



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

REVIEW BOARD

FOR THE REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED  
INUVIK TO TUKTOYAKTUK HIGHWAY PROJECT  
PUBLIC HEARING

Liz Snider	Chairperson/Facilitator
Herbert Felix	Board Member
Roland Kikoak	Board Member
Catherine Cockney	Board Member
Bruce Chambers	Board Member

HELD AT:

Kitti Hall

Tuktoyaktuk, NT

September 25, 2012

Day 4 of 4

## 1 APPEARANCES

2

3 John Donihee ) Board Staff

4 Gordon Stewart )

5 Petr Komers )

6 Meghan Birnie )

7 Eli Nasogaluak )

8 Chris Burn (np) )

9

10 Jim Stevens ) Developer

11 Rick Hoos )

12 Erica Bonhomme )

13 Robyn McGregor )

14 Olivier Piraux (np) )

15 Don Hayley (np) )

16 Doug Chiperzak )

17 Tara Schmidt )

18 Michael Fabijan )

19 Shawn McArthur (np) )

20 Gurdev Jagpal )

21 Walter Orr )

22

23 Amanda Joynt ) Department of Fisheries

24 Sarah Olivier ) and Oceans

25 Bev Ross (np) )

1 APPEARANCES (Con't)

2

3 Kate Witherly )Northern Projects

4 )Management Office

5

6 Derek Parks (np) )Fisheries Joint Management

7 James Malone (np) )Committee

8

9 Susanne Forbrich )Environment Canada

10 James Hodson (np) )

11

12 Jonathan Pritchard )Infrastructure Canada

13 Phoebe Miles (np) )

14

15 Doug Soloway (np) )Transport Canada

16 Dale Kirkland (np) )

17

18 Conrad Baetz )Aboriginal Affairs and

19 Bob Gowan (np) )Northern Development

20 Jan Davies (np) )Canada

21

22 Adriane Bacheschi )Parks Canada

23 Jean-Francois Bisailon )

24

25

1 APPEARANCES (Con't)

2

3 Alex Bradley )Wildlife Management

4 Bruce Hanbidge (np) )Advisory Council

5 Larry Carpenter (np) )

6

7 Sunny Ashcroft )Environment and

8 Marsha Branigan )Natural Resources

9 Stephen Charlie (np) )

10

11 Karin Taylor (np) )Department of Justice

12 Glen Rutland (np) )

13

14 Mervyn Gruben )Mayor of Tuktoyaktuk

15

16 Denny Rodgers (np) )Mayor of Inuvik

17

18 Don Craik )Industry Tourism and

19 )Investment

20

21 Russell Neudorf (np) )Deputy Minister,

22 )Department of

23 )Transportation

24

25

1 APPEARANCES (Con't)

2

3 Alana Mero )Northwest Territories

4 )Housing Corporation

5

6 Arlene Jorgensen )Beaufort Delta Regional

7 )Health and Social Services

8 )Authority

9

10 Darlene Elanik )Education, Culture and

11 )Employment

12

13 John Stewart Jr. )Tuktoyaktuk

14 Lennie Emaghok )Community Corporation

15

16 Roger Gruben )Tuktoyaktuk Business

17 Peter Louie )Community

18 Russell Newmark )

19 Peter Louie Jr. (np) )

20

21 Jackie Jacobson )MLA of Nunakput

22

23 Richard Gordon (np) )Members of the public

24 Sheila Nasogaluak (np) )

25

1	APPEARANCES (Con't)		
2			
3	Billy Emaghok	(np)	)Members of the public
4	James Pokiak		)
5	Marjorie Ovayuak		)
6	Eddie Dillon		)
7	Lucy Dillon		)
8	Ernest Pokiak		)
9	Calvin Pokiak		)
10	Robert Gruben		)
11	John Steen Jr.		)
12	Charles Pokiak		)
13	Fred Wolki		)
14	Jim Elias		)
15	Roy Cockney		)
16	Irwin Elias		)
17	Shawn Lundrigan		)
18	Elizabeth Pertshey		)
19	Warren Steen		)
20	Persis Gruben		)
21	Bernice Pokiak		)
22	Cathy Katigakyok		)
23			
24			
25			

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1 --- Upon commencing at 10:27 a.m.

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Good  
4 morning, everybody. I guess we're ready to start.  
5 Before we get into our proceeding, I would like to ask  
6 Fred Wolki to say the opening prayer.

7

8 (OPENING PRAYER)

9

10 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: I'll just  
11 remind you of a couple of safety things. The emergency  
12 exits are where you see "Exit" marked, and the  
13 washrooms are actually upstairs, just at the back of  
14 the room here.

15 This is a community hearing, and I  
16 continue to -- to welcome anyone from the community to  
17 stand up and identify yourself and -- and let the Board  
18 know what your views about this project are. We had a  
19 couple of things that we needed to clear up from  
20 yesterday.

21 I guess first was the response to our  
22 panel member's question about the grazing lease for the  
23 reindeer, so if we could start with that. Maybe that  
24 would be the first item. Go ahead.

25 MS. ERICA BONHOMME: Erica Bonhomme,



1 Kavik-Stantec. If I understand, I'm -- I'm going to  
2 summarize the question as I understand it from  
3 yesterday. The question was regarding Borrow Source  
4 314/325 and the camp that might be proposed to be set  
5 up there, and its occurrence within the current graze -  
6 - reindeer grazing reserve and how that might impact,  
7 you know, anyone exercising the right to raise -- graze  
8 reindeer within that area.

9                   So in response to that, just for  
10 clarification, a -- a reindeer reserve -- or, the  
11 reindeer reserve is land set aside for reindeer  
12 grazing. In -- it, in and of itself, is not a lease or  
13 -- or anything that grants any kind of right to anyone.  
14 But there is a licence that would be issued to an owner  
15 of that herd to be able to exercise the right to graze  
16 reindeer there.

17                   And there currently is no licence owner  
18 for grazing reindeer within that grazing reserve on  
19 Crown land. So in -- in our view, there is really no  
20 additional work that we need to do to contact any  
21 particular owner, because, like I said, there is no  
22 owner of a reindeer grazing licence in that area at the  
23 moment.

24                   THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank  
25 you. Mr. Chambers...?

1 MR. BRUCE CHAMBERS: Thank you very for  
2 that. Bruce Chambers. Thank you very much for that  
3 response.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Okay.  
5 Thank you. I have some people who let us know  
6 yesterday that they'd like to say a few words today.  
7 So I think I saw Robert Gruben come in. Maybe we could  
8 start with him.

9 Robert, would you like to come and make  
10 your statement?

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: You have  
15 to just press the button there.

16

17 STATEMENT BY MR. ROBERT GRUBEN:

18 MR. ROBERT GRUBEN: Okay, got it. Good  
19 morning.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: And could  
21 you just please say your name at the beginning?

22 MR. ROBERT GRUBEN: My name is Robert  
23 Gruben, and I'd like to thank you, Chair and Board  
24 members, for the opportunity to put forward my thoughts  
25 on the all-weather road between Tuk and Inuvik.

1 First, I would like to say that  
2 I was past Chair of the Tuk Community Corporation and  
3 involved in the process at the beginning when this  
4 latest round of talks began to finish the Tuk to Inuvik  
5 Highway.

6 The work involved getting the permits  
7 from ILA and IRC for the right-of-way and the gravel  
8 sources and negotiating with the federal and NWT  
9 governments for the funding necessary to see this  
10 project to completion. Now that the monies are  
11 secured, it will be a shame if we lost it due to  
12 delays, delays that are unnecessary because a lot of  
13 the work is done.

14 Our people in Tuk and the Proponents and  
15 the contractors can get -- can work together to further  
16 define the project requirements, including contracting,  
17 route alignment, to finalize the proximity of the  
18 highway to certain traditional and cultural portions of  
19 Husky Lakes, and some research. But I am confident  
20 that these issues will be addressed as the project gets  
21 underway.

22 I, along with the majority of people  
23 here in Tuk and Inuvik, presently rely on work that is  
24 of the casual nature with minimal pay, work that can  
25 last from two (2) to six (6) weeks, with most people

1 going on income support not -- not long after their  
2 employment is done.

3                   If this project were to be approved, can  
4 you imagine how many people would be employed? How  
5 many people will no longer need the help of income  
6 support; and the self-esteem these people will have,  
7 the pride they will show because of the jobs they have,  
8 because now they have the means to provide not only  
9 just the basics for their families. And can you  
10 imagine what will happen to these people if this  
11 project is not approved?

12                   We here in Tuk understand that there  
13 will be environmental impacts associated with this  
14 project, impacts that might affect our traditional  
15 lifestyle to a degree. But we believe that these  
16 impacts will be minimal because of the environmental  
17 agencies and protections that are in place, created by  
18 the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, and those that exist in  
19 the federal and territorial governments. These  
20 agencies will ensure that measures are in place to find  
21 that balance where we can enjoy the benefits of the  
22 highway and still live a traditional lifestyle.

23                   The Inuvialuit have always been  
24 progressive people, able to welcome any challenges put  
25 in front of them. Some challenges we did not want, but

1 they were met head on. This highway is different in  
2 one (1) way, in that our Elders initiated this  
3 challenge with the hope that their future generations  
4 can enjoy the benefits that the highway will bring.

5 Our Elders did not shy away or were not  
6 afraid of change. So in this day and age, we should  
7 not be either. We should be able to adopt to or work  
8 with anything that is thrown in our path. That is our  
9 nature.

10 We have the -- we have seen the changes  
11 over the years where the only way out of Tuk for most  
12 of the year was by plane, which came a couple times a -  
13 - a couple times a week. Then came the winter road,  
14 which was open a few months out of the year, to now  
15 where we have scheduled flights every day and the road  
16 -- ice road is open longer now.

17 The ice road is welcomed by everyone in  
18 this community because it means that people can travel  
19 to Inuvik or beyond to visit family or friends and al -  
20 - also shop for items that are not offered here. And  
21 these items are at reasonable prices.

22 The highway will bring much needed  
23 benefits to the people of Tuk. I am not presenting  
24 this as a businessman nor as a politician, but as one  
25 who still hunts and fish for sub -- for subsistence

1 like many others do. I do not make a living off  
2 trapping, so I welcome the economic benefits that this  
3 project will bring.

4 I must remind you that the monies are  
5 secured from the federal and territorial governments,  
6 but if there are any delays, then that funding --  
7 funding can be taken away. Who knows when, but it is  
8 not there forever.

9 You must make the right decision for the  
10 Inuvialuit and approve this project so that we can  
11 welcome the lower cost that we'll have to pay for goods  
12 that this project will bring.

