

**JOINT REVIEW PANEL FOR THE ENBRIDGE NORTHERN
GATEWAY PROJECT
COMMISSION D'EXAMEN CONJOINT DU PROJET
ENBRIDGE NORTHERN GATEWAY**



**Hearing Order OH-4-2011
Ordonnance d'audience OH-4-2011**

**Northern Gateway Pipelines Inc.
Enbridge Northern Gateway Project
Application of 27 May 2010**

**Demande de Northern Gateway Pipelines Inc.
du 27 mai 2010 relative au projet
Enbridge Northern Gateway**

VOLUME 46

**Hearing held at
Audience tenue à**

**Hudson Bay Lodge
3251 Highway 16
Smithers, British Columbia**

**April 25, 2012
Le 25 avril 2012**

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as represented by the Minister of the Environment
and the National Energy Board

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HEARING /AUDIENCE

OH-4-2011

IN THE MATTER OF an application filed by the Northern Gateway Pipelines Limited Partnership for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity pursuant to section 52 of the *National Energy Board Act*, for authorization to construct and operate the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project.

HEARING LOCATION/LIEU DE L'AUDIENCE

Hearing held in Smithers (British Columbia), Wednesday, April 25, 2012
Audience tenue à Smithers (Colombie-Britannique), Mercredi, le 25 avril 2012

JOINT REVIEW PANEL/LA COMMISSION D'EXAMEN CONJOINT

S. Leggett	Chairperson/Présidente
K. Bateman	Member/Membre
H. Matthews	Member/Membre

ORAL STATEMENTS/EXPOSÉS ORAUX

Taylor Bachrach
Greg Brown
Don Chinnick
Rich De Roy
Alvin Domes
Titia Donker
Sofia Eberman
Simon Franklin
Facundo Gastiazoro
Donald Gillis
Gail Jenne
Dave Livesey
Servaas MES
Sarah Milner
Bob Mitchell
Michael Murphey
Sarah Puentes
Dr. Cristina Soto
Virginia Cobbett
Christopher Duncan
Mark Edwards
Lori Knorr
Dorolene Pflugbeil
Len Vanderstar
Peter Schopfer
Kim Struthers

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No.	Description	Paragraph No./No. de paragraphe
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--- Upon commencing at 1:03 p.m./L'audience débute à 13h03

1. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Good afternoon everyone. We'll get ready to get under way.
2. Welcome to everyone. We'd like to acknowledge again the welcome that was given to us by Chief Namox of the Wet'suwet'en Nation the first afternoon that we started.
3. My name is Sheila Leggett, and on my right is Mr. Kenneth Bateman and on my left is Mr. Hans Matthews.
4. Just as far as logistics of today's session, there are emergency exits at the back of the room, at the side of the room, and also here at the front of the room. There are two sets of washrooms; the ladies' is in the corridor just outside this room; the men's is off and up some stairs and there's another set of washrooms down by the restaurant, so you would just turn right down the hallway and go down to the restaurant.
5. Also, someone has anonymously and graciously provided some snacks for us, I gather, for the afternoon and evening session. So we'd like to express our appreciation for whoever took that step for everybody in the hearing to be able to participate in that, and thank you very much for that.
6. You've probably all had a chance to meet many of our staff members who are with us today. You can identify them because they've all got gold nametags on. And if you have any questions about the process or any procedural questions, they're the people that will be able to help you with providing you with answers to your questions.
7. We also have two contractors with us; we have our court reporter as well as our sound/IT person.
8. Kenneth, Hans and I are all members of the National Energy Board and we've been tasked to make decisions for the Northern Gateway Pipelines Limited Partnership Application.
9. The National Energy Board is an independent quasi-judicial regulatory body. Our decisions as a Panel will be based solely on the relevant information that we obtain through the Joint Review Process that is underway now.

10. The session today, as all our sessions, is being broadcast live on the Panel's website, and today we're here for a community hearing in which we're going to hear oral statements from interested participants who registered in advance to provide these statements to the Panel.
11. Oral statements are an opportunity for participants to provide their personal knowledge and views about the proposed project to the Panel in their own words.
12. In order to provide a reference point, should any of the participants need that, we've had two maps that have been prepared from the written evidence on file. And each participant has been made aware of these maps, and if they want to call up the other map, they can do so just by requesting that at the time.
13. The timeframe for each oral statement is a maximum of 10 minutes, and at that point you'll be asked to end your statement. We do this so that we can be fair and make sure that everybody who's registered has the opportunity to speak.
14. We do have this system in place which I believe all the participants will understand from having registered. The light will go yellow and there will be an audible noise at seven minutes and then the light goes red and another audible noise at 10 minutes.
15. So we're here to listen to you, so I won't take up too much more time. The only last thing I would just say is that we confirm that all the individuals who are giving us oral statements today have either been previously sworn or affirmed by the Panel staff.
16. So with that, Mr. Bachrach, whenever you're ready to proceed.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. TAYLOR BACHRACH:

17. **MR. TAYLOR BACHRACH:** Good afternoon. My name is Taylor Bachrach, and for the past five months I've had both the privilege and the honour of serving as the Mayor of the Town of Smithers, this beautiful community that you find yourselves in today. And it's in that capacity that I would like to welcome you here today to hear from all of us, from all of our residents on an issue about which there is so much concern.

18. I speak to you today as the father of two young girls; Ella is seven years old, and today is Madeline's fifth birthday. I speak to you as a small businessperson and as a lifelong resident of northern British Columbia.
19. I want to begin by talking about identity. And the other day I had an opportunity to hear a presentation by Dr. Greg Halseth from the University of Northern British Columbia. Greg is one of Canada's foremost academics in the area of rural economic development, community development.
20. In his presentation, Dr. Halseth spoke of the challenges faced by rural communities in today's global economy. One thing he said struck me, and I'll share it with you now.
21. He said, and I'm paraphrasing slightly, *"The key element in achieving a successful future in the new economy is knowing who we want to be as communities. What are our aspirations? We must make sure we don't harm those critical assets that attract people to our places."*
22. These words struck me because here in the northwest in the Skeena watershed, I believe there is a growing recognition of who it is we want to be as communities and what those critical assets are. Let me tell you, they're not oil pipelines.
23. What are they? They're many things. They're wild salmon, first and foremost, functioning ecosystems, clean water, local businesses, our forests, our minerals, our community's social capital. There's a growing shared identity here in the northwest, and that shared identity is bringing people together.
24. And let me state unequivocally that I believe this pipeline runs contrary to our shared vision of the future that is emerging every day. This is wild salmon country; it's not oil country.
25. Next I want to talk about certainty and security. A popular concept in economic development circles, it seems, is the notion of creating certainty for investors, a stable atmosphere in which the players know where the goal posts are. Closely related to certainty is the notion of security, a concept so fundamental that it's embedded in Article 3 of the UN's Charter of Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

