

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

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**CONSULTATION PUBLIQUE  
SUR LA GESTION DE L'EAU  
AU QUÉBEC**

**PREMIÈRE PARTIE  
(NORD-DU-QUÉBEC)**

VOLUME 1

Séance tenue le 2 septembre 1999, à 13 h 30  
Salle communautaire  
Kuujuarapik

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**MOT DU PRÉSIDENT**

**MR. LUCASSIE INUKPUK (by the interpreter)**

5 Mayor Lucassie Inukpuk welcomes you and he's sorry that not many people have shown up since we're not used to public hearings of this size. Like this is something sort of new for our community.

10 And maybe in October, you possibly will be arriving again. He says it might be better if we know a little bit more about what's going on. And he also mentioned that it would have been good to invite the people of the community of Sanikiluaq since they are one of our neighboring communities and they're not very far from us.

15 And he also mentioned that he won't have much to say. He will mainly be listening to what you have to say. That's about it.

20 Le maire vous souhaite bienvenue. Il s'excuse car il y a pas trop de monde qui est venu. C'est pas souvent qu'on a une consultation publique. Mais la prochaine fois, il souhaite qu'il y aura plus de monde.

25 Il dit que ça aurait été mieux si vous aviez invité les personnes de Sanikiluaq, parce que c'est un village proche de nous. Puis pour la prochaine fois, ça se peut que vous allez retourner ici au mois d'octobre, il pense que ça va être mieux pour la prochaine fois pour avoir plus de monde ici. C'est tout.

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**MR. TOMMY GREY, CCEK Chairman**

André.

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

35 Merci, Tom. Merci, monsieur le maire. Nous sommes très heureux d'être ici dans votre communauté. Et il ne faut pas s'inquiéter du nombre de personnes qui sont présentes. Ce qui est important, c'est que nous soyons en présence les uns des autres et que les personnes qui sont ici puissent porter les interrogations, les questions, les inquiétudes, les aspirations de leur communauté.

40 Thank you. Even if I don't speak English so fluently, I will try to speak English because most of you do understand English directly. And it will be, I think, easier for you to translate in Inuktitut.

45 So, my name is André Beauchamp. I'm the responsible President of the Commission nominated by the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement to make the hearing about what we call the water management policy in Québec.

You have this document in English in the back, there is also a French version, which explains the goals of the consultation and the principal objects of this consultation.

50 Having the mandate to consult all the public in Québec, we did long trips all around Québec, all around the 17 different regions, including region number 10 when we went in Chibougamau last May.

55 But for the people of Nunavik who are living in the frame of the North Bay Convention, we decided to make a special experience together with the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee which is your own institution here in your territory. And we tried to make a joint venture together; so, we are here five members.

60 Mrs. Gisèle Gallichan and myself are from the Commission of the Water of the Public Hearing Board. And the three other persons, Mrs. Paule Halley, Tom and Mr. Claude Abel are members of the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee.

We do work together today in this consultation, but each commission is on his own way and has its own jurisdiction in the consultation.

65 The object of our consultation is the policy on water. What are the uses of the water now? Surface water, underground water, drinkable water, sewage systems. And also how is the health of the rivers themselves? Where are the sources of the pollution? Where are the solutions for the many problems we have in this present context? What must be the policy? What must be the orientations, the goals, the priorities for the coming 20th century?

70 It is the purpose of this work we are doing, not only to know the past, but together to have the good tools facing the future, facing our needs about water and facing the manner we manage this so important resource for the life and for all the population.

75 What we want to do this afternoon is to hear you to understand your questions, your hopes, your fears about everything related to the water. To help you when you have specific questions, we invited what we can call experts from different ministries and offices of the Québec Government.

80 I will introduce you these people. After that, I will give you the name of the game, the rules of the procedure this afternoon. And after that, the representative of the Ministry of the Environment will give you a short speech about the situation of the water in this area.

The experts we asked to come here today, at the end of the table, Mr. Vincent Sioui from Hydro-Québec. Messieurs Daniel Gaudreau, Robert Langlais du ministère des Affaires

85 municipales, from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. Josée Brazeau, Thérèse Spiegle, Daniel  
Berrouard et Jocelin Dufresne, all four from the Ministry of the Environment, some ones from  
Québec City and other ones from the region.

90 In the back, Mr. Paul Meunier from Natural Resources Ministry and Madam Nathalie  
Camden from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Madame Michèle Bélanger du ministère de la  
Santé et des Services sociaux. Monsieur Philippe Gentes et monsieur Luc Proulx qui sont  
également members du ministère de l'Environnement.

95 After the speech of Mr. Dufresne, you're invited to come to this table there and to tell us  
what you want to tell us. Preferably, we do prefer if you ask questions, because there is a bunch of  
experts here who can answer and help you in the knowledge about the water, about what we know  
about the situation. But, naturally, it's something quite informal and be free to tell us what you want  
to tell us and ask the questions you want to ask. Naturally, if you ask a question on sport, we are  
not experts on that topic. But anything related to the water is related to the question this afternoon.

100 Alors, monsieur Dufresne, je vous invite à nous donner l'exposé le plus succinct possible  
s'il vous plaît. Merci.

**MR. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

105 Thank you Mr. President, Mr. Beauchamp, Mr. Grey.

110 Before presenting you in a few minutes the main issues on the regional portrait concerning  
water, I would like to remind some main events that took place from the government in the last few  
years.

115 First, we had in 1996 a draft policy on ground water. In 1997, the government held an  
important symposium on water management. In 1998, the government proposed a draft bill  
concerning dams safety.

In 1999, at the beginning of the year, the government prepared a discussion paper on  
water management, the one Mr. Beauchamp referred to at the beginning. It is the base document  
that is proposed to the Québec population to «amorcer» the discussion on water.

120 The BAPE, as Mr. Beauchamp told you a few minutes ago, received a mandate for  
consulting people all around Québec concerning an eventual water policy. During this last spring  
and this summer, we had this consultation, many public hearings in all the administrative regions.

125 And the last phase will be the analysis and the report conducting the government to  
elaborate a project of water management policy.

Now, I will take a few minutes to present you the...

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

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Juste peut-être donner une chance à celui qui traduit.

**MR. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

135

I would like to mention also that this document is concerned with four principal things of discussion. First is ground water, surface water, municipal infrastructures, and water service management, and water as a global strategic issue. That's the things that are elaborated in this base document to have the population explain on that.

140

So, to support the public reflection on this matter, the government prepared regional portraits of the situation of water in Québec. And in the next few minutes, I will present you the most important data that we have concerning water in the Nunavik and the Bay James. I will insist on the data concerning your part of the region.

145

A brief socioeconomic portrait of the region. You know the region more than me. It's the largest region, but the least populated one. We have the presence of the Natives for 5,000 years ago. And we have the characteristic so that the non-Natives occupied the territory in three phases.

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First, during the 1935-1940s, we have the colonization of the south of the region. In the years 1950s to 1960s, we had the forest and mining resource development and, in the 1970s, the big hydroelectric project.

155

And we have to manage with the James Bay Northern Québec Agreement Convention that had been signed in 1975 and the Northeastern Québec Agreement signed in 1978. These conventions govern the way all the issues are discussed in this region.

160

The population is around 38,000 people. There are 47 municipalities, 14 in the Nunavik. Our region is the third most productive region in Québec concerning forestry industry and the same thing for mining industry. Tourist activity is very important in this part of the region and in the south too. And James Bay hydroelectric development is an economic activity very important.

165

Concerning the rivers, surface water, as the rivers are concerned, you have on this table the most important rivers of the region. And six of these rivers are in the Nunavik. They represent the most important watersheds of Québec. And nine of these watersheds are in excess of 20,000 square kilometers with average flows of between 370 cubic meters per second and 1,300 cubic meters per second. The rivers here are very important.