13 This means a paycheque will go further  
14 than it does now, and I especially like the idea of our  
15 children being able to enjoy the freedom to travel on  
16 this road to somewhere. Thank you for your time.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank you  
18 -- thank you very much. I also have a request from  
19 John Steen, Jr., to make a statement.

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 STATEMENT BY MR. JOHN STEEN, JR.:

24 MR. JOHN STEEN, JR.: Good morning.

25 Thank you, Madam Chair and panel members, for giving me

1 this opportunity to speak to you about this proposed  
2 Tuktoyaktuk to Inuvik highway.

3 My name is John Steen, Jr. I am a  
4 businessman here in the community. I have lived here  
5 all of my life. My wife and I raise our children here.  
6 I am speaking on a personal level today.

7 Most of my concerns have been addressed  
8 by the people yesterday and today. However, there is a  
9 few I feel I have to mention. Like Robert said, we  
10 must move forward on this project. We can't be in more  
11 delays. Our community can't afford to wait. The pros  
12 outweigh the cons. There's way more good than bad to  
13 come from this project. There's just too much to  
14 mention. You all heard from the people the good and  
15 the bad.

16 Second of all, I don't think it's going  
17 to matter how far the road is from Husky Lakes, as long  
18 as there's a buffer zone. It's not going to matter if  
19 we have to travel fifteen (15) minutes more or fifteen  
20 (15) minutes less on a snowmobile to get to your  
21 destination. And really, that's the difference between  
22 the two (2) routes.

23 A lot of people are going to get off  
24 their snowmobile or go there with a vehicle and get off  
25 and easily just to drive to Husky Lakes. So that

1 fifteen (15) minutes is -- is not really going to make  
2 a difference, in my opinion.

3           The only thing that we should worry  
4 about is the harvest -- harvesting and fishing laws  
5 should be strictly enforced, and we have the resources  
6 in place now to do that. If anything, I think it may  
7 be over-protected once and if the road is complete.

8           Thirdly, I believe the most important  
9 thing of this project, the upland route is not the  
10 correct route to be chosen, with the reasons being,  
11 number one, in my opinion, the vast amount of material  
12 it'll take to build this route. I believe the amount  
13 of material that will be needed, it may not be there;  
14 and if it is, it may put the project out of reach.

15           Number two, by far my strongest opinion,  
16 my strongest opposition of this route is it's not the  
17 safest. We heard different scenarios yesterday about  
18 what's the worst that can happen on the road. We hear  
19 things like a truck flipping over, spilling into an  
20 environment, costing enormous amount of monies to clean  
21 up, when really that's not the worst scenario that can  
22 happen.

23           The worst possible scenario, in my  
24 opinion, is a busload of students from our school going  
25 onto the slippery, icy, and very hilly terrain, full of



1 curves, and flipping over, killing them, killing them  
2 all.

3                   When building a road or anything else,  
4 one should build with safety as a priority, never  
5 settling for less. You never settle for less. I  
6 believe, once people compare the two (2) roads as where  
7 would they rather send their children and grandchildren  
8 on a school bus -- and, believe me, that day will come  
9 if the road is built.

10                   When it's built, they're going to have  
11 to send their children out of the community into this -  
12 - into a school bus and into Inuvik to go join sports.  
13 And you ask them what route they will pick, where they  
14 want their children to go, 100 percent of the time,  
15 they're going to pick the safer route.

16                   I think we all know, you, the panel,  
17 can't satisfy all of the people. All we can do is  
18 trust in your knowledge of this project and your  
19 expertise. Thank you.

20                   THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank  
21 you.

22                   Roger Gruben had asked to come and make  
23 some statements again today as a citizen, a community  
24 member.

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 STATEMENT BY MR. ROGER GRUBEN:

4 MR. ROGER GRUBEN: Good morning. My  
5 name is Roger Gruben, and I would like to provide  
6 clarification on the presentation from the Tuktoyaktuk  
7 business community that was made yesterday, and also  
8 follow up with some comments from myself as a private  
9 resident of Tuktoyaktuk.

10 The presentation from the business  
11 community yesterday was developed with the following  
12 local businesses: my own business, R. T. Gruben  
13 Services Limited; E. Gruben's Transport; J & L  
14 Transport; Felix Enterprises; Double J Contracting;  
15 Tuktoyaktuk Vehicle Rentals.

16 These businesses have worked together on  
17 a variety of projects with the oil industry and on the  
18 access road to Source 177.

19 We believe it's better to work together  
20 to collectively supply equipment and services, provide  
21 efficiency, safety, and maximize local participation.  
22 Our business grouping has a standing invitation to any  
23 member from the business community in Tuktoyaktuk to  
24 work with us.

25 I would like to make some comments about

1 the Tuk-Inuvik Highway project. These comments are as  
2 a private resident from Tuktoyaktuk and are based on my  
3 own personal experiences, discussions with others, and  
4 my past experience as a chair of the IRC.

5 As others have mentioned, the majority  
6 of residents of Tuktoyaktuk support the construction of  
7 the highway. However, the building of the highway and  
8 the maintenance after construction should be done in a  
9 matter that -- in a manner that ensures protection of  
10 the environment, opportunities for business,  
11 employment, and training that flow to the people of  
12 Tuktoyaktuk.

13 In fact, we want at least 75 percent of  
14 the business and employment opportunities on the  
15 portion that Tuktoyaktuk contractors will build. We  
16 believe the project should start now, without any  
17 delays. We have enough experience and expertise in  
18 building roads to make sure it is done right.

19 We believe the IFA and government  
20 departments will protect our interests. Funding is  
21 available for the project, and we encourage the EIRB to  
22 approve the project so that we can access the funds as  
23 soon as we can. The funds have been earmarked now for  
24 about three (3) years, and we should show some  
25 progress. Otherwise, we run the risk of the money

1 being used elsewhere.

2 I was the chair of the IRC from 1986 to  
3 1994, and my responsibilities included the  
4 implementation of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement,  
5 liaising with government and industry, and setting up  
6 many of the various agencies and institutions detailed  
7 in the IFA. And as a matter of fact, Madam Chair, as I  
8 look at some of the panel members, I recall working  
9 with some of you in a past life.

10 The IFA mandates that any project in the  
11 ISR, if approved, proceed with protection of the  
12 environment and the wildlife. And with significant  
13 Inuvialuit participation, and business, employment, and  
14 training, we have the Inuvialuit agencies and  
15 institutions to ensure projects on Inuvialuit lands  
16 proceed in the safest and most beneficial manner.

17 These agencies and institutions were  
18 created by the IFA and include the community  
19 corporations, Hunters and Trappers Committees, the IRC,  
20 the ILA, the Game Council, the FJMC, the Wildlife  
21 Management Advisory Boards for the NWT and the Yukon,  
22 and input from the Inuvialuit public. In addition,  
23 there are government regulatory agencies that have  
24 mandates to protect the environment and the wildlife.  
25 These government agencies include AANDC, DFO, the NWT

1 Water Board, ENR, the Department of Tourism, and so on.

2 They have existing procedures and  
3 regulations to ensure projects are done right. So any  
4 project planned in the ISR will receive a lot of review  
5 and a lot of scrutiny from government and the  
6 Inuvialuit.

7 However, the Inuvialuit agencies and  
8 institutions and the government departments must meet  
9 their responsibilities in a timely manner. We must  
10 ensure they receive the required information at the  
11 appropriate time to do their job.

12 Most of that information will be  
13 available at the permitting stage or at the site-  
14 specific stage. For example, the Tuk business  
15 community wants their participation defined before the  
16 project starts. Inuvialuit participation is a  
17 requirement of the IFA, and the IRC and the ILA have  
18 the responsibility of confirming participation  
19 agreements and the involvement of the Inuvialuit in the  
20 project prior to the issuance of projects -- and --  
21 excuse me, prior to the issuance of permits.

22 There is some concern that the proposed  
23 route of the highway may get too close to cabins or to  
24 traditional or cultural areas. I spoke with members of  
25 the Proponent yesterday, and they are ready to sit down

1 with the interested parties to make slight adjustments  
2 to the alignment of the road, so long as the road stays  
3 within the corridor as detailed in the project  
4 description.

5 I also heard the Proponent commit to  
6 meeting with Inuvialuit agencies to agree on measures  
7 to protect the wildlife along the route of the highway.  
8 Additional protection for the wildlife will be done by  
9 ENR, DFO, and other government departments as they go  
10 about monitoring the project on a regular basis.

11 I heard a comment yesterday on who will  
12 monitor and enforce along the highway. The ILA has the  
13 ultimate responsibility to monitor and enforce on  
14 Inuvialuit lands, with assistance from ENR, DFO, and  
15 other government departments. These government  
16 departments will also monitor and enforce on Crown  
17 lands. However, the ILA and the government agencies  
18 will require funding to meet their increased  
19 responsibilities.

20 The ILA has the ability to charge  
21 Developers for their monitoring requirements - for  
22 example, the supply of environmental monitors on a  
23 project. Funding for the government departments should  
24 come from their respective governments and should be  
25 allocated before the project starts.

1 I heard comments yesterday about the  
2 footprint from activities related to the road. And I  
3 believe the comment was in relation to temporary right-  
4 of-ways to gravel sources. The ILA and AANDC have  
5 procedures and regulations in place to minimize impacts  
6 on the environment. There are standards in the  
7 regulations that govern how temporary roads are built.  
8 And if the standards and requirements are met, and if  
9 the proper monitoring and enforcement is done on a  
10 timely basis, the footprint will be none or minimal.

11 I also heard a comment yesterday about  
12 the use of snow and water from lakes to construct the  
13 temporary roads and the possible impacts on the  
14 muskrats or other wildlife. Again, the regulations are  
15 in place to ensure protection. The ILA and other  
16 government agencies have the responsibility to ensure  
17 there are no negative environmental impacts on  
18 wildlife. Do the research or do the survey at that  
19 time, with input from the TTC, the hunters and trappers  
20 committees, and other relevant agencies to determine  
21 the best possible approach.

22 Let's say the project plans are on a  
23 stream crossing and there is some question on the  
24 possible impacts of the fish and habitat. DFO has the  
25 responsibility to ensure that fish and habitat are

1 protected and should work with the Developer and the  
2 contractors at that stage to ensure proper measures are  
3 taken. So we have Inuvialuit and government agencies  
4 currently in place to protect our interests.

