Québec». That's my final comment.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2410 I wish to thank you for your thoughts. It's more a comment than a question and answer. It's a question, but it's very important, I think, to understand that.

MR. MARK GORDON

2415 As I said earlier, we'll be making a written brief...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Yes.

2420 **MR. MARK GORDON**

... in Radisson, unless it's changed.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2425 Yes, with pleasure.

MR. MARK GORDON

2430 On a final note, all of you have travelled to the north before. Some are coming here for the first time. It's nice to come to Kuujjuaq, but you go to a smaller community where it's different. Things are very much different here. You see a lot of activity, a lot of things happening. But when you go to a small town, it's like we're into another world. So, if you have a chance, you know, go to visit a small town as well.

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MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Thank you.

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MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner

If I may, Mr. President, I would like to come back a few seconds on the case. Mr. Prévost, I think. Is this your name, Mr. Prévost? On the orphan sites.

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M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE

Robitaille, je pense.

MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner

2450

Said that people left on the sites -- he described a lot of garbage, bulldozers, drums. Is this situation unique to this case or if, on orphan sites, there are always in Québec, where they are, situations like that, people came and left bulldozers, and drums, and everything?

2455

MR. PAUL MEUNIER

I would say that in the south of the province, it's probably easier to get out with the garbage or the bulldozers and things like that. But in the north, I think it's very costly for the companies. So, even if they pay the bulldozers \$100,000, they prefer, if it's broken, to let it in this place.

2460

I don't think it's a good kind of thing to do, but that's the way the things were done, as they said, in the 1950s and the 1960s. You must remember at this time, even in the south, we didn't have a lot of preoccupation about environment and things like that. That's why we inherit a lot of mining sites that were not restored and that were dangerous sites.

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So, we take action at that moment, I would say, for the most dangerous sites. But perhaps now we are at the moment that we have to cope with the exploration sites and things like that.

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MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

There is someone else in the community who wants to comment or to ask a question?

2475 **MR. JEFF KLEIN**

In one of the documents...

2480 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Would you give me your name please?

MR. JEFF KLEIN

2485 My name is Jeff Klein, I work for Makivik as a fisheries biologist.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Yes.

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MR. JEFF KLEIN

In one of the documents at the back of the room, it talks about the Raglan site and that instead of putting the waste products in the water, they're incorporated into the permafrost.

2495 And I guess I don't really understand how that's a solution and does that really get rid of the contaminants?

MRS. THÉRÈSE SPIEGLE

2500 The waste that is put in the permafrost is a product that is... it's a kind of residue. Back in the south, that residue has a lot of water in it, so we have to build big dams to hold that slam, if we can call it.

2505 And the residue at Raglan has lots of sulfur in it. So, if we just leave it in the air, it could oxidize and generate acid. So, what they do is they take off the water from it, so it becomes solid. And then they put it on the land, making sort of stripes. And after that, they put rock, inert rock over it, so the permafrost can come up in it. So, there is absolutely no reaction with the oxygen and it stabilizes the residue, because that residue cannot... you cannot put it anywhere else. If you put it in the water, it will be worse. And it's the way that
2510 they manage that residue.

MR. JEFF KLEIN

2515 When water freezes, there's a process called freeze out. When the water expands to form ice, a lot of the foreign molecules are excluded. That's why ice makes such pure water when it's melted.

2520 Is there no danger of any of the contaminants being squeezed out of the ice matrix and liberated into the environment?

MRS. THÉRÈSE SPIEGLE

2525 They've put quite a lot of... a thickness, a layer so that it will always be frozen. It will be kept frozen all the time.

MR. JEFF KLEIN

2530 I guess I'm not making myself clear. I thought when it did freeze, that's where the danger can occur, because the contaminants can be squeezed out of the ice matrix. So, the freezing, what I understood, can be a danger with contaminants in water.

MRS. THÉRÈSE SPIEGLE

2535 But it's dry when it freezes.

MR. JEFF KLEIN

2540 Maybe I'll speak to you about it afterwards. It's more for my personal information.

MME THÉRÈSE SPIEGLE

2545 Je ne comprends pas.

MR. JEFF KLEIN

2550 The only other thing I was wondering about is it seemed the students only had two short questions and it kind of...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2550 Yes.

MR. JEFF KLEIN

2555 ... seemed a shame that we let them escape without answering their questions. It might convey the image that they don't really have a voice. And maybe if some kind of an answer to their questions could be prepared, that their teacher could present to them in class.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2560 Yes, you're right. The reason why I made a mistake and I must explain you. Because we were in the explanation of the Ministry of the Environment and they were in the speech, they were supposed to go back to the school. So, I interrupted the speech to receive the questions and I did want to return to the speech.

2565 But after the questions of the students, another participant, Mr. Adams, came and asked questions. And the people were gone, the children were gone. And we never got back to the formal speech of the Ministry of the Environment, because, I think, it was better to answer questions and to receive commentaries than to have a long explanation of the Ministry of the Environment.