Concerning the lakes, we have in this region many, many lakes. They're countless and in variable sizes. Among the biggest natural lakes of Québec, just mention Clear Water Lake. The

170 main vocation is associated with sport fishing and traditional activities. And lakes are hydroelectric reservoirs.

We observe in the region many dams, 296 dams and dikes and the majority operated by Hydro-Québec. And there is one dam in Raglan, near Raglan mines in the north, and the other  
175 dams are operated by Hydro-Québec. The main ones are LG-2, LG-4 and LG-3 in the south.

Now, concerning the quality of the water surface, we have to say that we have great variability of the origin of data. We don't have any monitoring system, because the projects that are approved in the north, the promoters are obliged to have their own monitoring system.

180 And we have exhausting follow-up during the James Bay hydroelectric works that produced many informations. We can say that the region water is often of good quality because of low anthropic pressure, low human pressure. And the problems we have are related to the priming of the reservoirs.

185 The priming of the reservoirs produces a process that there is a decomposition of organic matters that makes the diminution of oxygen and that releases nutrients, phosphorus and CO<sub>2</sub>. That's the process that happens when a reservoir is priming.

190 The return to normal conditions is observed after three years for the water that is concerned and the new environmental balance completed after 10 to 15 years.

The mercury contamination of fish meat, it's a slow natural process naturally, but we have an acceleration of the process of the bioavailability of mercury in the food chain through the priming  
195 of reservoirs.

And the scope of the contamination varies according to numerous factors like flooded land area, duration of the priming of the reservoir and the time that water spends in the reservoir, and the dynamics of the fish populations.

200 We found high concentrations of mercury in fish eating species 3 to 7 times greater than in the natural environment. And the return to natural conditions, that may vary between 15 and 30 years, depending of the situation. And we can observe effects on health. So, we have to limit the consumption of fish.

205 The acidity of lakes, it's concerning specific lakes in the southern part of the region. So, the lakes in the Nunavik are not very acid.

The management of water supply services in the Nunavik north of the 55th parallel, it's an  
210 important factor, because the impossibility of putting in place an aqueduct network due to permafrost, the dispersion of villages and the distribution by tank trucks using surface water or water from a reservoir.

215 And the water is chlorinated in most villages, 11 of them. The distribution presents high risk of contamination due to a large number of intermediaries.

220 So, we have in this table some data concerning drinking water profile in the Inuit communities, data collected in 1998. We have the communities, we have the number of samples collected, and the number of samples analyzed, and the result in percentage of samples contaminated to give you just a portrait of the situation in 1998.

225 We have many differences between villages, from 2 % of samples contaminated up to 20 or 22, 46 % of samples contaminated. It gives you the portrait of the drinking water in the Inuit territory.

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

230 Monsieur Dufresne, est-ce qu'on le retrouve ici dans ce document-là? Je pense que c'est une diapositive ajoutée.

**M. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

235 Ce tableau-là, monsieur le président, a été ajouté au document qui a circulé, que vous avez en main. C'est une annexe, c'est un tableau annexé.

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

C'est un tableau annexe à la fin?

240 **M. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

Ce tableau-là n'a pas été inclus dans le portrait régional, mais il a été inclus dans la présentation qu'on fait ici dans le Nunavik actuellement.

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

Et, donc, il sera disponible à l'arrière?

**M. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

250 Il est disponible.

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

255 C'est dans quel document? Parce que monsieur Grey n'a pas le tableau et moi non plus.

**M. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

On vous les fournira.

260

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

I'm asking if the tableau they show there, if we have. We don't have, but it will be given to the Commission and to the public later on.

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**MR. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

I skip the James Bay sector. Now, concerning the wastewater management in the Nunavik, it's a major environmental issue. The wastewaters are collected by tank trucks and disposed of outside the village without treatment.

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The industrial portrait is concerning mostly the south, but we have mining industry that uses a large quantity of water for enrichment of ore, keeping worksites dry and draw-down of the water table. And the main problems concerns the acidification of tailing confinement areas. I'll skip these parts.

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Specific issues related to industrial pollution problems north of 55th parallel, quasi non-existent because of nonexistence of industry except for, let's say, Raglan project. But there are needs for adaptation in the community. Fuel drums abandoned on the territory, supplying coastal villages with oil products. This part of the region is concerned with these factors.

280

Agriculture is not concerned.

Wildlife and recreational-tourism portrait. First, sport fishing, it's a major economic activity, 340,000 days/fishing in 1996 on an open territory with many outfitting establishments without exclusive rights. Wildlife reserves in the south, two wildlife reserves in the south. And the key species are walleye, lake charr, brook charr, red charr and salmon.

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We have commercial fishing, red charr in Kangiqsualujjuaq sector and lake whitefish and sturgeon in the Waswanipi sector in the southern part of the region.

290

We have the phenomena of subsistence fishing, the framework of Chapter 24 of the James Bay Agreement and Northern Quebec Agreement; importance of the bodies of water linked to the traditional activities of the Native people and their movements.

295

So, the consultation of the populations on water related issues and objectives will help the government to prepare a preliminary water policy. And the main objective of this is to ensure a long-term survival of water in sustainable development perspective, to develop a vision of the water

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resource in our society, the importance of water, to clarify our responsibility towards the international community. That's the objectives that a Québec policy on water is too. Thank you.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

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Thank you very much. Merci, monsieur Dufresne.

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We will take a short break of ten minutes and when coming back, everyone who wants to ask a question, to make a remarks, you come to the table. You're invited to tell your name and, after that, you address your question to the board here and I will see if the experts present here are able to answer to the question you have. Thank you and have a good break.

(SUSPENSION DE LA SÉANCE)

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(REPRISE DE LA SÉANCE)

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**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

If you want to ask a question, you sit at the table. Yes, sir?

320

**MR. JACOB TOOKALOOK**

First of all, I would like to thank you very much for you to come to this community. I'm sorry, I don't speak in French, but sometimes I wish I could speak in French...

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**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Good!

**MR. JACOB TOOKALOOK**

330 ... because the Federal Government came in first, Québec Government came in later. So, that's why you hear people in English most of the time when you travel with the community.

Anyway, I have two different things that I would like to...

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

Yes. Could you tell me your name?

**MR. JACOB TOOKALOOK**

340

Jacob Tookalook in English, Iaka in Inuktitut. I would like to first of all talk about the water we drink in this community.

345

Some people have sensitive skin and I'm of them who has a sensitive skin. The water out here is chlorinated and when I drink that, my hands get... they're itchy.

350

It's been quite a while, you know, that they add chlorine in this community and I was wondering if one of your department could give a hand or maybe ask the Quebec Government to give the municipality... to get some sort of a pump water, drinking water, so that they would not add anything, just pure water.

355

The non-Native people usually treat the water and from the worse to drinking water. I try to get some water for my family to drink the water, pure water, which is not added, to get the water somewhere, not from the store or from the municipal service. The water is very heavy to carry, you know, when you don't have transportation.

I always wanted to say something about this and I'm very glad that I say something out to you.

360

The second one is also I've always been thinking about sewage, concerning about sewage. Nowadays, they have a sewage that will clean and dump it to the bay or to the river. I've been thinking too if the municipality or the Quebec Government could, you know, give a hand to the municipality to have that sewage.

365

It would be nice if the Quebec Government or the other departments could try to help the municipality, to give them a hand, you know, to have a better service. Thank you.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

370 Thank you.

Mr. Langlais from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, do you have any dossier about Kuujjuarapik? And do you have any specific intentions about drinking water here and about sewage systems for treatments?

375

**MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS**

Yes.

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

Parlez dans le micro, s'il vous plaît.

**MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS**

385

In 1989, I think, if I remember, Pierre, Municipal Affairs, they promised a financial assistance under our program for water improvement here in Kuujjuarapik. And the amount of money for that project was about a little bit more than \$5,000,000, \$5,100,000.