5 Finally, I was talking with some local  
6 people yesterday about the project. And a lady said,  
7 Why should we pay three dollars (\$3) for a litre of  
8 milk, two dollars (\$2) for bottled water, and spend  
9 four hundred and fifty dollars (\$450) on a return  
10 airfare from Tuktoyaktuk to Inuvik with one (1) of the  
11 airline companies, and that's for one (1) person.

12 We have the opportunity to change  
13 things, and provide a better lifestyle for our people.  
14 We should grab the opportunity while it's available.

15 Madam Chair, members of the panel, I  
16 want to thank you very much for allowing me the  
17 opportunity to discuss my issues with your Board.  
18 Kuyannaini. Thank you very much.

19 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank you  
20 very much, Mr. Ruben. Charles Pokiak has indicated  
21 that he'd like to make a statement. Just if you could  
22 say your name for the record. Thank you.

23

24 STATEMENT BY MR. CHARLES POKIAK:

25 MR. CHARLES POKIAK: Good morning,



1 Madam Chair, panel. Thanks for -- for coming to  
2 Tuktoyaktuk, and rather -- my name is Charles Pokiak.  
3 I'm -- I've lived here most of my life, and in the past  
4 I work with all different organizations, you know, the  
5 oil companies and stuff like that. I travelled on  
6 land. I live -- I mostly live off the land; maybe 70  
7 percent now.

8 But one (1) concern is -- is kind of in  
9 the back of my mind. I -- I did some work for TCC, Tuk  
10 Community Corp., hunters and trappers. I did some  
11 interviews with Elders. And one (1) thing they -- they  
12 always said is, Our people need jobs. Our kids need  
13 jobs. My grandchildren. They're -- they were -- here  
14 ready for -- for the next generation to take over. And  
15 they said, It's in your hands, and that's what we have  
16 been doing.

17 You hear the -- other people of  
18 Tuktoyaktuk, their concerns, and everybody is pro for  
19 the road. They said, So long as -- the Elders said, So  
20 long as we manage it, and we've been doing that through  
21 -- through their words. And they're all passed on now,  
22 most of them, and we just got a handful of Elders, what  
23 you see in this -- in this community hall.

24 I miss our fa -- have the Elders  
25 following in their footsteps that are passed on, so one

1 (1) thing they -- Roger mentioned is the creeks and the  
2 -- and bothering me is, yeah, the culverts. Are they  
3 going to be deep enough for the fish to pass through  
4 because the Elders that I interviewed all had maps, and  
5 because they pointed out that -- that Hans Creek is  
6 open like most of the year round even though it's forty  
7 (40), fifty (50) below.

8                   And Zed Lake area, that's where the fish  
9 go up, lay their eggs, and that's one (1) concern they  
10 were worried about because in the past what the seismic  
11 did in the '70s, early '70s is they used dynamite, and  
12 it plugged up most of the creeks, and it was up to our  
13 people at the hunters and trappers level. And at the  
14 time to hire people to go -- to go unplug those creeks.  
15 And with a little bit of help from -- at that time --  
16 that time it was Esso (phonetic).

17                   So I'm just wondering how much  
18 traditional knowledge is used in -- in your panel,  
19 Madam Chair and the panel, because we have a lot of --  
20 a lot of history there right from -- right from  
21 interviews.

22                   Our people are passed away now, our  
23 Elders, and their voice, I just wanted to -- to voice  
24 my opinion with the Elders that are passed on. Thank  
25 you.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,  
2 and I will say traditional knowledge is an important  
3 consideration of this panel.

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Fred Wolki would like  
8 to say some words.

9 (BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Go ahead,  
12 Mr. Wolki. Could you just turn your -- your microphone  
13 on?

14

15 STATEMENT BY MR. FRED WOLKI:

16 MR. FRED WOLKI: Pardon me. Do pardon  
17 my talking in English, so most of you will understand.

18 And I'm Fred Wolki and an interpreter  
19 here right now, but I have a chance to speak, so I -- I  
20 come and speak on my behalf for the people. And I'm an  
21 Elder here. I've been living here for fifty (50) --  
22 over fifty (50) years now, and I know Tuktoyaktuk just  
23 like the back of my pads.

24 Anyways, I just want to talk a little  
25 bit about -- about what was done in the past. Nobody

1 mentioned about traditional knowledge that much, and  
2 the reason why I want to bring it out is because we've  
3 got to know a little bit about what was happening  
4 before all the development was taking place.

5                   When I first went to Tuk, there was  
6 hardly no people in Tuktoyaktuk. That was because I  
7 was growing up, and my family used to go to Banksland  
8 with a -- with a schooner, going back and forth, and  
9 that's -- that's -- I was involved in travelling with  
10 them. And -- and when I first know about Tuk, I was a  
11 little boy. It seems like it was a bush country. I  
12 used to see willows all over. Now you could see  
13 nothing but straight tundra in just fifty (50) years  
14 time. It really changed.

15                   And everything was plentiful; fish was  
16 plentiful, the creeks were deep. We used to go with  
17 canoe up in the creeks, up in the lakes there; now it's  
18 drying up. It's a big change, and no way you could  
19 travel in those stream nowadays. It's just a little  
20 bit of water running through these creeks.

21                   And in those days, there was even  
22 running -- water was running through little creeks.  
23 They're not -- they're not stale water like nowadays.  
24 You go up there, you see water's not even moving, it's  
25 -- it's so shallow.

1                   And everything seemed so peaceful in  
2 those days when I was a kid. There was plenty of fish,  
3 more than enough. Everybody was fishing for their dog  
4 teams and for their livelihood, and there was still  
5 more, plenty fish yet. They had to quit in the fall.

6                   But lately, everything has started to  
7 change now, and we -- although we've still got our  
8 fish, it's not as plentiful as long ago, and -- and  
9 everything is changing, and even the -- what we got now  
10 today is changing. But I tell you, the -- in those  
11 days, the people were doing their hunting and trapping  
12 and fishing, because that's the only -- only  
13 livelihood, was the only way they could get a job was  
14 to do their own trapping and get a little bit of income  
15 from hunting and trapping. So that's the way of life  
16 they had before.

17                  But although there was some white  
18 people, not very many, left behind from those whalers  
19 that were also known as trappers, but they all fade  
20 away after everybody moved to Tuk. Nobody left of  
21 those, but they were adding increasingly after that,  
22 the white people. And now we have them all over here.

23                  And then I just wanted to give insight  
24 of -- of what was happening during the 1960s; that's  
25 when the Northern Affairs came around and the

1 government started working in the hamlet here. And in  
2 1970s, I think that's -- that's when the seismic and  
3 everything started and from then on, I think that  
4 everything was starting to do a lot of exploration in  
5 our land here from here to there and all over.

6                   And there was no regulation in those  
7 times for these companies that were operating. And --  
8 and they -- they do whatever in the land. You could  
9 see -- nowadays you could see some trenches that were  
10 made by the Cats that they used to move from here to  
11 there. And some of them have got pretty deep water in  
12 them. You -- you could see them every now and then  
13 somewhere. And that's the way they were operating in  
14 those days.

15                   And they were using the seismic --  
16 wanted to do a seismic in Husky Lakes and some people  
17 didn't like it, but they just say that they were bla --  
18 using dynamites and there was fish all over floating  
19 when they blast. All these things were happening and  
20 we are just lucky today to have some of our fish --  
21 fish stock yet. And I'm glad that nowadays that we  
22 have our input into anything that is being happening  
23 here and to -- and hopefully that it will be better for  
24 us in the near future.

25                   And we might have to sacrifice a little

1 bit here for the -- for the condition of the road.  
2 Something might be happening, but, you know,  
3 everybody's thinking about the road now. And I think  
4 there's no way to go around it. And I believe that if  
5 we do it properly that -- that it might work.

6 But at the same -- I -- I take example  
7 of the highway around Alaska side. I don't think it's  
8 that much damage, you know, and I think it could be  
9 done. And I support the road myself for my family, my  
10 grandchildren and that are living -- I'm trying to  
11 speak for them anyways. Anyways, thank you and -- for  
12 being able to make me sit here and talk to you.

13 And -- and I just wanted to say a little  
14 bit about the culverts. To my understanding, there's a  
15 lot of creeks that's going to be involved in crossing.  
16 And you have to build it right, otherwise, I don't  
17 think it's going to work. Because in the winter time  
18 it's -- it's still, it freezes to the bottom. And the  
19 lakes are filled with fish, some of them. We've got  
20 fish in them. But they don't wander around anymore.

21 But as soon as it start melting in the  
22 spring time, it's got to be around end of May and early  
23 June, they start migrating out. And you could see them  
24 in creeks. They are shooting out on top of the ice.  
25 There's always ice in the bottom and you could see that

1 they're swimming out already before -- before the  
2 melting of the ice in the bottom, they are still --  
3 they already start migrating out.

4                   And I always wonder how they always head  
5 back in the fall, though. Because in the fall time  
6 when you take a ride up there, the lakes are pretty  
7 well dried up. I mean, not -- not the lake, the -- I'm  
8 sorry, the creeks are pretty well dried up. And  
9 there's only a little bit of water for them to get  
10 moving to another lakes. And all the lakes are  
11 connected to each other. There might about two (2) or  
12 three (3) maybe in some cases, where they're connected.

13                   And the whole peninsula right to  
14 Dalhousie (phonetic) is just the way it is around here.  
15 And there's all kinds of animals in those creeks, like  
16 beavers and -- and muskrats, land otters that are  
17 involved with these creeks -- streams that are -- where  
18 they always hunt. And while there's streams yet, while  
19 the fish are migrating, that's where they always do  
20 their hunting. And -- yeah.

21                   And -- but we have to do it the proper  
22 way. We run into -- there's some places where it's got  
23 deeper water. That it's just a condition of the -- the  
24 valleys, or higher country, or something like that.  
25 Might be deeper water that you might need to build a



1 bridge, or something. Those things that -- that I'm  
2 talking about.

3                   And I'm for the road myself because I  
4 know that we need it here in Tuktoyaktuk because of the  
5 high prices of food and everything that -- that's --  
6 like give us a smaller price for food or things that we  
7 have to buy if the road is built. On top of that,  
8 provide employment and everything. People will have  
9 jobs and things like that, and if they build the  
10 harbour bigger it might be better for boats, and it's  
11 going to be used a lot by all industries and -- and  
12 public, as well.

13                   And that's all I want to say, I guess.  
14 And thank you very much.

15                   THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank you  
16 very much. I have Jim Elias, who would like to make a  
17 statement. So if you'd just start by saying your name,  
18 that would be great.