26. These concepts of certainty and security, I believe, are very apt in the discussion of this pipeline because what I hear from people over and over is that they wish to have the certainty, the security that comes with knowing that the environment that supports our lifestyle today will be there tomorrow for our children and our grandchildren.
27. Sadly, so many people feel these days that this pipeline threatens that sense of security, that sense of certainty because if it is built, this pipeline will be a veritable time bomb. And that might be hyperbolic, but I think you get the idea.
28. Lying just below the surface, the surface of the ground, most literally, but also very much below the surface of our awareness, there will always be a question in our minds, will this be the day that we turn on the radio and hear that there's been a pipeline rupture and that oil is gushing into the Morice River or the Copper River or the Kitimat River. And people in Kitimat Village and Hartley Bay will wonder, is this the day that a tanker runs off course and hits the rocks.
29. For people in Cordova, Alaska, Battle Creek, Michigan and many other communities this is no longer a question because, for them, that devastating day has already come. People deserve the security of knowing their way of life and their aspirations for the future are safe.
30. I want to talk about community. There have been some who have said that this issue is dividing people in our communities, that it's pitting neighbour against neighbour. I don't see it that way.
31. On the contrary, I believe that this issue has brought people together in the northwest like never before. And in no instance is this more significant than the relationships and the bonds that have developed between First Nations and non-First Nations communities in our region.
32. Here in Smithers, our relationship with the Wet'suwet'en is not just beginning. In fact, we've had a relationship for over a century. And for those of you who don't know, 2013 is Smithers' 100 year anniversary as a community.
33. Not all of our relationship with First Nations people has been good. As others have mentioned, the legacy of colonization continues to have a profound impact on our communities, both Aboriginal and otherwise.
34. We're in a critical period right now of beginning to reconcile our shared

history and build the trust that will allow us to truly forge a shared future. It's happening, and our shared fight against this pipeline is actually playing an important role. So if Enbridge is responsible, albeit unintentionally for this, then perhaps in sort of a paradox -- paradoxical way we owe them a debt of gratitude.

35. Finally, I want to take about opportunity and tell a little story. I recently had an opportunity to tour the Alberta oil sands, also referred to as the tar sands. An industry group invited me there, seeking to improve the reputation of a much maligned industry that is playing such a prominent role in Alberta's economy.
36. I arrived a day early, along with two other local leaders from our region, and we chartered a -- a small aircraft and had a tour of the area around Fort McMurray. What I saw was truly astounding, it was -- I say it was awesome in the original sense of the word.
37. As I'm sure you know, the area impacted by open pit mining now extends over 700 square kilometres, and while industry says they are working on the technology to clean it all up, and I actually believe that -- that they are doing that in good faith, anyone who has seen it knows that restoring that landscape will largely be in name alone.
38. I -- I was prepared to be profoundly saddened by the devastating impacts of this development, and I -- I was somewhat surprised; that wasn't what I felt. Instead, I felt an overwhelming sense of disappointment that at a time when we as a society face an imperative, an emerging crisis when it comes to our climate, we are investing so much of our human potential, our ingenuity as a species, in a project that only serves to worsen our predicament.
39. My reaction to this pipeline is very similar because this pipeline has no role to play in our battle to reverse climate change. In fact, it's a \$5.5 billion investment in precisely the same energy system that the entire scientific community is telling us we need to be moving away from as quickly as possible. In so many ways I feel we are squandering our opportunity.
40. In conclusion, I very much want to believe that you are not just listening to all of us here, but also hearing what we have to say, and I trust that that's the case. If you conclude that the federal government should approve this pipeline, as so many cynics have predicted you will, I believe it will be the first time in our region's history and perhaps even our country's history that such a profound and permanent choice has been made against the wishes of so many.

41. However, on the other hand, if you truly hear us, all of us, and recommend that this project not be built, maybe it will be a turning point. A point at which we realize what we have, what is truly, I believe, in our national interest, and commit to never again putting so much at risk.

42. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

43. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Thank you.

44. Okay, good afternoon, Mr. Brown. Please go ahead.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. GREG BROWN:

45. **MR. GREG BROWN:** Madam Chair, Panel Members, community members, good afternoon.

46. I thank the Wet'suwet'en for welcoming us onto their land.

47. My name is Greg Brown; I'm a northerner, I was born in northern Alberta. I grew up in Kitimat, son of a papermaker and a nurse.

48. So my first memories are of catching eulachon in the Kitimat River, shoulder to shoulder with Haisla people. My family explored the wilderness of the Kitimat Valley, including the Upper Kitimat. Every summer we would cruise the waters of Douglas Channel and the Inside Passage, catching fish and creating bonds between our family.

49. I have a degree in geological engineering, and when I entered the job market at the turn of the century the human race was coming to grips with a major global environmental problem; climate change. From that point on, I considered us, and I consider all of us involuntary implicated with the stewardship of our shared atmosphere.

50. So I began earnestly working on energy issues; community energy planning, energy efficiency, renewable energy design. Eventually my interests took me to Nigeria. There, I helped organize a renewable energy conference.

Oral statements
Exposés oraux

51. After that conference I settled in Smithers, close to family in a region with so much natural bounty. As Meg Hobson stated yesterday, "I am bound to this place by family", so it is here in the Bulkley Valley with the Morice River, an important tributary to the Skeena watershed and a world-class salmon ecosystem, is where I live and plan to live. I am bound to this place with my family and it's where I'm going to help build community in the context of our global world.
52. I am opposed to the Northern Gateway Pipeline and Tanker Project. I'm opposed because I'm concerned of a few specific properties of oil and its distant cousin called bitumen.
53. The first property then I'm concerned with is that bitumen is heavy. Most citizens are concerned about freshwater and saltwater environments. So my question, what happens when dilbit hits the water? Well, research says that bitumen has a specific gravity greater than one, which means it will sink. The fact that it sinks makes it -- makes all conventional oil spill response techniques ineffective and possibly obsolete.
54. Enbridge is having to invent ways to get the bitumen off the bottom of Kalamazoo River. Maybe we are hoping that out of sight and out of mind might work. Unfortunately, ecosystems don't work that way.
55. The second property is that bitumen is corrosive. Compared to conventional crude oil we know that diluted bitumen is more acidic, more sulphuric and more abrasive than conventional oil.
56. Combined with a need, because it is more viscous, to pump it at higher temperature and pressure, it creates the conditions for being more corrosive on pipelines and possibly even the epoxy coatings on double-hulled tankers.
57. We knock -- lack the knowledge about the long-term consequences of the relative -- of this relatively new oil product on our pipelines and I'm specifically concerned about the lack of acknowledgement from the industry and the Proponent that it needs to be looked into -- that this needs to be looked into and researched.
58. The fact that they have systematically ducked and dodged this question is a concern for me. I suspect that it is because acknowledging that there might be a problem, they actually might find a problem, and then this would have severe economic consequences to -- on maintaining their current systems, their pipeline systems, the current pipeline systems without major spills, let alone trying to build

new pipelines.