390 In 1996, the Ministry gave another \$4,000 on this project too and the project is ongoing right now, I think. Yes. And it's not finished. And it's a project of the local power plant improvement.

And maybe, Pierre, you can explain, inside this project, what will be the... answer to the question of this man?

395

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

Yes. We'll answer partly what Jacob was requesting. We completed phase I of water treatment...

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**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Please, Mr. Roussel. I just want to have the translation in Inuktitut first from this first intervention and you after that.

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**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

We have undertaken the construction of a water treatment plant. The phase I is completed.  
The phase...

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**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

The water treatment is for the drinkable water?

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**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

Drinkable water, yes.

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**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Okay.

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

425

The mechanical part will be done between maybe November and next summer. We hope it will be in operation starting in January 2001.

The plant will permit a better filtration of the water. So, there's a lot of things in suspension in the water that, we hope, will be eliminated.

430

We will have to go on to chlorinate the water, because we have a duty to deliver water free of bacteria, coliforms and «coli-fécaux». But there is what we call an «ozonateur», I don't know if there's an English word for that...

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**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Yes, yes.

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

440

... «ozonateur» that is planned to be on the water station, so people can go get their drinking water there. What an «ozonateur» does is it eliminates just about everything that's in the water and you'll end up with something very similar to that.

445

And it will be outside the building. So, it's going to be available for everybody who wants to go get drinking water, that doesn't want to drink water with the chemical that's in the water.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

450 Chlorine. Mr. Roussel, if I understand, you will have water treatment for drinkable water.  
After ozonization, the people who want to get water can go there. Otherwise, you put chlorine in  
the water for the water system.

455 Do you fill the homes directly or if you give the water by trucks, transportation by trucks?

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

We still will be delivering the water by truck.

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

Okay.

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

465

However, we could decide to do aqueduct for the houses, but it will be by steps. I mean, it  
will require a certain amount of years to be completed. However, that water will be chlorinated.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

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A few millions more. A few years more and a few millions more.

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

475

It's a little bit technical, but...

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Yes.

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**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

... but we're in the process of deciding how the water will be delivered to the houses.

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

Okay.

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

490

However, the water delivered to the houses will be chlorinated.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

495 Yes.

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

500 The «ozonateur» will be available for people to go there with a tank of their own and they can go. Instead of going to the water source, natural water source that we have on the bank of the river, they'll be able to go right at the station and get their drinkable water there.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

505 Okay.

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

510 However, this solution is not going to solve our occasional problems that we have with infiltration of salt water. I think that the major problem with the drinking water here is the location of the primary pumping station, because when there's a high wind, and high tides, and... Last year was quite something, because we experimented a low level of the river, more that what we've ever seen, and we had a very long-term problem with infiltration of salt water in our drinking water. And that will have to be solved.

515 What we are doing here won't solve that problem. This problem is recurrent, coming every year, usually at spring when the ice melts and then fall when the tides are a little higher than usual and the wind is stronger also. So, this problem comes once in a while and it's really a problem not only for health, it's not only a health hazard, but it's also very hard for all type of equipment.

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

525 Naturally. And now for the second question the man asked about this sewage system treatment, do you have any now? Or do you have a proposition or a plan? And he asked if some help from the government is... any kind of help coming from the government for that.

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

530 The Kativik Regional Government will now be a little more autonomous in deciding what they want to do with monies that are given by the government for infrastructure projects. We hope to be able to obtain a sewage treatment plant. And I'm looking also if we're doing aqueduct in the village, we're going to have to do sewer pipes as well, because I don't see doing an aqueduct without doing a sewage. That's why things are not finalized and decided yet.

535 However, if I look at the way that the water treatment plants were done in the north, it was not a success. They're really favorizing «biodisk» and they're very hard to maintain and it's not a very successful way of treating sewage in the north because of the temperature. And we were more looking into an open pond to be able to treat the sewage.

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

Okay.

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

545 We have studies to this effect. It's a question of «financement». And the municipality has basic priorities to fill up like roads, and getting trucks to deliver water, and sewage. And we need just about everything. So, I guess the sewage was a little bit postponed, because we're limited by the amount of money we can spend in capital project.

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

What is the actual situation?

555 **MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

Actually, we...

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

560 Do you treat the water, used water?

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

565 Not at all.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

No?

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**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

Not at all. They're dumped at the garbage dump.

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**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Yes?

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

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We have a location where to do that. We got permission recently, that's what we're going to start doing this summer, to empty our sewage in the sewer system of the SIQ. The particular situation in Kuujjuarapik is that there's almost three communities, SIQ, aqueduct and sewer system on the south part of the village.

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The Crees have their own water station and aqueduct. But the Inuit, we still delivered water by truck and collect water. We hope it's going to be a little bit more easy to dump our sewage this way, but there's no treatment at all. It goes right in the bay like that.

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**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Yes?

**MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner**

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After what the gentleman has asked as a question, I'd like to have a question to the Ministry of Environment. When you gave the percentage of contamination, when you made your presentation, the number we have, the percentage we have at the end is about 19 % of overall samples, I mean house tank samples, water truck samples and water source samples. It was the overall samples that you have examined.

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And the global percentage of contamination of your samples is 19 %, around 19 %, for 1998. But if we look at the other percentages of past years for the same samples, you know, overall, contaminated samples, we have, for 1995, 15 %, for 1996, 17 %, for two years ago, 97, lower, so 14 %. And now, for 1998, we have 19 %.

605

So, between two years ago and last year, a jump of 5 %. Could you explain this to me, this 5 % between... I'll give you title, «Drinking water monitoring program», this is the report of the Kativik Regional Government. I'll just let time to the translator to give you in Inuktitut.

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**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

It is from Kativik Commission?

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**MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner**

The numbers are the same for 1998, the same than yours, okay? It is equal numbers. So, I would like to know from where comes this difference.

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**MR. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

First, the report to which you refer is the report of KRG, not ours. And the...

**THE INTERPRETER**

625

Can I translate the question?

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

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Yes, yes.

**MR. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

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The report has not been analyzed by the Environment Department, but if you precise your question, we will answer to your question in a while.

**MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner**

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Okay.

**MR. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

We need to analyze the numbers that appear on the...

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**MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner**

For the past years you mean?

**MR. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

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Yes.

**MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner**

655           Because for the analysis I saw in the portrait you gave a few minutes ago and I saw the same, the same numbers for the same years on this report. So, I thought it was the same for the past years. So, I ask: how is it that we have so much difference between two years ago and last year? 5 %, it is a very big percentage if we look at the other past years.

660           **MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU**

          I would like to precise that the results that we have in the table that we gave you at first, the results come from the report of the KRG. So, it's the same numbers. But we didn't look at the previous reports.

665

          But if I understand right your question, you said that the percentage of overall contamination has increased over the years. I think that the contamination, it varies from years to years and it depends on the manipulation that the water has... There's various factors that can influence the contamination of the water: the water source, the trucks. You know, there's so much people that are working, you know, at the water plant, the trucks and in the houses. So, we cannot control.

670

          One year, maybe the reservoir in each individual house has been cleaned; the next year, it's not as much. So, it varies from one year to another. I think that maybe if we could look even earlier, maybe it's not as high or maybe it's higher than it is today. So, it's about it.

675

**MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner**

          Maybe if I may, a last question on this subject. Are there monies available for maybe more information and «sensibilisation» campaign or... maybe it's at Municipal Affairs, maybe it's at your ministry and maybe the local authorities here to make people more «sensible» to that kind of problem you just described a few minutes ago.

680

**MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU**

          The Ministry of Environment is giving some money for a follow-up on the quality of the drinking water. But I think that it's hard for two technicians that are in Kuujjuaq to oversee 14 communities. So, I think that it would be more... yes, people more sensitive to the problem in each community. I think that the two technicians in Kuujjuaq could be informed about the problem and oversee that each community receives, I don't know, maybe annually or something like that, a small training, or something like that, just to make people informed of the problem and...