19

20 STATEMENT BY MR. JIM ELIAS:

21                   MR. JIM ELIAS: Hi. My name is Jim  
22 Elias. I'm a working man. I don't got much -- I don't  
23 got much but what I got, I worked for. I'm not up here  
24 to make a political speech, and I'm not looking for a  
25 political position or a polit -- political role.

1 I want to say a few words of what I see  
2 and hear around our small town. I call Tuk our big  
3 city, and YK and Inuvik little cities. When Robyn and  
4 her crew was here last Thursday to talk about the  
5 highway, there was between forty-five (45) minutes to  
6 an hour wasted on talk of the route when it's very  
7 obvious they already got their minds made up to which  
8 route they chose.

9 They already know how many waterways  
10 they have to cross, and can even tell you how many big  
11 creeks or how many little creeks they have to cross. I  
12 think we should get on the highway -- I think we should  
13 get the highway built, and talk about everything else  
14 that comes with the highway, and enough said about  
15 which route as there seems to be only one (1) in the  
16 government's plans.

17 When the access road was being built,  
18 there was talk of a big percentage of the workers to be  
19 from around here; that was very good. But like a new  
20 toy getting old, the jobs available wasn't of interest  
21 anymore after a few weeks. Not too many of the people  
22 who had jobs wanted to get up early anymore. It was  
23 easier to go to the government building and deal with  
24 the income support person for the support they need for  
25 groceries and clothing for their families.

1                   There are people who want to work, and  
2 they should have first priority over the southern  
3 workers. I don't think putting a percentage of workers  
4 from our region is fair to any employer as we are a  
5 very small group of people, and the percentage will not  
6 be met, and it makes the employers look like they're  
7 not living up to their end of the percentage of hiring  
8 locals.

9                   When I first saw this I, too, thought  
10 the employers were -- weren't hiring locals, but in the  
11 long run I began to understand how hard it is to try  
12 and get workers who actually wanted to work. I think  
13 any local who wants to work should have their name at  
14 the employment officer's office, and the employers give  
15 the names first priority to what they are qualified  
16 for, or help them get training to better themselves.

17                  I heard a lot of talk from businesses  
18 that are willing to get this road started, and I think  
19 there will be a few pockets filled, and that is what  
20 business is all about. But in the long run, everyone  
21 benefits from the road, all the way into our children's  
22 future and their children's future.

23                  We are into 2012. We have to move  
24 forward with progress. I'm a full-time trapper and  
25 hunter. I make full use out of the seasons. But I can

1 see that there are only a few handful of us folks that  
2 make a living off of the land so, therefore, education  
3 and jobs are the future for our young people.

4                   If we keep talking and consulting, don't  
5 move forward, we'll be like the northern end of Russia  
6 where there was no running water or flushed toilets.  
7 Basically we'll behi -- be behind in time, left behind  
8 by the rest of the world. We're already be -- falling  
9 behind in our children's education, and our children  
10 don't even know what's outside of the Territories, or  
11 what opportunities there are out there.

12                   We heard our leaders talk about creating  
13 jobs for our people, and that we need the work. This  
14 is a five (5) year plan, so our leaders should get  
15 things rolling to help our people get back into the job  
16 force by taking the first step to training and  
17 education instead of waiting for the government to do  
18 something. We all know how time consuming it is to  
19 wait on the government. The government wean -- the  
20 government should wean the people away from income  
21 support and re-adjust the support system, so the people  
22 that are capable of working should be working. There  
23 should be no excuse for no jobs around when there will  
24 be plenty of work for everyone.

25                   I also heard we are a proud people and I

1 know this is true. We are proud Inuvialuit and our  
2 leaders should be looking to better us instead of their  
3 own interests to gain for themselves. Think of our  
4 north, our people, right in our backyard, homelessness,  
5 hungry, hungry children, et cetera. We are from small  
6 communities and these kind of things shouldn't go  
7 unnoticed unless you're blind or deaf.

8                   We're not from the large cities where  
9 this kind of stuff can be hidden or pushed aside to be  
10 dealt with later. We have one (1) of the best things  
11 going with the government, but we have people that are  
12 letting things get out of hand, as we are not putting  
13 people who are qualified into these positions as family  
14 or group of friends come first.

15                   If there's so much interest for jobs in  
16 this community, how come only a handful of people are  
17 here and a majority of them are business folks? I  
18 think our leaders intention of getting jobs for the  
19 communi -- for this community is very good intentions,  
20 but do people really want jobs? What we want is a road  
21 and the opportunities it will bring for our future  
22 generations and generations after.

23                   And I think the EIRB Board should get an  
24 understanding of how this highway is going to be built  
25 and work on impacts from there. All what you as the

1 Board is doing, is all for the good of our beautiful  
2 country, and I understand that. But the reason I'm  
3 saying this is I heard a question of Jim Stevens about  
4 the muskrat. The muskrat lives on the lakes and a  
5 permanent highway isn't crossing no lakes.

6 I don't think there's -- will be any  
7 snow hauling, maybe pushing the snow up the proposed  
8 route. The lakes are being dealt with on the dust  
9 concern and it should be left at that. When the  
10 temporary roads are being made, there usually is snow  
11 involved, but this is not the case as the highway will  
12 be a permanent structure. And we have -- we have  
13 organizations that look after our wildlife and our  
14 land.

15 The other topic is on reindeer. The  
16 reindeer owners deal with the government and our  
17 leaders and the ISR. The owners of the herd can deal  
18 with the mentioned parties separately, as I feel it's a  
19 total separate topic. This being said, I understand  
20 that different things come up and when they do it  
21 should be dealt with by the parties concerned, whether  
22 it be animals or land.

23 The highway ain't going to solve any of  
24 our social problems. We, as groups, have got to do  
25 that because that's our part as a society and that's

1 what our elected leaders should be focussed on. Don't  
2 wait for our big city to get out of hand. Let's start  
3 putting infrastructure and educating our people on the  
4 impacts that's going to arise from this highway,  
5 whether it be positive or negative.

6 We've all got some idea as to what's  
7 going to happen, but as progress -- but as we progress  
8 along, things will fit into place. The laws and their  
9 community bylaws will change. This is called progress.  
10 We can't live in the past forever, or behind the times.  
11 Our future generations can move on, whether we like it  
12 or not. Thank you.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank  
14 you. I have a request by Roy Cockney to make a  
15 statement. Sir, if you could just leave it -- thank  
16 you, just stay right there.

17

18 STATEMENT BY MR. ROY COCKNEY:

19 MR. ROY COCKNEY: Thank you, Madam  
20 Chair and the panel. My name is Roy Cockney. I -- I  
21 was raised in Tuk and most of all I'd like to thank all  
22 the people that's came up and spoke for our community.  
23 I'm going to start by probably, when I was about thirty  
24 (30) years old. Because about that time, our community  
25 was started building up. And through the times that we

1 have -- have people just getting started in our  
2 community. And the only transportation we had at that  
3 time was transportation by NTCL and we get supplies.  
4 And transportation was only for the summer month, and  
5 we do get a lot of them by coming in, and later on in  
6 years, as -- as we went by, we -- we had a -- an ice  
7 road.

8                   And in our community, when that ice road  
9 came, we had lots of resource people. People started  
10 getting edu -- education, and our community itself,  
11 they -- they brought in a lot of work for this  
12 community. They have lots of resource peoples we have.  
13 I -- I won't mention the resource peoples, but you know  
14 -- you know what I mean.

15                   And for the last twelve and a half (12  
16 1/2) years, I've been hunting and fishing, and when I  
17 look at this community we created, a lot of people that  
18 got educated. Some of them are gone, and some of our  
19 leaders are gone, but they got educated and build a --  
20 build a community to where it's at today.

21                   And talking about ice road, for three  
22 (3) months, they're always busy because of the winter  
23 road, but as soon as the winter ice road is gone,  
24 everybody disappeared and there's not much to do. Same  
25 with tran -- transport from a NTCL. They're just here



1 for a little while, for the summer month, and then  
2 everything disappeared.

3 But through the board a community they -  
4 - they went a long ways just by ice road we had for a  
5 while, and some, they bring in the stuff and I'd like  
6 to submit to --about the road. I think it's really  
7 important to us because we've got a community that have  
8 really grown. We've got lots of people that's  
9 educated, with -- through business, through  
10 contractors. We did a lot for commu -- this community,  
11 and we could do a lot more, because our children,  
12 they're growing up, and I know they'd be part of  
13 building up our community as well.

14 And I think, with a road, we could  
15 create numbers of jobs that's -- that could go on for  
16 the rest of our life for our community. And about a  
17 hunting and fishing, we -- we're very lucky to have our  
18 four (4) seasons. Like we know -- we know our land.  
19 By the four (4) seasons, we know when to fish, we know  
20 when to trap, we know where the fish are, we know where  
21 the caribous are because of the four (4) seasons. And  
22 most of our life, we -- we get educated by the -- the  
23 four (4) seasons. We learn from it, we teach our  
24 children.

25 A lot of people now, especially the

1 younger ones, through the help of TCC and many other  
2 resource people, we train -- we train our children out  
3 on the land. Out on the land is very important to us,  
4 and with our winter road that is proposed, my -- my  
5 submission to that is that it would be -- bring a lot  
6 of work, and the route that they propose, I think it's  
7 a very good route, the way -- the way you look at it,  
8 because we know our footsteps. Our footsteps on that  
9 road wasn't there when we hunt. Maybe few of us got  
10 into that area, but there's lot other places where we  
11 can hunt and fish.

12 And I just like to thank Madam Chair and  
13 the panel for my submissions. Thank you very much.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank you  
15 very much. I have also a request by Irwin Elias to say  
16 some words. And just if you'd state your name before  
17 you start, please.

18

19 STATEMENT BY MR. IRWIN ELIAS:

20 MR. IRWIN ELIAS: Good morning. My  
21 name is Irwin Elias, and I was born and raised in  
22 Tuktoyaktuk. I am a father of three (3), and a small  
23 business owner. I was also elected to the Hamlet  
24 Council in December 2011.

25 Members of the Hamlet Council and the

1 public met with the proponents last week, and I raised  
2 issues in regards to gravel. I wanted to know how the  
3 Hamlet can get access to gravel, and I found out that  
4 the Hamlet could access gravel a number of ways through  
5 the hearings.

6                   And firstly the Hamlet needs to -- the  
7 Hamlet needs funds to purchase the material. Secondly,  
8 Hamlet would need to negotiate with the contractor to  
9 supply the gravel. And to my understanding, the best  
10 time to do this would be when the road is under  
11 construction and the gravel is already being hauled.