59. Given these two specific properties and the toxic nature of oil products -- now picture in your mind's eye the river environments of the Morice, the Copper and the Kitimat Rivers. Complex ecosystems of shifting riverbanks; there is glacial, fluvial deposits where flooding is a necessary ingredient to create the specific critical habitat for specific species of wild salmon, a system where the river ecosystem is actually the width of the valley in many places.
60. I'm talking about the interaction between groundwater and surface water. And it's in this interface that sands and gravels create a critical component of the ecosystem where organisms, including fish fry exist, and lay the groundwork for the overall salmon ecosystem to exist.
61. I know from my engineering education that it's very difficult to clean up oil products like condensate and oil from substrate materials. The old leaky gas station that are fenced off in our town are a persistent reminder of this. A spill on our watersheds -- in our watersheds and on our watersheds has the potential to create a lasting polluting legacy for future generations to deal with.
62. The idea of legacy brings me to the third property of oil that I would like to speak about. I'm concerned about the corrosive nature of oil on democracy and on human rights, something all Canadians should be monitoring. When the Economist Magazine referred to Alberta as a petro state I started to get concerned. A petro state is one in which a state's wealth is derived from oil.
63. My concerns stem from my experience with another petro state, Nigeria. The Niger Delta is well-known as being a violent place. When I was there I heard stories from communities and got a felt sense of the mistrust of the state and the undercurrent of violence that lingers just below the surface.
64. I didn't experience or witness any civil unrest; I just heard countless stories of corruption and mismanagement by the government. I left there confused, deeply confused, at how much -- how much wealth was squandered and what it created in terms of poverty and just poor living conditions for the 130,000,000 Nigerians that live in that country.
65. One year after returning from Nigeria, I saw movie "Blood Diamonds", which is set in Sierra Leone during the civil war, a brutal civil war in which child soldiers were used. There is a scene in that movie where Leonardo DiCaprio is

rushing through a village trying to get to the diamond fields. An old man stops Leonardo's sidekick and asks "Why is the white man in such a hurry?" The answer was "diamonds". The old man responds "Well at least we don't have oil".

66. In that moment I was flooded with emotion. I honestly went home and bawled for two hours. I had experienced nothing like it. The movie helped me understand the systemic and political issues related with petro states in which I had felt and directly experienced in Nigeria but was not able to understand while I was there.
67. After that I started to research the concept of petro states and the effect on democracies. I'm concerned that if we're not careful that the level of democracy that we have established in Canada will succumb to the corrosive effects of oil and the negative aspects that come to being with a petro state. This is extremely hard to monitor.
68. There is just -- and here is just one example from yesterday's news. Andrew Weaver, a climate scientist, was quoted as saying in the context of government officials shadowing polar scientists at a conference and watching what they say.
69. This administration probably has a fear about science. He compared the monitoring of scientists to something out of the Soviet era. These types of stories are prevalent in the news these days.
70. With my own experience, with the possible change -- with my own experience -- it goes back to the public meetings held by the municipal governments of Terrace and Kitimat. These meetings were organized by the local governments for the public and included Enbridge representative.
71. At these meetings there was an alarmingly heavy presence of RCMP. I'm sure the RCMP had a valid reason for being there with the majority of their detachment staff at each of those meetings. Public safety is extremely important. However, the fact that they felt justified to be there hints to me of the corrosive nature of oil on our communities.
72. And now I want to comment on the experience that you and I have experienced in the last year. You and I have shared space in the same room at hearings just like this. At those meetings there actually was a presence of RCMP if you remember.

73. And it turns out actually that today there isn't, and this week there isn't. And the only comparison -- the only reason I can come up with why there's not RCMP in this room today is because the federal government has now unburdened you with the responsibility of making the final decision on this project.
74. So now this leaves you -- this is actually a good thing for us in the room because the Panel, you, are more independent in this process. You have more freedom to be objective and forthcoming in your recommendations to the federal government. You can reflect and think about what is truly in our national interest and not just the narrow confines and the scope of the currently defined by politicians and by their specific constituencies.
75. I wish you intellect and wisdom as you complete this process and when making your recommendations.
76. Thank you for your time and attention.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

77. **MEMBER BATEMAN:** Mr. De Roy, thank you for coming today. Please proceed with your oral statement.

--- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. RICH DE ROY:**

78. **MR. RICH DE ROY:** I'd first of all like to thank Taylor and Greg for speaking. I think integrity in politics is a very important thing, and I also think science is an important thing.
79. Next, I'd like to welcome the Panel Members and thank the Panel Members for coming to the Bulkley Valley. If you have an opportunity to -- I know you're here for a short stay now but if you have an opportunity to come here in July, August, September, summer or the fall, those are my favourite months here, and the reason for that is mainly because of what you've projected on the screen here, the watersheds that are crossed in the proposed route of the Enbridge pipeline. So I hope you have that opportunity to come back during those months.
80. As you probably gather from looking at me, I'm not Hereditary Chief of the Wet'suwet'en people. I'm not a Gitksan Chief, I'm not a member of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, I'm not First Nations.

81. What you can't tell from me -- from looking at me, is that I'm not a member of the New Democratic Party, I'm also not a member of Forest Ethics, Greenpeace, Living Ocean Society, Pacific Wild, Friends of Wild Salmon. I don't sit on the Board of the Suzuki Foundation, the Raincoast Conservation Foundation or the Sierra Club of B.C.
82. So who am I, and what do I want? Simply put, I am a northern resident who respects the land and the streams that are essential to my wellbeing and the wellbeing of those who I care about. As a northerner, how do I feel about Enbridge's proposal? Well, I don't like it. But a more important question is what can I do about it?
83. Well, with respect to the proposed pipeline I'll continue the many conversations that I have with my fishing partners and friends along the shore of our great rivers and waterways, those who speak out tirelessly against the killing of our fish through imminent spills of Enbridge bitumen.
84. I will stand in opposition with First Nations people upon whose territories Enbridge proposes to trespass. I will support the educational efforts of environmental groups whose warnings Enbridge has ignored. I will remind you, as Panel Members, of the hard work of geologists and scientists who have studied and rejected this flawed plan. I'll continue my friendship with the Friends of the Morice Bulkley and Friends of Wild Salmon.
85. I will continue my respect for the many First Nations leaders, NDP members, federal Liberal members, Smithers' town council, most of them, who have shown political courage in opposition to piping bitumen through our watershed and running supertankers through our passages.
86. I will stand with all northerners, including many of the fine folks here today, involved in direct action against the construction of a pipeline used to transport bitumen to the Douglas Channel.
87. Thank you for hearing my story today.
- (Applause/Applaudissements)
88. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Mr. Domes, please proceed when you're ready.

