

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

ÉTAIENT PRÉSENTS : **M. JOSEPH ZAYED, coprésident**
Mme MELISSA SAGANASH, coprésidente
M. PIERRE RENAUD, commissaire

**ENQUÊTE ET AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE
SUR L'ÉTAT DES LIEUX
ET LA GESTION DES RÉSIDUS ULTIMES**

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PAGE 6, LIGNES 170, 173 et 177**

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Séance tenue le 16 septembre 2021 à 9 h
par visioconférence

MOT DE LA COPRÉSIDENTE

Mme MELISSA SAGANASH

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Merci, Monsieur Zayed. Bonjour, Monsieur Renaud. Wachiya! Kuei! Bonjour! Good morning! Melissa Saganash.

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So, as co-chair of today's BAPE hearing on the *Status and Management of Final Waste* in Eeyou Istchee, I would like to welcome you all and thank you for your participation.

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Mr. Joseph Zayed, who has just introduced himself, and myself are pleased to be collaborating again in this fundamental exercise of our rights in Eeyou Istchee.

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The right to the consultation, over and above that provided for in the procedures involving the general public through consultation or representative mechanisms as provided for in Section 22.2.2c) of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, is an essential provision that supports our capacity to defend our rights and interests in the Territory.

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As you may recall, a similar exercise was held back in 2014 when a BAPE enquiry was called on the uranium industry in Quebec, in which presentations, concerns, observations and questions were raised for the Commission from both the Cree communities and the Jamesian municipalities.

It is your participation and input that shape the final report of these enquiries that in turn feed into the minister's reflection on the subject, but finally either become a policy, regulation, or law.

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Just as important as the BAPE on uranium in 2014, today's exchanges on the status and management of final waste within the Territory is critical and will outline challenges that will need to be addressed for northern or rural communities such as ours which reality is very different from that of southern regions.

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Identifying these challenges and supplying potential solutions adapted to these realities will be viable if we are to evaluate and fill the gaps needed to address this issue at the core.

What solutions are desirable? Which ones are essential? Asking questions and raising concerns on what you will hear today is encouraged as we have experts, as Mr. Zayed mentioned,

170 and representatives from Recyc-Québec, the Cree Health Board, Ministry of Environment and Fight
Against Climate Changes, the Cree Nation Government, the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional
Government, the **JBACE** and as well as local representation from both Cree and Jamesian
communities and municipalities who are all here with us today.

175 These people may assist with providing clarity or potential **path** to move us forward into more
sustainable practices.

180 Looking ahead towards the future where population and activities will see growth, so will our
need to seriously consider the **pressures** these will have on existent infrastructure, on climate
changes, on greenhouse gas emissions, local labour, and economy in the region and, of course,
the effect on land users and preservation of traditional pursuits as protected by Section 24 of the
JBNQA.

185 And so, with this in mind, we would like to begin today's hearing with the Cree Nation
Government who will be presenting its report on the Status and Management of Final Waste in
Eeyou Istchee.

190 Mr. Guillaume Bédard and Cameron McLean now have the floor. Migwetch! And I wish
everybody a good presentation and a good day.

195 **PRESENTATION OF Mr. GUILLAUME BÉDARD**
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES
FOR THE CREE NATION GOVERNMENT

195 **Mr. GUILLAUME BÉDARD:**

200 I thank you, Melissa. Wachiya! Good morning! My name is Guillaume Bédard, I am the
assistant director of Engineering Services for the Cree Nation Government. I will be presenting this
presentation with the assistance of my colleague, Cameron McLean, manager of Environment for
the remedial – Environmental and Remedial Works Department.