12                   I would like to take my Hamlet hat off  
13 now, and put on my fur hat. I lived in Tuk all my  
14 life, and I have to deal with the effects left behind  
15 by the oil companies from the 1970s. We now have a  
16 garbage dump and a sewage lagoon overflowing into our  
17 ocean. We also need a new graveyard site, and without  
18 gravel access this will be impossible.

19                   We all know we have access -- had the  
20 access to a gravel source but it is still cheaper to  
21 get it from Inuvik right now in small quantities;  
22 however if this proposed all-weather road does go  
23 through, I'm sure that we will be able to get a cheaper  
24 rate from our local contractor while all the equipment  
25 is in full swing on the Tuk-Inuvik Highway.

1 I have also heard people in the  
2 community talking about Husky Lakes, the Elders' route,  
3 and who's going to be getting all the work. I, myself,  
4 respect our Elders and the land very much. I was  
5 raised by my grandfather and I am a proud Inuvialuit,  
6 but I have to think about my children and their  
7 grandchildren, as well.

8 And if you're telling me that the  
9 Federal Government and Territorial Government are ready  
10 to give Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik more than two hundred  
11 and forty (240) million for an all-weather road so that  
12 my children and their grandchildren will have access to  
13 fresh food, better medical services, more water  
14 sources, business work opportunities, tourism, et  
15 cetera, and overall a cheaper cost of living I say,  
16 Build it yesterday.

17 Another thing I would like to add is the  
18 high cost to fly. For example, it would cost my family  
19 of five (5) over fifteen hundred (1,500) just to fly to  
20 Inuvik and back.

21 As for the business side of -- side of  
22 things, I think that there will be more than enough to  
23 go around. People keep referring to the access road  
24 built to Source 177 on how they get enough work -- or  
25 on how they didn't get enough work, or who was working

1 there.

2                   The access road to Source 177 cost about  
3 twenty-three (23) million, and the Tuk-Inuvik Highway  
4 road will be more than two hundred and forty (240)  
5 million over a four (4) to five (5) year span. So I  
6 think people will get their fair share.

7                   In closing, I would like to say that we  
8 have been waiting for an opportunity like this for over  
9 thirty (30) years and here it is today. All  
10 organizations in Tuk are in full approval and I think  
11 we are ready. If we do not get our people to work  
12 together and come to an agreement, we will lose this  
13 great opportunity. And Lord knows if we'll ever get  
14 another chance.

15                   I would like to thank the panel for  
16 taking the time to hear my concerns and views on the  
17 Tuk-Inuvik Highway.

18                   THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank you  
19 very much for bringing your views to us. I also have a  
20 request from Shawn Lundrigan. Go ahead. If you could  
21 just say your name first.

22

23 STATEMENT BY MR. SHAWN LUNDRIGAN:

24                   MR. SHAWN LUNDRIGAN: Good morning,  
25 Madam Chair and members of the panel. My name is Shawn

1 Lundrigan. I'm a lifelong resident of Tuk here. My --  
2 my family, my wife and kids and I, have had some good  
3 discussions about the -- the proposed road here.

4                   And one (1) -- one (1) focal point  
5 always came up during our discussions with me and my  
6 little family was responsibility. And we -- we figure  
7 we can have this road if we maintain responsibility for  
8 it, enforcing any rules that we lay down for the road,  
9 including the no hunting zones, patrolling it,  
10 implementing large fines for littering and all those  
11 kinds of things.

12                   But there's -- there's a lot of caribou  
13 -- caribou to be hunted on the legal side of the --  
14 legal side of the line. Sometimes we have to walk for  
15 miles to go to them, or other times they're right on  
16 the beach. But the thought of highway hunting from a  
17 pickup truck is pretty scary. That's where respect and  
18 responsibility should come in. Respecting our own  
19 laws, our own rules, that we, as a people, implemented  
20 on our own land.

21                   The only way culture, skills and hunting  
22 practices can be lost is if we let it be lost. Every  
23 Elder I've talked to in town all want this road to  
24 happen. My -- my daughter -- my grandfather is almost  
25 ninety-three (93) years old and his hope is that

1 someday he will be able to drive to Inuvik on the road.  
2 I have a five (5) year old son, and he also wants to  
3 drive the road. They both have the same respect for  
4 wildlife and the land and the food that we harvest from  
5 it.

6 If my ninety-three (93) year old  
7 grandfather and my five (5) year old son both have the  
8 same views and outlooks toward our way of life, and  
9 they both can accept change and the responsibility that  
10 goes with it, then I think we will be all right in  
11 moving forward with this road for now and for  
12 generations to come.

13 And, of course, everyone know -- is  
14 aware of the cost benefits that go with having a road.  
15 The health centre, our people can go to doctors in  
16 Inuvik almost on a daily basis. The government can  
17 save money by shipping medicines and supplies instead  
18 of flying them. Education will only get better, kids  
19 can go to tournaments more often. Inuvik and Tuk  
20 businesses will -- will increase and improve. It's a  
21 win-win situation for both communities. Kids can go  
22 swimming in Inuvik any day of the year and countless  
23 other opportunities.

24 The beneficiary rate to go on Aklak Air  
25 to Inuvik is about a hundred and sixty-five (165) bucks

1 or something like that. You take seven (7) of us  
2 beneficiaries to go to Inuvik, it's about a thousand  
3 bucks one (1) way. You -- you could put those same  
4 seven (7) guys in -- in a -- in a van and fill it with  
5 two hundred (200) bucks of gas, and go to Inuvik and  
6 back. So it -- it's win-win for everyone, for -- for  
7 every business, for every person in both communities  
8 and the whole delta really.

9                   So -- so let's build this road, and move  
10 forward. Thank you very much for your time this  
11 morning.

12                   THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank you  
13 very much. I have one (1) more individual that's  
14 indicated that they would like to make a presentation.  
15 If there is others that would like to say something or  
16 ask questions, this would be a good time to identify  
17 yourself. But I'll ask Elizabeth Pertshey to come  
18 forward, and make her -- her presentation.

19

20                   (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22                   THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Take your  
23 time.

24

25                   (BRIEF PAUSE)



1 THE CHAIRPERSON: So if you could just  
2 start by saying your name, that would be great because  
3 --

4 MS. ELIZABETH PERTSHEY: Pardon me?  
5 Yeah.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: -- if you could  
7 just...

8

9 STATEMENT BY MS. ELIZABETH PERTSHEY:

10 MS. ELIZABETH PERTSHEY: Good morning,  
11 everyone. Tuktoyaktuk, NWT September 25, 2012. My  
12 name is Elizabeth Marie Pertshey. Madam Chair and  
13 panel members, finally all of you reach Hamlet of  
14 Tuktoyaktuk. Don't put us last. We are all important.

15

16 Groups keep saying, I am resident.  
17 Happy to say I was born in Bailey Island but, best of  
18 all, our home is Canada, land of beautiful. We are all  
19 proud Canadians. It's -- it's exciting to finally  
20 going to have a highway. It's my dream to ride once it  
21 is complete.

22 Canada will hear about it from coast to  
23 coast to coast. I have always wanted to say it. My  
24 dad Bertrand Pokiak would say, Daughter, at one (1)  
25 time I was very shy and cute. Now I am listening to

1 wonderful people. Hamlet of the -- the big land of  
2 many pingos. Thanks for -- for Parks to come and  
3 listen.

4 This year 2012 someone said, We are  
5 going hungry. Sounds like the other world. We are  
6 doing okay. Don't hide your face. Smile. Sing.  
7 Watch the sunrise or sunset.

8 I have my own little map here. The  
9 highway stone -- this is the flat -- the stone for the  
10 -- the -- that's going to be going for the highway.  
11 The -- the flat one is the sides -- the side of the  
12 land that looks like -- this is the one here. This one  
13 looks like a foot. It's muskeg.

14 The -- the five cents (\$.05) I found is  
15 a picture of our beaver. Curled up wood is for our  
16 warmth in the wintertime. Yours is a computer drawn by  
17 people, but it's the people of the Inuvialuit on our  
18 side -- on our side hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk that knows  
19 more about this highway you are talking about. Smile.  
20 People from coast to coast to coast are listening to  
21 this hearing.

22 Don't you think it's time for us to work  
23 it out? Don't you think it's time for us to get along?  
24 Canada the beautiful, let's keep our land for our  
25 future generations, our big kids, grandchildren, and

1 future great-grandchildren.

2 Just like the beaver or the caribou as  
3 us, Inuvialuit, are strong people. The younger ones  
4 will get the -- the younger ones, students, will get  
5 their -- their edu -- I'd say that -- pardon me, my  
6 writing is just -- I can hardly read it. It's -- it's  
7 like maybe we should ask the government for paper,  
8 recycle. Okay. I'll continue on. I'm -- I'm more  
9 relaxed now.

10 Us, Inuvialuit, are strong people. The  
11 younger ones will get the job done, the students. Why  
12 I say that is because they are getting educated more.  
13 Hurray for us. Thank you. Make the right choice.

14 Elizabeth Marie Pertshey.

15 Thank you for -- for the -- for all of  
16 you being here. And you can -- oh, yes, there's one  
17 (1) very important item that I forgot, because with my  
18 little setup here, it -- it's not easy, like where I  
19 don't have a briefcase.

20 It's -- this -- I'll start out with this  
21 one. I don't have my flag, but this is the maple leaf.  
22 It's our -- it's our symbol, and this picture is the  
23 rest of my family that is not here with us, it's on  
24 behalf of them, and for all the other people that are  
25 not with us anymore and all that, it is for them.

1                   And, least but not least, this is -- one  
2 here is the Beaufort Sea water. It -- it looks very  
3 small, but our ocean is huge, and it's just -- it's  
4 just nice to be living here in -- in Tuktoyaktuk.  
5 Thank you.

6                   THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank you  
7 very much.

8                   MS. ELIZABETH PERTSHEY: Oh, sorry  
9 about that. This little item here is -- is -- it's a  
10 little pin that has a little sled, but I was thinking  
11 this last night, when I was preparing for my speech  
12 today, I thought, Gee, it's good to do a little bit of  
13 homework here, because as -- as you get older, I don't  
14 really like to call myself elder right now, because I  
15 feel -- I feel pretty fit.

16                   But, anyway, my -- this represents the -  
17 - these basket sled that is in -- in the museum and in  
18 Parks Place at Inuvik. This one is a sled from Kamuti  
19 (phonetic) that get -- that will get the hunters and  
20 trappers from point A to point B with a -- with a full  
21 load of goods.