89. Thank you.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. ALVIN DOMES:

90. **MR. ALVIN DOMES:** I mention that in -- I might not have the right words here but there seems to be a minimizing or a watering down by the government and the Prime Minister of the environmental review process.

91. I have a letter here that was sent through the email here, and it was forwarded to the certain group here by Mike Hager of the Vancouver Sun and it's from the six B.C. and Yukon Anglican Bishops demand fairness in Northern Gateway Pipeline hearings.

92. I'm not a member of the Anglican Church, although I do go to a church but I thought this reflected my concern. The text of the letter sent:

"As bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada and British Columbia and Yukon we write to express our hope that the National Energy Board, (NEB) hearings into the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline will demonstrate integrity, fairness and freedom from political pressure. Recent public statements by various officials of the federal government, including the announcement last week of the streamlining of environmental assessment reviews have raised concerns that NEB hearings may become subject to improper time constrictions and industry influence. In a project of this magnitude it is imperative that the final NEB report on Northern Gateway be thorough and credible and command wide public support. To this end it will be critical to hear the views of all people who live along the intended route of the pipeline. In particular we call upon the Board to pay close attention to the concerns expressed by First Nations communities whose traditional territories and waters the proposed pipeline and the marine supertanker traffic would cross. We urge serious study of these concerns as expressed in the Fraser Declaration of Indigenous Communities and by the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs. We also draw attention to the statement by KAIROS, a national ecumenical research group of Canadian churches, and commend its analysis of the Northern Gateway Project to careful study by all peoples of faith."

93. I was born and raised in Saskatchewan and came to B.C. many years ago. I have lived in Kitimat, New Hazelton, Smithers, and Prince George, and returned to Smithers and the beautiful Bulkley Valley when I retired from the CNR.

94. The proposed Enbridge Pipeline would run from near Edmonton to Kitimat carrying oil from the Alberta oil sands mixed with condensate to enable it to flow through the oil pipe. This condensate would be moved from Kitimat in a parallel pipeline to Edmonton. This bitumen would then be moved from Kitimat to China, and perhaps California, in huge oil tankers.
95. The tankers would move down the Douglas Channel and perhaps -- and then out to the open ocean via the Dixon Entrance. There's a -- the Dixon Entrance is -- as I've been told, is a very dangerous body of water. It gets rather shallow there, and the wind and the waves, they really get large.
96. I know a person in Telkwa; he worked in the -- in there -- in the -- I'm not sure what his position was, but he was connected with the shipping and there was -- this was several years ago -- a huge wave come and rolled over a big freight ship and everyone was dead. So there's a danger in crossing the Hecate Strait. And these huge ships, of course, would have to unload their bilge tanks, which is a contaminating issue.
97. All of this poses a great risk for an accident and polluting the northwest coast of B.C.
98. Back to the pipelines. To have a pipeline oil spill, especially in the Morice River area, would be especially devastating to the fish populations, especially where the pipeline crosses the Morice. The Morice River is a major fish spawning and rearing area.
99. The water from the Morice River flows into the Bulkley River near Houston, then flows into the Skeena River at Hazelton, and then on to Terrace and Prince Rupert. Oil spilled into the Morice River could travel a very long way, affecting the fish, the river and the surrounding area itself.
100. The pipeline area to the Kitimat is subject to landslides which could cause broken lines and a major disaster. There is much snowfall in the area, especially around Kitimat. There was 40 feet of snow there one year when I was there, and very cold weather.
101. And I'd like to just add my statement, that I am opposed to the Enbridge Northern Gateway project and the attending tanker component. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

102. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you to each of you for taking the time to present your oral statements to us.

--- (A short pause/Courte pause)

103. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Good afternoon, everyone. Please, Mr. Chinnick, please present to the panel.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. DON CHINNICK:

104. **MR. DON CHINNICK:** I'd just like to welcome you to my community, and my name is Donald Dalard Chinnick. Both sides of my family have been in Canada since the 1830s. Both sides have been connected to the land. They were farmers through all of those generations, and even in my generation, there's farmers.

105. When I was younger, my home was in Ontario. I was fortunate to go to one of the -- one of Canada's premier business schools, at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. I graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce. I continued on with my formal education and I graduated from Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College in Toronto, Ontario. So that was another four years.

106. I just want to state early in my presentation, if I don't get time to, is that I am against the Gateway Pipeline for many reasons. Any financial benefit seen, seemed to be very small, either locally, regionally, or nationally. The risks seem very high, which would damage the environment and lead to health implications. Huge costs are going to be incurred locally, regionally, and nationally.

107. I know you're not from the Bulkley Valley and your home is somewhere else. Right now you're probably sleeping in a hotel. You're eating restaurant food, probably your exercise routine is out the window. You're away from your family and your friends.

108. So my question -- it's a rhetorical question -- but how has your relationship changed with your family when you're being on tour, coming across B.C., talking to us? I believe that quality of your relationships is decreasing because you are away from your community and your family. You're experiencing camp life.

109. That's what this work is going to be that's involved with the pipeline.

People are going to transfer into this area, all the way along that corridor. They're not going to be from those communities. They're actually going to be living in hotels or living in camps. So they're going to be away from their home community and not contributing to their community. They're not investing in their relationships.