690

**MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner**

695

And for those two, three municipalities that have bigger problems, I see Kangiqsujuak and also Umiujak that have big problems on this. Maybe you can have more information specifically for those problems.

**MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU**

700

Yes. I think the source of the problem is they need more information and more training about the... to sensilize them for the drinking water.

And there's other problems. It's not the only one, but it's the beginning.

705

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

First the translation and, after that, you'll have a commentary.

Mr. Roussel?

710

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

In certain villages where the supply of water is difficult during winter, the KRG has built huge reservoirs to be used for storage for water during winter and Umiujak is one of those.

715

However, the concept of these reservoirs is very complicated for the maintenance. Some pumps are completely unaccessible and it became... like these reservoirs are like dead water now. So, maybe a few years back, they were running properly but, with time, the equipment have deteriorated in these reservoirs and the quality of water has been affected as well.

720

And this is one of the factors why the average have increased like that. They are mainly due to a few villages where they have such a system. I think Robbie can explain you about this, he's the mayor of Umiujak. And I know for a fact that this system doesn't work at all.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

725

Thank you. Yes, sir?

**MR. ROBBIE TOOKALOOK (by the interpreter)**

730 The first part, it was a short notice for him to come to this village to express his concerns. He mentioned that he'd like time to gather up more information. And he's questioning why only two communities were chosen for this consultation.

735 And his first concern is, like he mentioned, that the consultation went only to two communities. And he mentioned that a lot of mayors have wished to express their concerns and he mentioned that not everybody has the budget to travel at any time. He's more concerned that the consultation went to only two communities in Nunavik.

740 One of his concerns is he knows that they have a problem with their water. And the reservoir, he said it's true that it's not working in order to give fresh water. He said it was only built... it was like a \$2,000,000 project, but there was no budget given into that to help run it. For example, every year, it has to be emptied and refilled and it has never happened. And he includes that there was even a drowning in that reservoir.

745 Also, the place where they receive their water is a small river, a creek, more like a creek. It's so small that in the coldest months of winter, January, February, March, it freezes right to the ground where they cannot get the water from there anymore. And that's small river is even shallow enough for a person to cross it without even waiting. Walking, you can easily cross it.

750 And he wants Environment-Québec to be... he wants you to take a look at this matter, to be concerned about it. And he mentioned that it's because this is the only place where they receive their water and including the lake is... the lake that provides the water for the river is not even large.

755 He mentioned that he expressed his concerns to the government and that their first plan is to find a place where they can receive water all through the year. And there's a plan that they plan to do some tests on the site where they're planning to pick up their water, but this place is at a distance of three miles.

760 The water that they receive also from the water trucks, they do not drink the water from those trucks, because the water comes from a lake which is full of bugs and there is no way that they drink from that water. And the only place that they get drinking water is a good distance of two miles which they have to pick up by ATV with their own water tanks, since he mentioned that there's no chance that they will ever drink the water... I mean that they will drink the water from the water trucks, because it's too full of bugs.

765 And even in winter, they spend so much time gathering fresh water ice in order to keep up for their drinking water. And he also mentioned that it's not easy to run their water system, because they have no budget from MAMM, Ministry...

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

Of Municipal Affairs.

**MR. ROBBIE TOOKALOOK (by the interpreter)**

775

And he wants the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to be more concerned about this matter.

Also concerning disposal of sewage, there's one further little north where there's one creek that is very contaminated due to the disposal of sewage. The creek is very contaminated, including the fish. The fish there is contaminated.

780

And he had the Makivik Research Center do some studies on that creek and it was mentioned to them that it's very contaminated. And he urges Environment-Québec to make a priority to find a solution for their communities.

785

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Could you tell me the name of the lake please?

790

**THE INTERPRETER**

A creek.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

795

Creek.

**MR. TOMMY GREY, CCEK Chairman**

800

Just a creek.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

805

Just a creek, okay.

**THE INTERPRETER**

It's just a creek.

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

Okay.

**MR. ROBBIE TOOKALOOK (by the interpreter)**

815

Another thing concerning Lake Minto, there's a lot of barrels that are collecting throughout the year. Especially last year, he mentioned that a lot of barrels are being left behind which were used for fuel. There's a lot of companies or groups that are just leaving the barrels up there and they're just collecting and there are a lot.

820

And also last year, there was some dead caribou found at Lake Minto. There was a lot of dead caribou that were found over there. And it would take a lot of time for somebody to take care of them. And it was almost a year they were just rotting in the lake. Nothing was happening concerning the cleanup of the dead caribou until he wrote a letter to Mr. Lucien Bouchard. He said that was the only time that somebody started taking care of them.

825

He mentioned if you're concerned about the water, the waters around, you need to make... he mentioned that you need to be very concerned about these matters, what he is talking about.

830

Last part he mentioned is concerning also water, how it's being contaminated from the streets which have a lot of dust in summer. He mentioned that he has a lot of dust problems and that dust is also contributing to dirt in their drinking water.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

835

Thanks. May I make a short commentary? Alas, I don't understand Inuktitut, because I think you are a very eloquent person.

840

Just why do we come only in two communities? The reason is so simple. It's the limit of our time in our Commission. We went only in one place in every region of Québec. To give you an example, in La Chaudière or in Estrie where there are 200 and more municipalities, we were unable to go in each place. And we were obliged to go only in one place. It's the reason why we made a statement with the Kativik Environmental Advisory Committee to try to make a better job than nothing coming in two communities.

845

But I know it's not sufficient. I know you have a lot of problems of travelling and the cost of this travelling. And this reveals that this region has specific problems very difficult to face with.

850

You did ask a question. So, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, we can have a brief check back to them.

855

You heard what the mayor is telling. Do you have any projects? Do you participate with the community about projects to find new sources of drinkable water? And what is the situation on your side? You can tell in French and it will be translated in Inuktitut.

**MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS**

Okay.

860

**THE INTERPRETER**

Can I translate what you mentioned first?

865

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

What?

**THE INTERPRETER**

870

What you mentioned, can I translate it first?

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Yes, yes.

875

**M. ROBERT LANGLAIS**

880

Comme on le sait tous, le village d'Umiujak, c'est un village construit très récemment en 1986. Il a été construit de toute pièce par le gouvernement du Québec. Et puis lorsqu'il a été construit, bien, il est arrivé avec toutes ses infrastructures municipales, les routes, l'aéroport, incluant le plan d'eau.

885

Puis le plan d'eau qui a été construit, si ma mémoire est bonne, je crois que c'est le premier qui a été construit dans tout le Nouveau Québec, dans les nouveaux projets de système d'alimentation de l'eau potable.

890

Et puis dans le village d'Umiujak, on savait qu'il y avait une source d'eau potable de disponible à proximité qui était de la très bonne eau. C'était le petit ruisseau dont le maire a parlé tout à l'heure. Puis c'était très peu d'eau.

Alors, qu'est-ce qu'il a fallu faire? Ça, c'est les ingénieurs de l'Administration régionale Kativik qui ont construit un projet de système d'alimentation en eau potable. Et la solution qui a été trouvée, ça a été de creuser un immense bassin dans le roc pour pouvoir faire un réservoir d'eau potable où on prenait l'eau dans le petit ruisseau et on pouvait le remplir pour pouvoir passer tout l'hiver avec.

Alors, c'est ce genre de projet qui a été fait. Mais pour diverses raisons, peu après que ça a été mis en opération, des problèmes sont survenus. Il y en a eu de toutes sortes, je crois. Il y a eu des bris à cause du gel. En tout cas, il y a eu toutes sortes de choses, ce qui fait que le système est devenu de moins en moins fonctionnel. Il y avait aussi ce qu'on disait, là, des petites bibites qui se promenaient à la surface du grand bassin. Alors, ça, ça a inquiété la population d'Umiujak. Alors, disons que c'est comme ça que ça a commencé, d'après moi, les problèmes dans l'alimentation potable dans ce village-là.