22                   I think I got all my stuff now. Thank  
23 you.

24                   THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank  
25 you.

1 MS. ELIZABETH PERTSHEY: Six (6) little  
2 -- these ones here are six (6) little stones. It's --  
3 it's for the sands pit, the nice rocks that rocks back  
4 and forth when the -- the waves come in. And so I  
5 didn't have much room here, so I -- I did the best I  
6 could with my little ...

7 Your big map over there it's the  
8 government's highway. Like, I mean, they -- they  
9 decided on it and -- but with me, this was -- was my  
10 first time ever to have my little map. And I got the  
11 idea last night. I think I'm done now. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank  
13 you.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: I think  
18 this might be a good time to adjourn for lunch. We'll  
19 come back at 1:30 and we'll give the last opportunity  
20 for people to make their presentations and adjourn.

21

22 --- Upon recessing at 11:46 a.m.

23 --- Upon resuming at 1:32 p.m.

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thanks.

1 Welcome back. I think that we can start our afternoon.  
2 I would like to, again, open the -- the floor to people  
3 from the community that want to say something, but  
4 maybe before we start, we did have I guess a need for  
5 some clarification on the response with respect to the  
6 reindeer grazing herd.

7 I'd like to actually ask Conrad to give  
8 us a little bit of background, and then maybe we'll  
9 have a couple questions.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 MR. CONRAD BAETZ: Good afternoon.  
14 Thank you, Madam Chair. I just thought it was  
15 worthwhile to speak in a -- in a little bit more detail  
16 about the reindeer grazing reserve, and some of the  
17 activities centred around reindeer grazing.

18 And one (1) of the things that I thought  
19 worth mentioning, which Ms. Bonhomme did speak to, was  
20 the -- the reindeer grazing reserve, which are plots of  
21 land that the Crown sets aside for the purposes of  
22 grazing reindeer. It is not a plot of land that is  
23 given any specific - what's the word that I'm looking  
24 for - ownership or exclusive use of that site.

25 So in other words, there is other

1 activities that can still occur on those plots of -- of  
2 grazing reserve lands. There are three (3) plots that  
3 -- that exist: one (1) southeast of Sategee (phonetic)  
4 Lake, one (1) in the Jimmy (phonetic) lakes area, and  
5 one (1) near Kendal Isl -- or Richards Island, sorry.

6                   The second thing is that there are  
7 licences that are issued to owners of reindeer for the  
8 purposes of grazing, and they're given the -- I guess  
9 the authority then to graze on those plots of land, the  
10 way I understand it. There have been licences issued  
11 to Kunek Resources for the purposes of grazing reindeer  
12 in the past.

13                   The -- the last point is the -- the use  
14 of leases, or leases that the Crown may -- may enter  
15 into with Kunek Resources or owners of -- of reindeer,  
16 and those are for the purposes of establishing a camp  
17 or base of operations for herding for -- in some cases  
18 maybe even setting up corrals in those types of  
19 infrastructure that come along associated with -- with  
20 reindeer grazing.

21                   The Proponent may or may not have  
22 engaged Kunek Resources but I would say that from an  
23 Aboriginal Affairs' perspective, at the point where  
24 we've received an application which is something that  
25 we can move forward with to engage Kunek Resources we

1 would. We have in the past with other authorizations  
2 that are applied to us to hear what some of that  
3 company's concerns are with regard to the reindeer and  
4 reindeer grazing. And that's all I have at the moment.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Baetz.  
6 I think we had a couple of questions. John, do you  
7 have a question?

8 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Madam --  
9 Madam Chair. John Donihee, Board counsel. I just  
10 would like to direct the question actually to the  
11 Developer.

12 And the implication left by the answer  
13 this morning was that because it -- it didn't appear,  
14 or that you weren't aware as to whether Kunek  
15 Resources had a -- a licence to graze in that area  
16 right now that you -- you didn't have to deal with  
17 them.

18 And I -- I think the question from Board  
19 member Chambers, really, was intended to find out  
20 whether the potential for conflict between the  
21 activities of the -- the reindeer herders and -- and, I  
22 guess, the area that they use and the camp that's  
23 proposed at 31-43-25, which is close to -- not -- I  
24 don't think it's right in the -- the winter grazing  
25 area, but close to, whether there was any potential for



1 interaction between, or disturbance between, the  
2 activities you propose and the use of that area by  
3 Kunek Resources; and, if so, whether in fact it was the  
4 Developer's intention to address that directly with the  
5 -- the reindeer leaseholder.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Mr.  
7 Stevens...?

8 MR. JIM STEVENS: Madam Chair, I can  
9 commit that the Developer will have those discussions  
10 as part of the up-front activities going towards  
11 permitting.

12 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: It's John Donihee  
13 again. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you  
14 for the commitment, Mr. Stevens. I -- I -- at this  
15 point, as the -- the impact assessment work that you've  
16 done, have you given consideration to potential effects  
17 on the reindeer herding in that area, or -- well, have  
18 you given consideration to that?

19 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Mr.  
20 Stevens...?

21 MR. JIM STEVENS: Madam Chair, I can  
22 confirm that the Developer hasn't had any direct  
23 discussions on that issue, and, therefore, it's one (1)  
24 of those activities that we will commit to undertaking  
25 in the future as we go forward.

1 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: John Donihee again,  
2 Madam Chair. I think the commitment is sufficient, and  
3 we appreciate it, sir, but I'm -- I'm assuming as well,  
4 from the answer you've given, that you haven't had  
5 those discussions yet with the reindeer herders?

6 MR. JIM STEVENS: Madam Chair, I can  
7 confirm that there have been no direct discussions with  
8 the reindeer herder.

9 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: John Donihee again.  
10 Thank -- thank you, Mr. Steven and Mr. Baetz. That's  
11 very helpful.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank  
13 you, Mr. Baetz. Okay. I -- we would like to go back  
14 to community presentations. I understand that Persis  
15 Gruben would like to make a presentation to the Board,  
16 or a statement.

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Okay.  
21 Okay. So we'll, I guess, ask if there's anybody else  
22 who wants to make a statement while we're waiting.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Yes,  
2 please.

3

4 STATEMENT BY MR. WARREN STEEN:

5 MR. WARREN STEEN: Good afternoon,  
6 Madam Chair. My name is Warren Steen. I'm -- I was  
7 born and raised in this town of Tuk, and so I just want  
8 -- like to share that.

9 There's not a whole lot I can say that  
10 hasn't already been said by my fellow Tuk people, other  
11 than I stand beside them on their concerns, comments,  
12 and opinions that support this highway project.

13 What I would like to say on my behalf is  
14 that this highway project could bring countless  
15 opportunities to this community, as my fellow Tuk  
16 people have already said. But, as we all know, nothing  
17 is guaranteed in this world until it has happened or  
18 happening. So to say that this highway project will  
19 bring a better future would be to foretell the future,  
20 which we all know no one can.

21 But what will -- but what it will do,  
22 100 percent guaranteed, is give this community a  
23 chance. And like everything else, and all aspects in  
24 this world, this highway to Tuk should be given a  
25 chance. Thank you.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank  
2 you. Thank you. We'll just wait a few minutes for Ms.  
3 Gruben to get ...

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: We'll  
8 just be waiting a few minutes until there's some  
9 assistance. And I have -- Ms. Gruben is the last one  
10 (1) that is on the list unless there's other people who  
11 want to come forward. So -- oh, you want to come up  
12 now? Oh, okay.

13

14 (INTERPRETED FROM INUVIALUK INTO ENGLISH)

15

16 STATEMENT BY MS. PERSIS GRUBEN:

17 MS. PERSIS GRUBEN: I want to be  
18 speaking in Inuvialuiten. And I would like to talk  
19 about the -- the proposed highway and also, too, that,  
20 you know, I just came to listen, too. If the highway,  
21 that if it's been constructed, you would -- also, too,  
22 that when the people are working, but as Elders, we  
23 don't -- we don't know that, cannot work employment,  
24 since we were -- since long time ago.

25 But I think this is a wonderful -- I

1 think it's a wonderful thing, even though some of the  
2 people that might object to it. But when our -- our  
3 children that are having school nowadays, and -- and  
4 also, too, that they are learning the -- the new way of  
5 life, of English. And then if they have learned it,  
6 then -- and also, too, that when I think on -- and  
7 also, too, that we know everything is very high cost  
8 now. And -- but we are looking for anything that might  
9 help us in terms of making it a bit cheaper.

10 And also, too that -- and also, too,  
11 that when it will be really wonderful that if be --  
12 because, you know, I have -- I have been watching the -  
13 - how it -- and also, too, that, you know -- also, too,  
14 that because it -- it can't do better.

15 But, also, too -- also, too, that a lot  
16 of our Elders are gone nowadays and they have passed on  
17 and -- and that's the reason why, too, that. And my  
18 father used to say, and also, too, that you know when  
19 person is not -- kind of, lazy, then per -- that person  
20 will starve.

21 I really think that, you know, if -- if  
22 a person -- when I think that the -- the highway being  
23 proposed to build, I think it's wonderful. It'll be --  
24 it's the right thing because our younger children will  
25 -- also, too, that -- I think that -- also, too, that

1 you know we can be able to follow -- follow -- I  
2 listened very careful, they are using the pipe --  
3 proposed pipeline and then, you know, when -- also, too  
4 that -- and also too that the Inuvialuit want it but  
5 nobody -- nobody want to...

6 Also, too, that if -- if they propose  
7 and build the -- the highway itself and they going to  
8 build it with no doubt in some point in time. When I  
9 think -- also, too -- also, too, that, you know, the  
10 Elders are happy about the -- because everything is so  
11 expensive now. Anything that we buy from stores, and  
12 that you pay a bill -- and also, too, that and people -  
13 - people that work -- want to work, and also, too, that  
14 our children are going to school.

15 And because, you know, they are  
16 forgetting our culture way of life, and -- and also  
17 I've -- also, too, that -- also, too, that, you know,  
18 some of the animals that, you know, when they are given  
19 medication. And also, too, that -- and also, too, we  
20 got to realize that wildlife, it's not like human, not  
21 -- and also, too, even the Fisheries and Oceans, and --  
22 and, also tell -- tell them that, you know, why do --  
23 why do you give medication to the fish or other  
24 wildlife, and they say that -- because that -- you  
25 know, they want to be able to help them, but it's -- we

1 know that it's not right when they do that. It's not  
2 natural anymore.

3 And also, too, that our children, you  
4 know, they go even to high school, and then when they  
5 come -- and also because, you know, they can't travel  
6 by -- by no means of having no -- nothing to pay with  
7 their fare, so that is the reason why that we got to  
8 help them.