110. The majority of the employment is going to be in that scenario, and if we look at where this bitumen is coming from, if you go to Fort McMurray, the majority of those workers are going to be living a camp life. They're getting flown in or they're driving in, and they're spending a week to two weeks, and then they go back home. But they're away and they're not investing in their family, they're not investing in their community, and into their health. And if you start to research a little bit more, you're starting to see a breakdown of our society because of that.
111. Talking to people that have worked up there that are from this community, there's one young man and he went up there and he was just trying to gain as much financial money as possible to pay off some student loans, and what he found was everyone that he came in contact with in that environment was using something to escape and it was drugs. And it's having an impact on our community.
112. And so what we're looking at is short-term financial gain, and it's quick and easy, but we're not seeing long-term what's going to happen with these families, what's going to happen with these individuals that are in that environment.
113. And so before we jump into a big project like this, I think we need to be looking at -- as a society, be looking at what is impacting on our society.
114. So some people look at it as doing accounting, just not on a financial level, but they're doing it on a social level and they're doing it on an environmental. So sometimes it's called triple accounting, and so we get to find out what the true cost of a project like this would be, and maybe look at the true financial benefit, and what I'm finding or what I look into, and from my business background, is it seems like it is not a financial benefit but looking into long-term costs.
115. Now, when I look at you, you're coming into my community, you're coming from the National Energy Board. My question would be -- again, I'm not looking for an answer but I'd be like okay, what do you do; who do you work for; who pays your bills.
116. I would think that the NEB would be concerned about the national energy concerns of the nation, which is Canada. Do we have adequate reserves to supply the

whole nation in case there is some kind of world incident? I would think that the NEB would want to see a finished energy product delivered to the nation so the nation would reserve the greatest economic benefit from its natural resources.

117. This project is moving raw materials out of our country at the least economic benefit to our country. If you look at finances or you look at economies, where you gain the biggest profit is going to be value-added. We're not adding anything; we're probably devaluing by this project in long-term.
118. So if our nation continues to depend on petroleum products I would expect that the NEB is concerned with the amount of natural resources that we do have. So maybe the question might be is what is the life expectancy of this project; is it sustainable or is this project set up to get this product out as quick as possible and just make that quick profit but not looking at long-term impacts, whether it's environmental cleanup or we get into a situation where we do have an actual spill.
119. If we do have a spill, either on land or in -- on the watershed or out in the ocean, it is going to have an impact on this community and it's going to impact, not just Smithers, but all the way through.
120. Now, I'm glad to see that we do have tap water on here but it would be interesting to see if you came back and you're in a community down river from a spill whether you'd be drinking the water out of the tap or whether you'd be eating the produce that might be grown locally.
121. Now, Greg just mentioned about the lots that are in our town where there has been petroleum products that have been spilled and its astronomical costs to change that land or convert it back into usable land.
122. This pipeline that's going through there, who actually owns that land, would be my question. If there is a spill who's going to be the one that's responsible for clean up? I know Enbridge is saying that they are going to but I think it's going to fall back on the taxpayers and Enbridge is going to be long gone and so the financial costs is going to be falling onto the people that live in this community or any of those communities that live along that corridor.
123. And so I just want people to start thinking about the long-term impact. I like where I live and enjoy the people and I have family here. We've decided to make this our home and so we contribute back into our community. I'm a businessman; I run a chiropractic office, but if I look back over the last nine years

here I've probably invested a million dollars into this community.

124. Now, Enbridge is going to be investing 5 billion along that corridor, but if we look at all the individuals, like myself, if my means of doing business is disrupted because people aren't here or people are sick and dying, what's that mean, just all these other people that live here does it mean nothing, and this big corporation that makes promises that they're going to provide a living for everybody, I don't -- I just - I don't see there's a point there. They seem like they got more rights that a person that lives in this community has or anywhere along this corridor.

125. And so I have a big respect for health, so we need clean drinking water, we need healthy food. A lot of people get their food supply from the ocean. Now, if we went into your community and we looked at where your food was coming from, if I went in there and contaminated that food, how would you feel? And so I want you to be thinking that way when you are making a recommendation, that every decision that happens has consequences.

126. And I just want to thank you again for coming here today and allowing us to speak. And I just appreciate everybody that has spoken today and the following week, and good luck with your process.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

127. **MEMBER BATEMAN:** Ms. Eberman, thank you for coming today, and we look forward to hearing your statement.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MS. SOFIA EBERMAN:

128. **MS. SOFIA EBERMAN:** Good afternoon to everybody. Thank you very much for coming.

129. I am disappointed; I wished to see Mr. Harper here to hear directly from us. I guess he's afraid.

130. For Enbridge, hold your horses, Enbridge, this is not the Calgary Stampede and not the Wild West. This is a beautiful British Columbia with friendly people, green forests, fresh air, wildlife and a lot of clean water, lots of it. Here is a house of many natives with their culture and traditions and their land they never surrendered to anyone.

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131. I am here as a wife, as a mother and a grandmother. I support everyone opposed in this Enbridge Pipeline Project, as it will affect all of us regardless of our creed, race or age. The whole world and generations to come will be affected if another oil spill was to happen.
132. It is difficult for me just to stay here and repeat the same thing and the same point the other people have already said because we all share the same concerns, but I will try to give firsthand account of how this pipeline will affect me and what my personal concerns are.
133. The proposed pipeline will be 500 metres away from my home and the idea of this suffocate me, it made me sick.
134. My husband and I came to Canada we were just newlyweds. We came from Germany. My husband is from Germany, I am from Argentina. We moved to Buck Flat Valley in 1975. We built our home next to the Buck Creek for to use our water supplies as most of the homesteaders did.
135. Buck Creek has always been a source of water for the Buck Creek residents, and even provide water for the people in Houston. It's about 17 miles downs from where I live.
136. In the warmer months of the spring, Buck Creek becomes a rolling river overflowing banks and flooding meadows and washing everything in its way, everything, trees.
137. I am concerned that during the winter when the creek is frozen and is covered with deep snow for six months an oil spill will be difficult to detect. Then it will happen when the snow starts to melt in the springtime causing contamination to our drinking water underneath of this layer of ice.
138. I know the pump can be shut down but the creek cannot be cleaned, not in the winter, the spring, the summer or the fall; it is impossible. The banks in some places of this creek is about 25 metres deep and it's surrounded by clay, by swamp. I can't imagine how they're going to go with machines to try to clean or how they will blast all the ice. It's impossible.
139. Another concern is that our creek is constantly changing. A location where the pipeline might pose a risk and enter in our water supplies one year might not be the case in the future years to come. We live in a valley of abundance with

flora and fauna that can provide almost everything we need to survive. An oil spill will destroy all of that.