Et puis finalement, il y a eu le programme d'infrastructures Canada-Québec, le deuxième, en 1994. L'Administration régionale Kativik avec le village d'Umiujak ont présenté un nouveau projet pour essayer de régler ce problème-là, essayer de réparer le système en place. Et puis malheureusement, je ne sais pas pourquoi, je pense que le projet est arrivé un peu tard dans l'année et puis, finalement, il n'y avait pas tous les crédits qui avaient été mis à la disposition du programme infrastructures Canada-Québec, le deuxième qui avait été... celui de 1997 était épuisé.

Alors, heureusement, il y a le nouveau programme qui vient d'être mis à la disposition. Je ne sais pas si monsieur le maire d'Umiujak est au courant du nouveau programme. Mais à l'intérieur de ce programme-là, comme on l'a dit hier à Kuujuaq, il y a 22 500 000 \$ qui sont réservés pour l'eau potable et pour le traitement des eaux usées. Et ce nouveau programme-là va être géré sur le territoire par l'Administration régionale Kativik.

Alors, le Conseil de l'Administration régionale Kativik va, avec les villages, établir des priorités sur l'utilisation de ce 22 500 000 \$ là destiné à l'eau. Alors, probablement qu'il y a sûrement moyen de trouver une petite place pour résoudre les problèmes d'Umiujak à travers tout ça. Ça va dépendre des priorités qui vont être établies par le Conseil de l'ARK.

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

Merci. For the Ministry of the Environment, do you have any data about the contamination of the creek which you were referred to?

**MR. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

No, sir.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

935 You don't? So, can we take a five-minute break? Do you agree? I know that the young lady there wants to ask questions also. Take a five-minute break and we'll start again.

(SUSPENSION DE LA SÉANCE)

\*\*\*\*\*

(REPRISE DE LA SÉANCE)

940

**MR. ALEC TUCKATUCK**

Bonjour.

945

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

Bonjour!

**MR. ALEC TUCKATUCK**

950

You bring your own water, eh? It tastes a little funny, but it's okay.

The first question will be related to Hydro-Québec, not indirectly question, but the question could be answered in the long run. It doesn't have to be answered overnight.

955

The question on Hydro projects such as the big one in James Bay, in the past, I've been involved in studies and this question relates to the food chain. What we consume is wild, it's not harvest. It's wild harvest, not farmed.

960

The food, specially the seals, last fall, they started to die just like that, without anybody killing them. They decided to... or whoever made them decide to die, there were lots of them all around the shore in the fall. And also we don't see many seals this summer when the time was supposed to be seal hunt time.

965

So, the question, like I said, does not necessarily go to Hydro-Québec, it goes to every department and Environment. The Hydro-Québec project in LG-2, methylmercury, the way it works, we know sooner or later we're going to be feeling that contamination. Hydro-Québec, do they now know that we are next community? We're feeling that impact of methylmercury through seals. Is that part of the impact from Hydro-Québec project? That's the questions relating to seals.

970

Seals for this question.

It does not have to be answered right away like I said. But it could relate to other things like fish. And what is our future impacts from that negative methylmercury within our food chain? That's the question.

975

980 And the second question goes to Environment, Municipal more or less, Municipal Affairs. The question is raw sewage going to salt water, like the one we have here. It was not too bad when only the army was using the sewage system, it was not too bad from the smell. But when the Cree community decided to use that same outlet, then it has gotten bigger. And in the future, the Inuit will be using that also.

985 My question is, how much time the water gets purified from raw sewage and salt water? How much time does it evolve to get back to normal? Or will it ever get back to normal? That question could be answered right away, if there's an answer. But we have a concern here. Some of our harvesting is on fish, local fish such as codfish and sculpin which we consume very much during the summer, because we don't have much fish here.

990 For the last few years, we're harvesters, hunters, we noticed that the fish here locally, surrounding in immediate area, like I say, sculpin and codfish, they're not normal. They're not normal in the last few years. So, is that related to the raw sewage that is being dumped here since the 1950s? That's the question number 2.

995 And like one of the concerned «intervenant» mentioned, that our local water intake is too close to the mouth of the river and it gets salty every year. And when you take a shower, you cannot soap, because even if you try to use soap, it doesn't help. So, it is a realistic concern that something has to be done with our intake water system. That's not a question, but it has to be done soon.

1000 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Thank you. You asked the questions in both languages. So, it will be a break for our translator.

1005 First of all, Hydro-Québec, do you have any study about the effects on the seals? Do you have or can you give us an answer in a short time or in a long time to this question?

**MR. VINCENT SIOUI**

1010 There are probably some studies that have been done. I could ask to the persons who look at the problem of mercury on a permanent basis. There are some persons working on that on a permanent basis at Hydro in Montreal. I could ask them and I could send the information...

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1015 To the Commission please.

**MR. VINCENT SIOUI**

1020 To the Commission?

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Yes.

1025 **MR. VINCENT SIOUI**

1030 And you could have an answer, a precise answer with that. What I know is that the level of the mercury is at its natural level in many kind of fishes right now in the complexe La Grande. And there's also mercury naturally in the environment, even around here, and there was some before La Grande also.

And some communities in 1970, some Cree communities had a high level of mercury in their system in 1970, before the complexe La Grande.

1035 The mercury problem is a complex problem, but I'll do the necessary to have all the studies that would be related to your questions and I will send them to the Commission.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1040 Don't forget that that question is mostly related with the seals.

**MR. VINCENT SIOUI**

1045 Yes.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1050 You see? Because seal is very high in the food chain. So, I think that the question is to know the situation now and if you know the sources, not only a general study on mercury, but more specifically related to the question with the seals, okay?

**MR. VINCENT SIOUI**

1055 Yes.

**MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner**

Mr. Beauchamp, if I may.

1060 And, Mr. Sioui, could you look if Hydro-Québec in Montreal, they are aware about what Mr. Tuckatuck, about these seals that they observed, the increasing of these deaths since last year. They observed a very important increase, I think, about what I understood from him. So, could you check if they are aware of that?

1065 **MR. VINCENT SIOUI**

I could check if there are studies that can establish a link between the complexe La Grande and here, because there's no hydro activities here.

1070 I've read some articles that the seals have a high level of BPC in their organism, but it's the first time I hear about something related with methylmercury in the seals.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1075 It's a quite specific question. So, you can consult the experts of Hydro-Québec and give us an answer.

Do you have any cross-check information about the same question about the seals on the Ministry of the Environment's side?

1080 **MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

1085 What we can say about that, like you know, seals are marine mammals and that's under federal competence. But like you know, seals like to eat fish.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Yes. They are very high in the food chain, yes.

1090 **MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

And what we know about the fish, in fact, when we have authorized the project LG-3, we asked a monitoring on some aspects and particularly on the fish. And now we know that the anadromous fish... I mean that the fish go a part of the life in the sea and they come to reproduce in the river. We know that those fish are more contaminated than the fish that live just in the sea. But they are more contaminated than the fish...

1095

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

That stay in fresh water.

1100

**MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

To stay in fresh water. So, we can maybe conclude something with that, but that's all that we have. We don't have any results on the marine mammals.

1105

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Do you have specific studies on that on your side?

1110

**MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

On the fish?

1115

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

On the fish and on the seals?

**MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

1120

Not on the seals.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

No? And do you think that there is equivalent studies at the federal level side?

1125

**MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

I don't think, no. I'm not sure, but...

1130

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

If you find, would you give us these studies or give us the reference?

1135

**MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

In fact, you can ask Hydro...

1140

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Yes, to Hydro.

**MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

1145

... the results of their monitoring on the fish.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1150

To the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Mr. Tuckatuck. So, he is telling us that maybe we have cumulative effects about sewage water in the sea. At the beginning, it was only for the army, now the Cree community and, in a short time, the Inuit community will have sewage water in the bay. And he thinks that there is an effect on the harvesting fish. Do you have any study on that on your side or on the side of the Environment? And on the side of the Environment, could this cumulative effect be a real one, a very important one, and how do you make monitoring on that?

1155

First, Municipal Affairs.

**MR. ROBERT LANGLAIS**

1160

On n'a pas de données là-dessus, absolument pas. We have nothing about that.

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

1165

L'inquiétude de monsieur Tuckatuck, est-ce que vous êtes capable de l'assumer? Est-ce qu'il y a une forme de surveillance, ou de relevé, ou de suivi qui est fait pour ça?

**M. ROBERT LANGLAIS**

1170 Pas dans le sens d'essayer de trouver nous-mêmes des solutions à ça. Ce n'est pas du  
domaine des Affaires municipales.

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

1175 Mais le phénomène lui-même n'est pas documenté?

**M. ROBERT LANGLAIS**

Non.

1180 **M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

Du côté de l'Environnement? Et je vous signale aussi que sa question était: quand est-ce  
que ça va revenir à la normale? Alors, êtes-vous capable de nous donner une réponse?

1185 **MR. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

For the moment, we don't have any information on this issue, but...

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1190 You don't know the fact?

**MR. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

1195 We have to examine if we... we think there are some studies on this issue, but we are not  
sure.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1200 Okay.

**MR. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

We can verify in the Department...

1205 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

First.

1210 **MR. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

... before we give you the right correct answers there.

1215 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

And with the Municipal Affairs, designing the sewage routes to the sea, do you take into consideration this possible impact in the designing of the pipes going to the sea?

1220 **MR. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

We would like to make a precision on what we just said. I will ask Josée to answer.

1225 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Oui.

**MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU**

1230 We know that the system that they have here is quite old. In fact, I asked Mr. Langlais, it dated about end of the 1940s, 1950s, it's old, and it's never been authorized. So, yes, they put their sewage water in the bay and we know about it, but it's been going on for quite a while.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1235 Because it's old, it doesn't mean it's not good.

**MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU**

Yes, I know, and we have no data on the system.

1240 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

On our side, Mr. Tuckatuck, we will check with Environment-Canada to check if they do have data about what you're telling about the abnormality of the fishes, okay? Is that good?

1245 **MR. ALEC TUCKATUCK**

Yes.

1250 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Good? Your third question now, you're speaking, I think, am I right, about infiltration of salt water in your potable water. Is that right?

1255 **MR. ALEC TUCKATUCK**

Yes.

1260 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Yes. So, the question you have is addressed again to the Affaires municipales or to the Kativik Administration?

1265 **MR. ALEC TUCKATUCK**

Well, we have been saying that for many, many years and nothing has been done. And you seem to be in the right position to make recommendations. I think that the world goes to you, sir.

1270 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

It's too much respect.

Vous vouliez dire un mot, monsieur Roussel?

1275 **MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

Yes. About this problem with salt water, I have to precise it's not a problem that will be on and on. It's only happening for a certain period of time.

1280 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Yes.

1285 **MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

1290 But the municipality would be interested into looking a backup solution for when those problems are happening. I would like to look at underground source of water. It could be an interesting avenue to solve the problem. I know there's not sufficient source to supply the village all year around, but certainly a solution that we could be looking for temporary solution when we're experimenting problems with salt water.

1295 I know for a fact that Hydro-Québec has done numerous studies on the subject when they were established here in Kuujjuarapik, when they were thinking about doing a hydroelectric project. What I would like to know is could Hydro-Québec make those studies available for the municipality to help us to try to find a solution like that?

**MR. VINCENT SIOUI**

1300 Yes. I have a list of studies that have been done by Hydro-Québec concerning potable water and possible emplacement of sites for used water, sewage water. I could give the list of the studies...

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1305 Please.

**MR. VINCENT SIOUI**

1310 ... to the Commission.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1315 Yes.

**MR. VINCENT SIOUI**

And you could choose what would be pertinent and I will give you...

1320 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Do you have any studies about what Mr. Roussel is telling about ground water, l'eau souterraine?

1325 **MR. VINCENT SIOUI**

Yes.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1330 You do have also?

**MR. VINCENT SIOUI**

1335 Yes.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1340 I must tell you, we did speak about that yesterday in Kuujjuaq and there are studies done by Professor Rouleau in the University of Québec in Chicoutimi. And he gave us scientific articles que nous avons déposés dans la documentation sous-jacente à l'audience. Alors, vous pourrez prendre connaissance de ces documents-là. Thank you.

1345 Monsieur Sioui, vous allez retrouver ça dans les transcriptions d'hier, un intervenant est venu en s'interrogeant sur l'opportunité d'une interdiction d'Hydro-Québec, qui est une interdiction générale, de chauffer avec l'électricité, parce qu'on doit comprendre que, à Kuujjuaq, le système électrique est fait par une centrale thermique, si j'ai bien compris, et que donc il y a une interdiction de chauffer avec l'électricité, ce qui est logique en soi.

1350 Mais un jeune ingénieur est venu nous expliquer qu'il y avait des puits souterrains, donc de l'eau souterraine accessible, mais que pour ça, il fallait chauffer, il fallait des fils chauffants pour empêcher les conduites de geler l'hiver et que ces gens-là étaient obligés de se produire de l'électricité soit avec une turbine, et que l'interdiction d'utiliser les circuits d'Hydro-Québec était contre-productive dans leur cas.

1355 Alors, je vous demanderais de regarder les transcriptions d'hier, si vous pouvez, et nous donner une réponse à la question qu'il posait à cet égard.

**M. VINCENT SIOUI**

1360 Oui, c'est bien.

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

1365 Ça va?

**M. VINCENT SIOUI**

1370 Très bien, oui.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

It's your turn now.

1375 **MME MIRIAMME MARCOTTE**

Merci. Mon nom est Miriamme Marcotte. I'm a dietician working for the Educative Kitchen Project here in Kuujjuarapik about anemia. And I have three subjects I want to ask questions about.

1380 The first one is concerning the cleaning of the drinking water tanks. I would like to know if it is done or not, if this situation is acceptable or not and what we could do to improve it, if we can get any help to resolve this problem.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1385 The problem of the cleaning of the water tanks?

**MRS. MIRIAMME MARCOTTE**

1390 Yes.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1395 Yes, okay. Now, give me your three questions and, after that, we'll translate.

**MRS. MIRIAMME MARCOTTE**

1400 The second one is about the water sampling. I think I heard that it's done once a week. I would like to get a confirmation about that. I would like to know again if this is acceptable or not and what we could do to improve the situation.

1405 And the third one is concerning lead in water. I think the heavy metals are tested once every two years. I would like to know if that is again acceptable or not, what are the levels that have been lately been found and so for us to be in a position to be able to rule it out as a potential cause of high levels of lead found in some people in the community. Thank you.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1410 Thanks. For the question about the incitation to clean the drinking water tanks, we discussed that before and yesterday also. Could you make a brief commentary on that please?

**MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU**

1415 The only thing I can say is for the residential reservoirs, the tanks, the water tanks, it's the responsibility of each resident to clean up their tank. It must be done at least once every two months. I cannot say if it's done or not.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1420 One...

**MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU**

1425 Once every two months.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Six times in the year?

1430 **MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU**

Yes, with Javex. It's a simple procedure, but it must be done. So, I cannot answer for every residence.

1435 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

What do you do? You dry the tank and you get inside and you clean it with Javex?

**MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU**

1440 That's it. And it's the responsibility of each residence.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1445 Do you do special information on that? Do you have a «dépliant» or a paper explaining the people what to do, when to do, how to do? Do you have any collaboration with the KRG?

**MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU**

1450 I saw once a pamphlet that was done. I think it was in Kuujjuaq. I cannot answer for Kuujjuarapik, because I don't know. Maybe Tommy can help me on this one.

**MR. TOMMY GREY, CCEK Chairman**

1455           There has been a brochure done in Kuujjuaq with a computer explaining all the procedure, how to clean each water tank in a house, a closed tank, completely closed, an open tank. If the technicians in Kuujjuaq haven't sent the brochure, when I get back, I'll tell them to fax the information, send it to the Community Council. And they can make photocopies.

1460           And if they want to know how to clean a water tank, the one where you can go in and the one you can't get into, they can get it from the Council after, when I get back to Kuujjuaq, and have it faxed to the community.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1465           Do you want to comment?

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

1470           Yes. In the operation manual of the Québec Housing Board, there's a section that's provided that explains how to clean a water tank and it was sent. I know it's not sent regularly, it should be sent more regularly to remind the people how to clean it, but it's very specific how to clean a water tank. They specify not to use soap for dishes and things like that. I think it's very specific and it helps the person.

1475           Us, when we do the water samples every week for analysis for bacteria, we take samples in two houses. They're different houses all the time, they're not the same. And when the result come back...

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

                  At random, it's done randomly?

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

1485           Yes, every week.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1490           Yes.

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

1495 Every Tuesday, we have to send a sample. We take the sample on Tuesday morning and send it on the plane on the same day. When the result come back, we find out there's bacteria in the tank of an individual, we notify him. And we usually don't deliver water until we are guaranteed that the water tank was cleaned.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1500 I want to progress in the second question also asking the Ministry of the Environment. The intervener is speaking about water sampling once a week. Is this the normal procedure? Is it sufficient? Is it the same in this region than elsewhere in Québec? And will the new regulation coming change the rules?

1505

**MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU**

1510 I can say that the sampling that is done here is more than what the regulation asks for. It's done once a week, but at least at four different places. So, it's more than the regulation asks for, because it depends on the population. And I think, for here, four samples a month would be what the regulation would ask for. So, they do much more than what is necessary. So, it's okay.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1515 Yes.

**MRS. JOSÉE BRAZEAU**

1520 For the new regulation, I don't think it would change the sampling frequency, but I'm not sure, maybe. But I don't think so. It would be the same frequency, because since we talked already about the many... you know, there's the source, there's the truck and there's the water tank in the homes. So, I think it would stay the same.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1525

Does that answer your question, Madam? Okay. If you want to see the text of new regulation, it is not yet adopted, but we received it at the Commission and it is in the documentation of the Commission. You can ask and we can inform you about this new regulation, if it is adopted.

1530

For your third question, the question about lead in water, do you have on the Environment side or maybe... yes, do you have lead in water in the region? And do you know from where this lead comes? And do you have any data about that?

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

1535

The last study was made in July 1999, this year, this summer. And we have taken samples from several places. The maximum limit acceptable is .05 milligram per liter and all the samples were way below that.

1540

I know there's a lead problem among kids, but the problem wouldn't be, from what I see, from the water. We believe it comes from pellets. When a goose is killed for example, sometime you find little pellets from the bullet in the meat.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1545

Oh yes?

**MR. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

1550

And it might have been swallowed by... specially kids, they might swallow these little pellets and that's where the problem, I believe, is coming from.

1555

There was, I think, results from the nursing station showing by X-ray kids who had problems with anemia, because when you have lead, you don't consume properly vitamins and other minerals. X-rays were showing in fact that there was lead in the stomach and they were little pellets. So, the only place where they can come, I think, is from country meat hunted by hunters with those types of bullets.

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

1560

Monsieur Roussel, vous semblez référer à une étude. Est-ce que c'est une étude que vous avez en main ou un rapport que vous avez en main?

**M. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

1565

Oui. Ça a été fait par Techni-Lab. Je peux vous en fournir une copie.

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

1570

Oui, si vous pouvez nous le déposer s'il vous plaît.

**M. PIERRE ROUSSEL**

1575

Oui.

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

1580 Merci. Madame Bélanger, alors, on ne sera pas sans vous avoir interrogée. Alors, je pense que c'est une question fort importante que le plomb chez les enfants. Est-ce que vous avez un commentaire ou des informations à ajouter à ce qui a été dit?

**MME MICHÈLE BÉLANGER**

1585 Je ne sais pas si c'est la même étude que monsieur Roussel, mais je sais qu'on en a une assez récente qui a été faite par Benoît Lévesque et d'autres collaborateurs au Centre de santé publique de Québec et qui rapporte ce que monsieur Roussel vient de dire, qu'on en retrouve beaucoup dans la viande sauvage, particulièrement les oiseaux.

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

1590 Mais monsieur Roussel semble dire que la source serait...

**MME MICHÈLE BÉLANGER**

1595 Oui, le plomb dans les balles.

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

1600 Le plomb des balles, oui.

**MME MICHÈLE BÉLANGER**

1605 Le plomb dans les balles, il est question d'y avoir une législation dans quelques années, qui ferait qu'on n'aurait plus le droit d'utiliser de plomb dans les balles, mais c'est à venir.

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

Oui.

1610 **MME MICHÈLE BÉLANGER**

Il est question de ça. Ça va aussi que ça.

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

1615 Mais l'étude de monsieur Benoît dit ça aussi?

**MME MICHÈLE BÉLANGER**

1620 Oui. Elle recommande ça.

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

Vous allez déposer cette étude-là, ma chère madame?

1625

**MME MICHÈLE BÉLANGER**

Oui, mon cher monsieur.

1630

**M. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, président BAPE**

Bien. Est-ce que ça va? Merci, Madame.

Yes?

1635

**MR. SAPPÀ FLEMING**

Thank you for coming here. My name is Sappa Fleming and I'm a hunter. I would like to say a thing, that since it's only not this part of the country that's going to be affected if it goes ahead what I'm going to talk about, but it concerns the James Bay and Hudson Bay area.

1640

This project, if it goes ahead, it's not only Canada that's going to have to say, U.S. is going to have to say. So, I'm asking, are we going to be affected, are we going to be sideline again if they start the Grand Canal? Is it Canada and U.S. that's going to have the final say or it's us that's going to be affected, most affected by this project? We can be left behind. That's my question.

1645

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

It's a big one. Est-ce qu'il y a quelqu'un au ministère de l'Environnement -- et la question de monsieur portait sur le projet Grand Canal en disant que, évidemment, si un tel projet se réalisait, que ça serait non seulement dommageable pour eux, mais dommageable pour le Canada et les États-Unis. Et il voulait savoir si on a des informations là-dessus.

1650

Votre collègue veut répondre à l'arrière, monsieur.

1655

**MR. JOCELIN DUFRESNE**

The Environment Department did not receive any project, preliminary project, final project or any project at all. And if we receive such a project, this project will have to pass through the environmental evaluation process. So, for the moment, we don't have any project. It's an idea, we listen of it, but we never saw it.

1660

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1665 I must inform you also that the International Joint Commission which is a common body with  
Canada and U.S. made a report recently on this question. And in their opinion, there is no ecologi-  
cal ground on such project and no economical logic neither.

1670 So, at this moment, there is no promoter and there is no serious probability about the  
progress of a project of this kind, but we must be aware. And it is interesting that you come here  
and you speak about this project, because we must be very, very aware on this topic.

**MR. SAPPA FLEMING**

1675 Yes, like they did to La Grande, yes.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Yes.

1680 **MR. SAPPA FLEMING**

So, it's the only one. I guess all the others were talked about that I was going to ask.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1685 Yes.