2570 But you're right, doing that, I forgot to... I did not permit at this moment to have an answer to the questions of the students and they were important questions. And I think something must be done to give them maybe a more personal answer to that.

2575 Is it possible to the Ministry of the Environment to prepare maybe something like a letter to these students to answer the two questions they did ask in this meeting? It would be, I think, something fine and not very time-consuming for you. Can you agree to that?

2580 **M. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

2585 What we can do tonight, we can make one page on these questions and we will prepare the answers, a synthesis of the answers, and we will organize to send the paper tomorrow morning somewhere to this class. And they probably could give them tomorrow morning or tomorrow during the day.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2590 Is that right, sir?

MR. JEFF KLEIN

Yes, that would be great.

2595 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Good!

MR. JEFF KLEIN

2600

Thank you.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

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Thanks very much.

Yes, sir?

MR. ALEC GORDON

2610

Yes. My name is Alec Gordon. I'm a local resident and also I work for CBC Radio Nunavik. I just want to ask a couple of questions after reading the Regional Water Resources Profile document regarding water quality in the rivers.

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The report says that the Environnement-Québec doesn't have a water quality monitoring system for region like the ones in the south. I want to know why there is no monitoring system for the rivers in the north.

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According to the report, monitoring was done in the 1970s and 1980s on the rivers that were affected by Hydro development and the water was ranked as being of high quality. But I want to know if there will be anymore follow-up monitoring of the quality of the water in the rivers.

2625

And also this river here in Kuujjuaq has been affected by the diversion of the Caniapiscou River. I want to know if there will be any monitoring for contaminants in the Kuujjuaq River. And if there has been already, where is the information available? Thank you.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2630

Thank you. There is a lot of questions in a row, three or four. What about the monitoring system of the rivers? Is there a difference between the monitoring system in the north and the south?

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD

2635 In fact, the answer is, first of all, probably because the problems are not so evident,
the problems of contamination are not so evident than the south. But the other part is also
because Hydro-Québec, since many years, has monitored two or three major watersheds, La
Grande watershed, the Great Whale watershed. And that's the two major reasons why the
Department don't do a specific monitoring in the north.

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MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Okay. And about the monitoring of the Caniapiscou?

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MR. DANIEL BERROUARD

About the Caniapiscou, in fact, that part of the La Grande project was not submitted to
an impact statement. So, we didn't make conditions about the monitoring. But Hydro made a
monitoring with a group named... I will say it in French, le Groupe d'études conjointes
2650 Caniapiscou/Koksoak. This group has produced a report on some aspects like the influence of
the project on fish, on salmon in particular, on some criteria of the quality of water. But it's not
our report. It's a report from this working group.

2655 And what we can say, what we can add to that is that, in 1988, Hydro has concluded
an agreement with the Inuit people in Kuujjuaq about the Caniapiscou diversion.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2660 And this report you're telling about, the monitoring of the Caniapiscou, is it a public
report?

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD

Yes, it is.

2665

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

It has been published in the...

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MR. DANIEL BERROUARD

But it comes from Hydro, from...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

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It comes from Hydro. So, I will ask Hydro-Québec tomorrow morning.

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD

2680

Yes.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2685

For the rivers in the region here, the monitoring of the rivers, are you doing monitoring of the rivers on the territory of Nunavik or do you have a plan to make one in...

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD

2690

We asked monitoring in the project we have to evaluate and to analyze. So...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

For the new projects?

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MR. DANIEL BERROUARD

For the new projects. So...

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2700

There will be an impact assessment and monitoring...

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD

2705

Yes. For example in the south, we have some monitoring program.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

Okay.

2710

MR. DANIEL BERROUARD

But here, we don't have.

2715 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Okay. There will be monitoring only if there will be new projects?

2720 **MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

Yes, that's it.

MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman

2725 So, for the last intervener, because you're a journalist and if you need to have more specific answers to your questions, you can ask the Ministry of the Environment after the meeting. Okay? Wonderful!

2730 Is that all, sir? Ladies and gentlemen, do you have any questions, any comments on the working group here today? No? Ça va.

For my part, I wish to thank you for your presence and for your commentaries which are very important I think, very specific, very related to your own situation. It's very important for us to understand the situation, specific situation on the «diverses» regions of Québec.

2735 I wish to thank Tom for his kindly invitation and collaboration. If you want to close the meeting, it belongs to you.

MR. TOMMY GREY, CCEK Chairman

2740 Thank you. I would just like to say thank you for having come here to this hearing to voice your concerns. And it was nice that quite a few people came up and asked questions. And I would just like to say thank you and have a good evening.

2745 *****

Je, soussignée, **LISE MAISONNEUVE**, sténographe judiciaire, certifiée sous mon serment d'office que les pages ci-dessus sont et contiennent la transcription exacte et fidèle des notes sténographiques prises par moi au moyen du sténomasque, le tout conformément à la Loi.

2750 ET J'AI SIGNÉ:

2755 _____
LISE MAISONNEUVE, s.o.