140. In fact, an oil spill in the northwest of B.C. will be a terrible disaster with no chance to repair.
141. It is not a question of if; it is a question of when a disaster will happen. It will happen. We live in an area of landslides, forest fires, extreme temperatures, all which cause a significant risk of damage to a pipeline.
142. I do not believe that Enbridge have the technology or the experience to face an act of God as the one in Japan in 2011. The Japanese people were very prepared for such a disaster or close to that, and they could not stop -- they could not do anything about that.
143. This made me think that Enbridge is not even close to preventing an oil spill due to natural disaster. It can be natural disaster, human negligence or even a computer failure. We don't want to be part of this schizophrenic experiment of greed.
144. Money or development won't matter anymore. The whole business will be busy thinking of who to blame. It doesn't matter how many contractors' or subcontractors' names are mentioned to disguise the responsibilities; the damage will be done and with no chance to repair again. Enbridge or any crude oil business could never fully restore the land to its original state.
145. Enbridge has not done a good job with their 800 plus oils spill already in land. And I found this unlikely that the Chinese, a straight partner to Enbridge, will volunteer to clean up the mess since environmental concerns do not seem to be China's top priority, as a matter of fact, not India, or any other country in Asia.
146. People affected by this crude oil pollution, for example the Athabaskan area, those people are dying with cancer. The mothers are miscarrying their babies. The fish, they are deformed and they have big sores. I know; I have seen it. I have talked to people that come from there.
147. And all this because there's pollution in the drinking water, the air, the land. And it is ecocide, and we must stop it. How much worse is it going to get before we all stand up and say, "enough." I say "enough" today.
148. What is the *Fisheries Act* all about? Shouldn't we be concerned about

having an oil spill act or water protection act instead? Mr. Harper is favouring the oil company with every law and act that he can come up with. It doesn't seem he's favouring us.

149. The Pacific Ocean and the northwest coast must be protected. The element of life cannot be destroyed. How much more abuse can we take?
150. Everyone involved in this whole business should be accountable for a crime against life, against next generations to come for destroying and polluting their environment, our environment. That is an unreasonable rush to pass this controversial project that carries a great risk of destruction and a great gain for greed.
151. I feel so intimidated, misled and led with fear. The terms of reference of the meeting disallow me and others to bring up the real concern that should be addressed such as Native Treaty, *Charter of Rights*.
152. The native people have said "no" to the Enbridge proposal and they will do anything to stop this project. We are behind them.
153. Enbridge, I read, if anyone will stand in the way when they are constructing this project once it's passed, they will bring the army and will arrest those people and they will charge them as terrorists.
154. What is this? War against terrorism? How ironically, Canadians are supposed to be people of peace. And yet, they are willing to kill their own people. I feel and I am afraid that this pipeline will not just carry crude oil; it will carry Canadian blood if the project goes through.
155. What is becoming of beautiful Canada? I feel that we are unfairly represented. We do not have a B.C. review panel right now or an individual from B.C. sitting on this Board. They are all from Alberta.
156. The office where I make the appointment to be talking today, it was in Alberta. The Prime Minister that we chose is from Alberta. What are our chances to be treated fairly?
157. And the person that we have chosen -- I didn't -- but somebody voted for Mr. Harper -- he's not here and he's not listening to us. They had the Enbridge pipeline deal was already a long time ago approved behind closed doors and behind our backs. How democratic is that?

158. I lost confidence in our leaders. Everything since the start of this project seems so wrong. Who are the Enbridge bureaucrats? They are not chosen by the people and are telling us what to do.
159. What do they want? They are obstructing and sabotaging our rights. This is what I see.
160. During my 37 years in Canada, I have met a lot of people, many of them Natives from different places. Our first encounter with the Natives of our land were with the Elders from Wet'sutwet'en village, the Mitchells and the Josephs. They came to hunt, to trap and gather in their territory. I learned a lot from them. I am very thankful. They made me Noosa-nack. Noosa-nack means the leader woman from the forest.
161. One of the many things that they told me was take what you need and leave the rest for the next generation. We are just visitors to this earth, and we shouldn't destroy what we cannot take with us when we die. We don't earn the resources. We don't even own our life. Isn't that true? We should learn from them.
162. The Elders talked with such a wisdom and respect for nature that to this day, I admire. They did a great job preserving the northwest coast for more than 1,000 years before the colonization came. It was plentiful for all, the wise, the Indians. And ironically it has taken less than 150 years for the colonization to destroy more than half of what they found. And we can see today their attitude is still in effect. They're still destroying everything.
163. Alberta's crude oil business have become a cancer itself spreading all over our beautiful Canada. I feel as long as Mr. Harper is in power, our chance for fair representation is very slim.
164. **MEMBER BATEMAN:** Ms. Eberman, excuse me for interrupting. You're a few minutes over your time. If I could encourage you just to wrap up in a summary, one sentence. Thank you.
165. **MS. SOFIA EBERMAN:** Yeah. For Enbridge, oil and water doesn't mix. And for Mr. Harper, neither bears from China or grizzly from B.C.
166. Thank you very much and I wish you to make a good decision for everything. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

167. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Franklin for being here. Please proceed when you're ready.

--- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. SIMON FRANKLIN:**

168. **MR. SIMON FRANKLIN:** Thank you for the opportunity to speak today and welcome to our community.

169. My name is Simon Franklin. I'm not here today to represent any political entity. I'm here solely as a concerned Canadian citizen exercising my democratic right to speak freely about a pipeline proposal that I believe will have extremely negative impacts on the region that my family calls home.

170. My comments today pertain to my personal experiences speaking with people around our region about this project. I've lived in Smithers since 1996. I moved here from Victoria and shortly thereafter founded a technology business 13 years ago as a sole proprietor.

171. My business, B.C. Web, now has 11 staff and has served almost 9,000 clients throughout the northwest, most of them between Prince Rupert and Prince George. Although I certainly haven't had an opportunity to personally speak to all of my clients over the years about this project, the overwhelming majority with whom I have spoken oppose this project.

172. Six years ago, I was heavily involved in a referendum campaign here in Smithers in the Bulkley Valley that sought to obtain approval from the residents of the Bulkley Valley to increase funding support for our local community pool and rec centre by increasing taxes. At that time, the pool was not being adequately funded and was in danger of closing.

173. Despite what I considered to be an incredibly compelling question -- do we wish to maintain this valuable recreation amenity in our community -- the vote was as low as 55 percent in favour in some areas.

174. Why is this story about a referendum relevant? Well, for me, it illustrates a key point, which is that it is extremely unusual for any issue to polarize a population almost completely. On most issues, there will almost always be many people on both

sides, often with a significant number who are indifferent sitting in the middle.

175. I guess, for me, that's what's so remarkable about this proposed pipeline project. From my experiences as a business owner speaking with clients and friends throughout this region, the opposition to this project is extremely high and it transcends political boundaries, transcends environmental beliefs, transcends cultures, ages, seemingly all demographics that I can apply to the people that I've talked to.

176. So for me, this is very clearly not just opposition coming from a radical minority. This is the opposition of a region.

177. I'm going to be brief today. I'd just like to end with a definition and a quote to -- for you to consider. The term "imperialism" as defined by the Dictionary of Human Geography is:

"The creation and/or maintenance of an unequal economic, cultural and territorial relationship, usually between states, and often in the form of an empire based on domination and subordination."