**MR. SAPPA FLEMING**

1690 Thank you.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1695 Thank you. For this subject on Grand Canal, we had a long discussion in Montreal in what  
we call a thematic day. And you can have the transcription of this hearing, but it is in French. We  
do have like a book of the transcription on this question in Montreal and we can inform you about  
what has been said in this thematic discussion. Thank you.

Mr. Lucassie?

1700 **MR. LUCASSIE INUKPUK**

I have a question for Mr. Tooktoo here. He may want to speak too.

1705 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Yes.

**MR. LUCASSIE INUKPUK**

1710

He's the elder from our community. Yes, I think he'll give you a chance.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1715

Yes.

**MR. WILLIE TOOKTOO (by the interpreter)**

1720

This is Mr. Willie Tooktoo. Most of his questions were already asked and answered, but one of his questions is, the fish from the reservoir of the La Grande complex, he wants to know if any type of fish from there, from the lake or the river, go into the bay and out or back in.

Did you understand?

1725

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

No, not quite.

**THE INTERPRETER**

1730

Like if there's any type of fish in the lake over there that migrate to the sea and back up.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1735

To the reservoir?

**THE INTERPRETER**

Yes.

1740

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Do you want an answer now?

1745

**MR. WILLIE TOOKTOO (by the interpreter)**

He said the question is concerning fish, if they're affected by raw sewage and if there was any studies or if there is plans to be any studies concerning this matter.

1750

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Okay.

**MR. WILLIE TOOKTOO (by the interpreter)**

1755

He thanks you for having the time to meet with him. And since all or most of his questions were already answered, that is all for now.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1760

For the first question, Mr. Tooktoo asked about the... alors sur la migration des poissons, sur les poissons qui vont de la mer au barrage, est-ce que la mise en place des équipements d'Hydro-Québec a modifié la migration d'un certain nombre de poissons?

1765

**MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

Of course, with the dam at LG-1, the fish can't go up in the reservoir. The river is...

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1770

They can't.

**MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

1775

They can't go up. But if the question is if the fish continue to go... that anadromous fish continue to go in the river and in the bay, the answer is «yes».

And we have asked a monitoring on this question to Hydro. For example, in fact...

1780 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

And what do you call an anadromous fish? Could you give us an example of what kind of fish?

1785 **MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

Like for example, in the La Grande Rivière, we talk about «corégones».

1790 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Yes.

**MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

1795 It's maybe another example, but it doesn't apply to La Grande, but the salmon is an anadromous fish, because it lives a part of life in fresh water and the other part in the sea.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1800 Yes.

**MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

That's what we call an anadromous fish.

1805 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

This fish still goes in salt water and in land water, but it cannot go upper in the region because of the dams.

1810 **MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

The dams, that's it.

1815 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

But it doesn't affect its reproduction or its life?

**MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

1820

No. His reproduction is in the La Grande Rivière or in the other rivers along the bay.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1825

Okay.

**MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner**

1830

And did you have this monitoring you asked to Hydro-Québec? From how much time you have asked this monitoring? Is it recent or...

**MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

1835

No, since we have authorized the project LG-2A. And we have asked another monitoring on the LG-1 project.

**MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner**

1840

Did you have an answer?

**MR. DANIEL BERROUARD**

1845

Yes. We received a report about that. And like the other question, it is possible for you to ask the report to Hydro.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1850

Yes, we ask it. We ask for it. And you want to give it.

For the second question Mr. Tooktoo asked about the sewage and the effect on the fish, it has been asked by Mr. Tuckatuck before and we did have a small answer on that.

I would ask something to Mr. Tooktoo. Could you come back, Mr. Tooktoo, to the table here? Mr. Tooktoo, you understand English?

1855

**THE INTERPRETER**

No, he doesn't.

1860 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

No, he doesn't. No, no, it's wonderful. First, I want to thank you for coming here. I think you're an elder in the community, I just want to know if you're a fisherman.

1865 **MR. WILLIE TOOKTOO (by the interpreter)**

Yes, he is. For your question, if he eats a lot of fish or he's a fisherman...

1870 **MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

He is?

**MR. WILLIE TOOKTOO (by the interpreter)**

1875 He is. He eats a lot of fish. And he mentioned one of the best fish around here, what he eats, what he prefers, and he is a fisherman.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1880 Good. I just want to have from his part a short testimony of his own experience, if there is any change now from the time he was younger. Can he qualify one or two very specific changes he observed on his point of view. I don't want to have a 45-minute exposé, but if he can tell us in a few phrases what are the changes he knows by his own experience.

1885 **THE INTERPRETER**

About fish?

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1890 About, yes, fish.

**MR. WILLIE TOOKTOO (by the interpreter)**

1895 For your question, if there has been any changes, in the past there used to be a lot of fish here. But he's not sure why the fish depleted. There's not as much fish as there used to be.

1900 He's just like guessing, maybe it's due to too much noise with big boats and canoes around. But he mentioned that fish are starting to come back, there's a little bit more fish now compared to before. They're starting to come back.

And he mentioned that he cannot really tell if a fish is contaminated, for example, of mercury or whatever. But none physical contamination like something you can't see. So, he cannot tell you if there's been any changes in that part.

1905

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Wonderful!

1910

**MR. WILLIE TOOKTOO (by the interpreter)**

One thing he wants to add also is, as mentioned before, the cod and sculpin fish, specially this summer there hasn't been much. He doesn't know if they're moving or just dying. One of the parts that he noticed about water, in the water, the fishing water, are the cod and sculpin.

1915

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Thanks.

1920

**MRS. GISÈLE GALLICHAN, BAPE Commissioner**

May I ask you one more question? Could you ask to Mr. Tooktoo, as far as he said to us that he eats an important quantity of fish often maybe in a week, has he felt some change in his health? Is he in a good health?

1925

**MR. WILLIE TOOKTOO (by the interpreter)**

He doesn't feel any changes to his health. He just keeps on eating fish and he's not concerned about...

1930

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

The quality.

1935

**THE INTERPRETER**

Yes.

1940

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Good! Thank you.

You want to...

**MR. LUCASSIE INUKPUK**

1945

Yes. Mr. Tooktoo is a hunter, he's more a hunter than a fisherman. And he retired this summer, recently, from how many years of work? 22 years work or 20 years work as employment. He recently retired this summer. He's a very good hunter.

1950

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

Yes. And he seems to be in good health also.

**MR. LUCASSIE INUKPUK**

1955

Yes.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1960

Good! Can we stop? I think we did a wonderful job. On my side for the Commission on Water Management, I must inform you that we will start the second step of the hearing by hearing memoirs and briefs from groups and individuals everywhere in Québec.

1965

We will start a regional trip the 27th of September to the 25th of November. You have the agenda of our program in the back. I won't come in this community for the second trip. We will go in Radisson, I know it's not good for you, but there is a possibility to give a brief or a memoir when we will be in Montreal or in Québec City. And if you can't come, you can send us a memoir or a brief and it will be registered as a memoir and you indicate us that you cannot present it by yourself to the Commission, but it will be in the documentation and the reflection of the Commission.

1970

Naturally, in our report, final report that we will be given to the Minister of the Environment, there will be also a section on our visit here. And this section will be discussed with the members of the Kativik Committee.

1975

So, for my part, that's all. I wish to thank all the resource persons here from the different ministries, and the mayor, and the members of the community, and the members also of the Commission here.

1980

I wish to thank you very much for the translation. You did a terrific job all day long. And after your own translation, I will ask Tommy to end the meeting.

**MR. TOMMY GREY, CCEK Chairman**

1985

I would just like to say thank you very much for having come here to voice your concerns and it was a pleasure to have met you all, even though it was for a very short period of time.

I just want to say have a good evening.

**MR. ANDRÉ BEAUCHAMP, BAPE Chairman**

1990

Thanks.

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1995

Je, soussignée, **LISE MAISONNEUVE**, sténographe judiciaire, certifie 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.

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2000

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**LISE MAISONNEUVE, s.o.**