9 And that -- that's all I would like to  
10 say, and also, too, that, you know, I would like to  
11 support the -- the highway itself. But also don't --  
12 make sure that -- but make sure that the -- the highway  
13 is not risky, and all -- but I would like to say that  
14 the highway is safe to travel down.

15

16 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

17

18 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank you  
19 very much. Come ahead.

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: So if you  
24 don't mind, could you just start by saying your name?

25

1 STATEMENT BY MS. BERNICE POKIAK:

2 MR. BERNICE POKIAK: My name is Bernice  
3 Pokiak. I'm just a little bit nervous, but at the  
4 beginning I was not for the all weather road; however,  
5 today I am for it so I can let my children experience  
6 other lands of Canada, shopping, and fun; that they can  
7 benefit in their upbringing.

8 Today I'm a subsistence user of our land  
9 and was raised on our food from the land from Tuk --  
10 the Tuktoyaktuk area. I am proud to say that I'm  
11 raising my eight (8) year old and four (4) year old to  
12 be harvesters of our land with the help from my parents  
13 so they can grow up healthy and strong, as I was  
14 raised.

15 I teach my children to respect and be  
16 thankful for that, you know, we have good feed -- food  
17 to eat daily, you know. I was not for the all-weather  
18 road at the beginning because I was worried about our  
19 wildlife, mainly the denning bears. But I know that  
20 they will be able to adjust, just as we, as community  
21 members, will have to adjust to the changes in our  
22 future with the all-weather road approaching.

23 One (1) serious concern I have today and  
24 would like it to be dealt with properly and with the  
25 utmost respect, is the creek where our fish come down



1 from -- from the big lake beside the access road. I,  
2 for myself, would like to see, you know, bridges  
3 instead of culverts used, you know, to go over those  
4 creeks and whatnot, to be put in place so our fish flow  
5 could be constant.

6 I make dry fish and I filet fish and I  
7 put some away for quak (phonetic), you know, frozen  
8 fish for the winter and every year and, you know, for  
9 our meals and do not want to see a decrease in the fish  
10 flow or anything like that. So I'd like you guys to  
11 take into consideration. Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank  
13 you. Go ahead. If I could just ask you to say your  
14 name. Yeah.

15

16 STATEMENT BY CATHY KATIGAKYOK:

17 MS. CATHY KATIGAKYOK: Hi, my name is  
18 Catherine Katigakyok, born and raised here in  
19 Tuktoyaktuk. I also have knowledge of the land, the  
20 ocean, Husky Lakes, the animal, culture, the language.  
21 My father hasn't been in school, but I learned how to  
22 read and write it like him.

23 So I am for the road also. And I also  
24 relate to Persis Gruben, what she was saying about it's  
25 really important for the children to go get educated

1 since the road is going through. And I benefit a lot  
2 from it. And now I'm passing on the knowledge to my  
3 son to respect the land.

4 My dad taught me all the places, the  
5 names of the places where we go. We used to travel on  
6 Husky Lakes coast with dog team. And growing up we  
7 mostly stayed out in the land, maybe three (3), four  
8 (4) months we stay in our home, and most of the time  
9 we're out surviving for food, the whales, the fish.

10 And I am excited about it. I am working  
11 at NG (phonetic) right now. I do seasonal work, and I  
12 was a language instructor for pre-school for ten (10)  
13 years. And I understand other people's concerns, but  
14 we all can work together, because everybody's going to  
15 have their own roles to play. There will be a lot of  
16 jobs and education and a lot of good stuff for other  
17 tourism to come.

18 And it'll be better for our children to  
19 get more educated than -- happy to be here listening  
20 and we learned a lot from each other. Thank you very  
21 much.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank  
23 you. Anyone else that would like to say something  
24 before we close?

25

1 STATEMENT BY MR. JAMES POKIAK:

2 MR. JAMES POKIAK: Thank you, Madam  
3 Chair and members of the panel, for once again having  
4 the opportunity to address this all-weather road.

5 Yesterday I touched a little bit on some  
6 of the areas that I felt were quite important. After  
7 listening to everything that's been said for the past  
8 two (2) days, I can't recall yesterday if I said I  
9 wasn't for the road, or against the road, just that it  
10 has to be done in an environmentally-friendly manner.

11 I just want to touch on -- on some areas  
12 here where, as an individual subsistence harvester,  
13 like some people have been saying, nothing gives you  
14 more pleasure than to be able to go out with your  
15 children, your grandchildren and teach them how to  
16 fish, trap, hunt in the ways that our harvesting has  
17 been passed on to us.

18 I started out very young, and my first  
19 experience living on the land was in Bailey Island with  
20 my Uncle John Kikoak and Gordon Agnaviak. At that  
21 time, the Wolki family, Carpenter (phonetic) -- Joe  
22 Carpenter and all those guys were out there. And --  
23 and to be able to sit down with those Elders in the  
24 evenings, hear them tell their story, listening to old  
25 Ralph Kimiksana, Freeman Kimiksana humming in their

1 Inuvialuktun language and singing their drum-dancing  
2 songs, listening to them joke around with each other,  
3 talking about the way things are now compared to when  
4 they were younger.

5                   In -- in those days, bush trappers went  
6 out there. There was no communication at all with  
7 anybody. They left in the early fall before freeze-up;  
8 they came back about Christmastime, and up until they  
9 showed up within the community, nobody knew if they  
10 were okay or if they were all right.

11                   You know, nowadays, weather patterns are  
12 changing and it's getting more and more difficult to  
13 predict the weather, what it's going to be like, and  
14 people take so many chances sometimes, it -- it's --  
15 it's scary. Just like this all-weather road, I think  
16 some of us are afraid of what the outcome is going to  
17 be. We all know it's going to benefit the community  
18 and the region. It definitely will. But what I'm  
19 worried about is, you know, experiencing the  
20 construction of the Source 177, which isn't completed  
21 yet within the time period they predicted.

22                   So I'm encouraging you, as -- as the  
23 Proponents, to ensure that once this construction  
24 begins that you have sufficient funds to -- to complete  
25 it within the time period that you say it's going to

1 be. I -- I felt really strongly believing what that  
2 MLA from Yellowknife said regarding the Dehcho Bridge.  
3 It started off with an X amount of dollars, and then  
4 now, look at it today. It's almost complete, but  
5 millions and millions of dollars more than what they  
6 predicted.

7 I come from a very large family of  
8 sixteen (16), eleven (11) girls, five (5) boys, and to  
9 us younger ones, by the time we were old enough to go  
10 out, live on the land, our father wasn't able to teach  
11 us to do that, so we relied on people such as my uncle  
12 and other Elders within the community.

13 And like I said yesterday, I used to  
14 look forward to seeing the Wolki family come back from  
15 Bailey Island in the springtime. I used to welcome  
16 seeing all those bush trappers that came home after all  
17 that time out on the land. And it was a dream of mine  
18 to be able to do that, and I did it. I've taught my --  
19 all my children how to do that.

20 We all know education is very important,  
21 but there's only so much the education system can do  
22 for your children. Education has to start in the home.  
23 They have to be able to see and believe and respect  
24 other people's choices. These are the choices that we  
25 make.

1                   It's a parent's choice to send their  
2 children to school. You could be very well educated,  
3 and yet you come back home and you sit around and do  
4 nothing. Like I said yesterday, it's what you do after  
5 your education. What do you do with it?

6                   A lot of our children have graduated  
7 from high school, but I don't know if there's something  
8 wrong with the system, but what they found when they  
9 want to go to college or university, they have to go  
10 back to Arctic College to upgrade in order for them to  
11 fit that category to continue.

12                  Living out on the land is a very harsh  
13 life, a lot of work. You're up from sundown to --  
14 sunup till sundown, and your -- your work is endless.  
15 This all-weather road, sure, it's going to create a lot  
16 of jobs, it's going to create a lot of work, it's  
17 definitely going to benefit everybody. But what I'm  
18 really afraid of is -- is the outcome once it's done.  
19 There's definitely going to be a lot of maintenance  
20 work to be done on it.

21                  When you take not just your children,  
22 grandchildren, or other kids' childrens out on the land  
23 and teach them, I feel real good about that. I still  
24 do today. I'm a small business person. I've struggled  
25 all my life to get to where I am, me and my family.

1 And I'm very proud of where we are today.

2 I've never, ever had to rely on industry  
3 or anybody for that matter. Everything we've done to  
4 date, we've done on our own. And somebody said  
5 yesterday they were just a working person; that's the  
6 kind of person I am. You do what you can with what you  
7 have. Sometimes you have to do without, but those are  
8 just the facts of life.

9 We -- we can't do any -- any more -- I  
10 don't think anything is going to get any better  
11 regarding education, health, housing. I -- I just  
12 don't believe in that. People have already had the  
13 opportunity to -- to do what they can for themselves.  
14 It's what you do with it afterwards, what you've been  
15 taught, what you learned, not only from other people,  
16 but from watching other people.

17 You know, it really bothered me all  
18 night hearing yesterday that some of our people are  
19 starving. I find that hard to believe in a community  
20 like this. There's an abundance of food out there.  
21 You just have to go out there and harvest it. We've  
22 got very good fishing, hunting. There's caribou.  
23 People say there's no caribou. There's caribou around.  
24 Bears, whales, everything, we have everything here.  
25 And I think a lot of us are afraid of -- of what some -

1 - of what might happen to some of these species.

2                   The other area, too, is industry and it  
3 has been around this region for a long, long time. And  
4 up until recently, you know, they have really good,  
5 strict policies. We'd better make sure that these  
6 people who are doing the construction of that road  
7 abide by those. Industry has been bound by drug and  
8 alcohol free workplace, and these guys better make sure  
9 that they do that.

10                   I don't care where you live in the  
11 world, drugs and alcohol is always going to be a  
12 problem. If you have measures in place to -- to ensure  
13 that they're used properly, they are. I -- I found  
14 that out myself. I was a very heavy drinker at one  
15 time. I still drink off and on again, but -- but I  
16 tell you, it's a very, very strong disease. And a lot  
17 of us struggle with it for all our lives. All our  
18 lives we struggled with that.

19                   And people complain about nothing to do  
20 for the children. There's plenty to do. We have a lot  
21 of organizations within the community that take care of  
22 that. But some of them are lacking in the continuation  
23 of some of these programs that they have. Our own  
24 youth within the community don't even respect their own  
25 building. I mean, where does that come from? I don't



1 know. But like I said, if you want your children to  
2 grow up right, then you teach them how to grow up  
3 right, to respect people.