178. For me, this project, if it were to be approved despite the overwhelming opposition from the people of northwestern B.C., would be a prime example of imperialism, but at a national scale. As the American writer, Irving Babbitt, wrote in the early 20th Century, *"Democracy is now going forth on a crusade against imperialism."*

179. I hope that this Panel will see fit to make your recommendation in favour of democracy over imperialism.

180. Thank you for your time.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

181. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Thank you.

182. Good afternoon, Mr. Gillis. Please go ahead and present your oral statement.

--- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. DONALD GILLIS:**

183. **MR. DONALD GILLIS:** I'm Don Gillis. I've been in Smithers only six

years, coming from the Northwest Territories, not too far from the oil sands, Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. So you just have to go up the road and you're into Fort Chip, and then you're into Fort Smith.

184. I'm here today primarily and most of all in concern over -- we have 13 grandchildren, six of them here in Fort -- in -- where am I -- Smithers, and six up in -- back in the Territories up in Inuvik. So it is with great concern, given this event -- and I've only got 10 minutes.
185. I've been -- my lifetime has been spent in the north, 35 years at a college teaching with our Native population, so I've come to appreciate the concept of stewardship, of taking care of our land.
186. In the past few days now, the people I've heard speaking here, that voice has come out loud and clear, profoundly, the love, the care, the nurturing of our land. And that is something as a teacher, as someone who has been -- spent his lifetime speaking -- well, lifetime, my 70 years to date.
187. Now, do I not want to pass that on to my children, my grandchildren to act in the same way in appreciating what we have?
188. A couple of weeks ago, on the news when I heard our Resource Minister, Joe Oliver, come out and get up to the mike and start talking about all these radical environmentalists, well, I guess I stand true today. I am now a 70-year old radical, I guess, because I protest severely this pipeline, as I will try to elucidate.
189. That very day -- I'm just going through my notes. I've got many, many things here to talk about, but I won't. I notice one quote I'd written down that day when I heard Joe Oliver, Minister of Resource and Environment, state, you know, "Radicals, all these radicals coming in."
190. He said nothing about all the millions coming in from all these other companies and yourself, Mr. Bateman, as a vice-president -- a former vice-president of Suncor, you're well aware of the funds that come into that organization. So the few dollars that come in for some radical organization, I wonder.
191. That day, I wrote this. This pipeline is trespassing on the very life support system of our planet. And that sums up my 10 minutes, basically, but I would like to elaborate a bit. Others have already, all of the issues, I mean, without even getting into the tanker -- as I was sitting here today, I want everyone in here to look at this

map and look at that yellow line going across.

192. Now, imagine if you were a doctor and you just had an x-ray taken of a patient and look at that -- think of that as an artery and think of that filling up with this black toxic sludge emanating from Fort McMurray, creeping across this pristine land, the lakes, the rivers, the valleys. I would love to animate that, but you can in your own heads animate that and just see that sludge crawling across. And what do you think is going to become of this land, this valley?
193. I mean, it's a no-brainer that it should be discontinued, not even thought of, not even considered. There has to be other ways for our energy resources to be developed.
194. Now, having had 35 years in the Northwest Territories in Fort Smith, as others have already mentioned -- someone just mentioned a little while ago the effects are already being felt. I mean, we got the Athabasca River as the oil sands -- and now if this goes ahead, there's going to be already in the background how many companies that put millions in. That's going to increase.
195. Well, our Mayor went out and looked at the area and saw what it looks like, the ponds where you have all the sludge being distilled. Yes, we hear the expert just saying yes, they will be able to treat it and it's not going anywhere.
196. I have seen fish come up the Slave River deformed, given to me by Native friends. I ask Mr. -- your name here, the gentleman -- have you been to Fort Chip? Right. Well, I suggest you go to Fort Chip, sit down and talk with some of the people there to help in this decision making.
197. I was fortunate in 1977 to be in the Territories when Justice Berger came through over what; over a pipeline, a gas pipeline. Now, gas is a little less sludge-like than oil. Nevertheless, this is 35 years later. He made a decision declining that pipeline after listening to all of our Native people in the Territories from Fort Chip, from Fort Smith right up to Inuvik.
198. I feel privileged to have been there in the Territories when this took place. I'm privileged and I'm disappointed, in a way, because where my son wanted to become -- he became a gas fitter, his trade. And now he has a company in Inuvik and he's in the gas business, but contrary to no pipeline. I mean, he's a gas fitter and he puts in furnaces and all that. He would have been a lot wealthier if the pipeline had come in.

199. So again, it's the stewardship of the land. I don't see our Native people suffering because that pipeline didn't go in. There's been ways around it.
200. I have -- my son married an Inuvialuit up in the Arctic and my grandkids are part of that. I have a great tradition to uphold now; so no pipeline.
201. Again, this pipeline is trespassing on the very life support system of our planet. Because there's more tar sands that's extracted -- the very process of extracting that is affecting a climate.
202. And this -- I cannot believe that we're not supposed to talk about climate change, global heating, all of these aspects are profoundly linked, tied in with this.
203. This little stretch, this 1,000 or so kilometres, this will be a major -- I had to hold my tongue there, certain words were about to come up -- but it's a major disaster to our planet. Not just to Smithers; this is a planetary issue.
204. And this is what -- this is -- right now we are at a moment, you three people especially -- mind you, I feel, whatever I -- I feel sorry for you three because your decisions are already mucked up because the government's already tossing out environmentalism and this and that and that and that and making it fit. We got to get a hold of those buildings quick; we got to get it quick, right?
205. So -- I don't know, whatever decision you make is not going to matter I think to Harper's crew.
206. But I still -- I will end with saying, this is -- we stand at making -- and your decision will help make that -- this is a civilizing moment in history. If B.C. gets this pipeline put off it will be a major, major, major standoff and becoming a realization of what's happening on a global basis. And it's not just B.C.
207. So I thank you for hearing me.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

208. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you to each of you for sharing your oral statements with us.

--- (A short pause/Courte pause)

209. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Okay, good afternoon. And we're pleased to have you guys here to help us and to present your oral statement.

210. So, we'll start off with Mr. Gastiazoro, please. Please go ahead and present.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. FACUNDO GASTIAZORO:

211. **MR. FACUNDO GASTIAZORO:** Hi there. My name is Facundo Gastiazoro. It's right here if you guys want to read it.

212. Yes, I'm a newcomer to Canada. Something like seven years ago or maybe eight. I've lost count now. I come from Argentina.

213. It's -- I was born in 1975, and in 1976 my country went into a process of dictatorship; a military dictatorship that cut all our freedoms and right to speak, to be in opposition. My parents was part of the opposition and so we was lucky enough to escape. We lived five years in exile.