4 My children, when they were growing up,  
5 they lacked a lot of things because we didn't have the  
6 money to -- to get for them. But when they went to  
7 high school, two (2) of them went on a trip. When they  
8 came home, they never, ever once complained about --  
9 complained about what they ha -- have. Seeing the  
10 outside world, being able to witness the poverty, the -  
11 - the people that they saw. They just couldn't believe  
12 it.

13 This -- this road is going to definitely  
14 ben -- benefit the younger generation, I believe, more  
15 than -- more than the average person nowadays, because  
16 the door of opportunity is going to be there. But I  
17 really stress that once a final decision is made that  
18 these Proponents and the contractors that are doing the  
19 work ensure that it is done environmentally friendly so  
20 that -- so the lands, the waters, the wildlife is not  
21 harmed.

22 And, you know, there's a lot of talk  
23 about training opportunities; that's been there for  
24 many years. People have gone out, they've -- they've  
25 got their training. Again, just like going to school.

1 What did you do with that training after you're done?  
2 Some of them have done very good in doing -- in doing  
3 that.

4                   The local companies in this region have  
5 taught many people to operate heavy equipment, but they  
6 -- they only allowed to work so long for so -- for so  
7 many days, and whatnot. There are people out there  
8 that are already trained in heavy equipment who are  
9 looking for work, and they can't work. Why is that?  
10 The government has spent a lot of money on training  
11 people. Now it's time to make use of all that  
12 training.

13                   And with that regard, I'd like to once  
14 again thank the -- the Chair and the panel, the  
15 Proponents for coming to the community, and sitting  
16 down and listening to the -- the views that are coming  
17 from deep down from the heart of many of us. Thank you  
18 very much.

19                   THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank you  
20 very much. We've had one (1) last person ask to have a  
21 statement read into the record. Is that...

22                   MR. IRWIN ELIAS: We have someone  
23 that's -- wanted to present something to the panel, but  
24 because of health issues they're unable to make it, and  
25 apparently they have a letter being sent here, and they

1 asked if I could read it, so. I don't know how long  
2 you want to wait for that, but just to let you know.

3

4 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Well,  
5 give a few minutes, and -- but regardless the rec --  
6 the letter can actually be given to the panel, and put  
7 into the record if we don't have the opportunity to  
8 read it here, so either way that -- that statement will  
9 be put into the record.

10 So we'll give it a few minutes, and then  
11 we'll...

12

13 (BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: We'll  
16 just take a quick sort of ten (10) minute break, and  
17 we'll come and hope that it's here.

18

19 --- Upon recessing at 2:09 p.m.

20 --- Upon resuming at 2:20 p.m.

21

22 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: So if  
23 you'd like to go ahead...?

24 MR. IRWIN ELIAS: Okay. My name is Irwin  
25 Elias, and I have a letter here from Tina Steen. She

1 wanted me -- she couldn't be here to read this, so she  
2 wanted me to do it on her behalf.

3

4 STATEMENT BY MS. TINA STEEN (BY LETTER):

5 "Mr. Chair and panel members, thank  
6 you for taking the time to meet with  
7 the Tuktoyaktuk people on the  
8 proposed Inuvik-Tuk Highway. May God  
9 guide you along the way. May God  
10 guide you along to how each and every  
11 decision must be made. Our dad, the  
12 late Vince R. Steen was highly  
13 involved with the initial stages on  
14 the Inuvik-Tuk Highway, and believed  
15 strongly in how the Tuk residents  
16 would benefit from this, whether it  
17 be through lower cost in our daily  
18 food or increase to tourism and  
19 industry and, therefore, create more  
20 jobs and equal opportunities for the  
21 people of Tuk.

22 Our dad fought for what he believed  
23 in, and knew how the Inuvialuit  
24 people needed to try and balance our  
25 way as best as possible. Our way of

1 life that has been passed down to us,  
2 the fact that changes were taking  
3 place to our way of living where  
4 white man's way is what we Inuvialuit  
5 needed. To work in order to move  
6 ahead, and have strong voice in  
7 society.

8 The Developer needs to ensure all  
9 concerns are dealt with accordingly,  
10 and determine how best to address the  
11 various matters within each stage.  
12 Keep community strong between all  
13 organizations, regulators, and  
14 especially the Inuvialuit --  
15 Inuvialuit. Don't stop listening,  
16 and take the time to remember those  
17 who put so much effort into this  
18 project."

19 And she'd just like to say that:

20 "This was -- this was my dad vis --  
21 vision, and get it done but do it  
22 wisely. Thank you."

23 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: Thank you  
24 for reading that.

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR: I think  
4 we're at a point that we can conclude our hearing. I  
5 would like to ask Mayor Gruben actually to come and  
6 make some closing remarks.

7

8 CLOSING REMARKS BY MAYOR MERVEN GRUBEN:

9 MAYOR MERVEN GRUBEN: Good afternoon  
10 once again, panel. Thank -- thank you again for coming  
11 to Tuk, and putting your schedule to coming here out to  
12 people here in Tuk and Inuvik.

13 I think you've heard -- I've been here.  
14 I've heard a wide variety of things; all of them, you  
15 know, pretty much in support of the all-weather road  
16 between Tuk and Inuvik.

17 My -- my grandfather, Eddie Gruben, and  
18 -- and my dad, they -- they used to travel in dog  
19 teams, and that's how our company started. But along  
20 with many of the Elders and, you know, we all -- we all  
21 know they used to travel. You got to get up early.  
22 It's tough work in the old days there, live -- living  
23 off the land.

24 Things are changing. Even the late  
25 Vince Steen, he always told us, We can't go back there

1 again. That -- that time has changed. Now we have to  
2 make a better life for our children. And we have a  
3 very, very good opportunity for this to -- for this to  
4 happen now.

5                   Look at the -- the NEB. We just  
6 finished working with them on the Beaufort offshore  
7 drilling; that got approved December 15th of last year.  
8 And we told them, you know, that'll work hand in hand  
9 with -- we get this all- weather road done, the  
10 Beaufort exp -- exploration's taking off. We need the  
11 all-weather road to help with the -- just in case  
12 there's a worse-case scenario of oil spills and  
13 blowouts, we have an all-weather road connecting us to  
14 the ocea -- or the ocea -- connecting the ocean with --  
15 to help with anything like that worse-case scenario  
16 that might happen like that.

17                   But -- but as I said in -- in my -- in  
18 my opening was, you know, this is a great opportunity.  
19 I think we can -- this can be done safely, effectively,  
20 for the better of all -- all the people in our region.  
21 You know, of -- of course, we've got to work with some  
22 recommendations I'm sure will be coming from you.

23                   But, you know, we -- we have to -- we  
24 have to make this happen, and be a reality for -- if --  
25 if the people want this to happen, it -- it should

1 happen. If there's anything else you need from us, I  
2 mean, or the Proponents, feel free to call us any time  
3 you need. Thank you very much.

4

5 CLOSING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON/FACILITATOR:

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

7 Before we close, I would like to actually express the  
8 panel's appreciation for the community -- the Hamlet of  
9 Tuktoyaktuk; not only your warm welcome in coming to  
10 your community but also the time that you've taken to  
11 express your very strong views in -- in support of the  
12 road, and in support of doing it right.

13 This is a very important part of our  
14 deliberations, and everything that you've said in the  
15 last two (2) days will be carefully taken into  
16 consideration when we're making our -- our decision on  
17 -- on terms and conditions or recommendations.

18 I'd also like to express some thanks to  
19 some people that have helped us make these last few  
20 days happen. We couldn't actually do our proceedings  
21 without the help of our interpreters, Fred Wolki and  
22 Robert Kuptana, so thank you very much for your work.

23 Also, for our staff. I know that Eli  
24 had a five (5) page checklist to make sure that  
25 everything got done for the hearings between here and



1 Inuvik, and he's done an excellent job in making sure  
2 that they've run very smoothly. And to our advisors in  
3 helping us put this together, and also to the panel for  
4 the help that they have and -- and knowing the  
5 communities.

6                   Before we close, I'd just like to say  
7 that the Environmental Impact Review Board has many of  
8 the same goals as have been expressed over the last two  
9 (2) days here in this community, and we have not caused  
10 delays in our deliberation, sort of slowing down the  
11 process.

12                   I don't expect that many people have  
13 looked at the registry site or the details of the  
14 schedule over the last two (2) years. There's a lot of  
15 information there, and many -- much of it is very, very  
16 technical, but we're all working towards the same end.

17                   The EIRB has a job to do, and that job  
18 is set out in your Inuvialuit Final Agreement and the  
19 Federal Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. In  
20 simple terms, that job is to make sure that the road is  
21 built in a way that safeguards the environment, your  
22 traditional use of the land, and your cultural values.  
23 In this case, we have the particular responsibility of  
24 making sure that Husky Lakes is taken into  
25 consideration as well.

1                   We must sure -- be sure that, if the  
2 road is to go ahead and something goes wrong, that  
3 there's a plan to deal with that. It's up to the  
4 Developer and other parties working with us to convince  
5 the EIRB that this can be done. There are tests and  
6 guidelines attached to the legislation that set out the  
7 information required to meet those tests.

8                   The panel can't ignore those tests for  
9 this development, because everyone in the community  
10 would like to see it go ahead because, in the future,  
11 we would be expected to do the same thing for future  
12 developments that your community may not support in the  
13 same way. So we have to look at it in an objective way  
14 and deal with the requirements that are before us.

15                  If this project was not referred to the  
16 Review Board, it would have been referred to the  
17 Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, and there would  
18 have been a comprehensive study done. That study would  
19 still be ongoing, I can tell you that. There would not  
20 have been likely community hearings where the view of  
21 the communities would be heard, and you wouldn't have a  
22 panel sitting in front of you that had a majority of  
23 Inuvialuit members.

24                  So I think that's why your negotiators  
25 set out, in your final agreement, that there be an

1 Environmental Impact Review Board that could consider  
2 these matters on your behalf.

3 We understand how important this road is  
4 to you, and that you want it right now. We have been,  
5 and continue to be, committed to doing our job in the  
6 quickest and most expeditious manner available, and  
7 we'll continue to work towards that end. Thank you.

8 I would like to ask Robert, actually,  
9 just in closing to do a closing prayer, and to ask for  
10 some guidance as we go forward.

11

12 (CLOSING PRAYER)

13

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: So that ends our  
15 proceedings. Thank you very much again for your  
16 attendance.

17

18 --- Upon adjourning at 2:33 p.m.

19

20 Certified Correct,

21

22

23 \_\_\_\_\_

24 Sean Coleman, Mr.

25

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