214. The military government, that moment, it was responding different interests than it was in the common well of the people in Argentina. And they call the opposition, my parents part of that, enemies of the state.

215. And three months ago or something like that it was, it became announced that the PM Office called part of my family an enemy of the state, called my wife an enemy of the state.

216. In that moment I couldn't believe it. What is -- I mean, this is Canada, it's not Argentina. We have rights here. We could be in opposition, we could think there is a different way to do things. We can, I guess, I hope we keep doing that.

217. So I -- the first thought in my mind was, where is my passport? Where is my daughter's passport? I have it all enrolled, can I get out of here? And then I calmed down, it was a panic thing. And I started thinking how come Mr. Harper can do this, call us enemies of the state because we think different of the common well?

218. It is the same thing is they are responding to different interests. Mr. Harper is responding to the interests of oil companies, of other countries, like China

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or Asia Pacific and not to the people of B.C. or the people of Alberta or the people -- the whole Canada in general. Because there is no other --I mean, if -- you cannot call your own people like an enemy of the state and that if -- that's incredible and unspeakable.

219. So I oppose this pipeline because this pipeline will give more power to an industry that has enough power to pressure a government to destroy the institutions, to cut our freedom of speak, to cut the freedom of speak of our scientists, to undermine even this exercise that we are doing here.

220. There is no -- yeah, so that's the reason I oppose this, and the fish and the water and all the things. In the case of when it happen, a spill, or the slow poison of dripping oil, yes.

221. I will like you to think when you do your recommendation that you are given a power; if you say, "Yeah, I think it's a good idea to make this pipeline" you are giving more power to an industry and then it's undermining all the other industry like fishery and tourism and our freedoms too. So please don't say yes.

222. Thank you so much.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

223. **MEMBER BATEMAN:** Ms. Jenne, thank you for joining us. Please proceed with your oral statement.

--- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MS. GAIL JENNE:**

224. **MS. GAIL JENNE:** I'm a friend of Facundo's, so I'm a little shaky. I'm a mother of three and a grandmother of two and I'm a community worker.

225. I'm strongly against the pipeline, the tanker ships on the north pacific coast, and the tar sands. My plea is for the restoration of simple common sense for all of us to step back and check in with our basic and seemingly rusty intuition.

226. Politicians and corporations are telling us over and over that we must develop the tar sands. Our country's healthy economy depends on this Northern pipeline project. It isn't true. Or if it is true, then we're going to get bit in the butt sooner or later.

227. I feel that this panic-stricken -- I can't read -- panic-stricken instance -- instant, right this minute, sell all our natural resources as quickly as we can, very unnerving. We have children and grandchildren to consider.
228. I truly believe that when you slow down with the resource extractions to invest extensively in new technology, to get creative and to live simpler, maybe we actually need to look and spend more of our tax money on alternative energy sources and not focus on the moving of bitumen to China.
229. Step back and check in. Is this really and truly looking out for our future? When I step back and look it seems like it might be another way to line a few elite and mostly foreign pockets and isn't considering the greater good.
230. There is a good chance that because of the world economic conditions, that we will have some transitions in our future, even mine, that will be hard with or without this development. When you get served chocolate cake every day, the first few days of porridge may be an adjustment, but I think that the party's over and it's time to clean up and start again. We've had privileged and excessive lives at the expense of future generations for long enough.
231. You've got to step back and check in and think hard about the proposed pipeline and where it's supposed to go. It looks to me like some pretty rugged terrain, terrain that often has mudslides and wild weather.
232. And then there's the point of the pipeline crossing seven hundred or so water sources. Wait. Step back and check in. Is clean water not the most precious resource on earth? Should we really be considering the possibility or probability of spoiling this with a spill? Common sense tells me that my grandchildren can get by without a lot of things that we consider necessities, but clean water is not one of them.
233. Let us step back and check in seriously with the idea of tanker ships on the rough B.C. northern coast. Honestly, how on earth anyone who's traveled the coast can think that this is possibly worth the chance -- a chance of this magnitude -- it's a ridiculous game of Russian roulette, and as a modern grandmother I counsel my children against such risky and short-sighted business.
234. I call myself a community worker. I work for Smithers Community Services Association running the Ground to Griddle Neighbourhood Kitchen, and I cook with people and restore slow cooking methods.

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235. We try and use local food whenever possible and we gather wild food, berries, fish and herbs. We've learned together to make salve from herbs and tree sap and we've grazed in the spring on the hillside, wild salads, and we've made high bush cranberry jam.
236. We've been taught how to clean and prepare salmon properly and cook curried moose roast from some of our First Nations participants, and I step back and wonder if these opportunities -- I wonder and worry that they could be ruined because of -- because someone's greed is being indulged.
237. Another part of my community work involves the local farmers. It's a local food community-supported agriculture project. Groundbreakers provides harvest boxes for local -- with local food to help feed families through the winter and improve our local food security.
238. When there's an oil spill and our rivers are poisoned, it will impact farmers for kilometres. It's not worth the chance. Two of our producer farmers have crops on the riverfront and I wonder if their good farmland might be impacted some day by a spill.
239. When my husband and I left Edmonton, Alberta with two small kids 27 years ago to live in Smithers, we knew that we had found home here. What is important to us here was not what we thought was important when we lived in Alberta.
240. To be honest, we have little in common with our families there. We need and want different things. We definitely vote for different political parties. We've inherited a love and zeal for the land, and it just happens to lots of people when you choose to set roots down here.
241. I also think that because of the jobs we have here, we've had an opportunity to understand a little better the position of the First Nations people that have been here for hundreds of years.
242. We've had conversations with First Nations folks who are very fearful of losing their food sources, sources that come from land. Some are with -- without much income and depend on the wild food to sustain them. I fear that maybe the panel and politicians cannot understand how important it is that this horrific project be stopped. Perhaps they have not felt that passion for place that engulfs so many of us here.

243. We'll hold on tight to the hope that somehow common sense might prevail, that the powers that make these decisions will step back and realize that this is an unsound, wrong and bad idea.
244. I am hoping for an epiphany, I suppose, that the decision makers will comprehend that this short-term gain comes at great expense to our grandchildren. Let us all agree to live a little simpler, take less, in order to have something for future generations.
245. It's been very hard to champion for what I believe is truly right and good in the last few months concerning this project, the process, and the -- and its validity, and the daily government scandals provincially and federally, and I'm not scoring very high locally either. I must say that this community has given me great hope by showing their hearts in speaking so passionately, and I thank them all.
246. I'm -- I also work with community as a co-director of the Local Vocals Community Choir, and we sign a variety of songs, and working on a river set. And these days we've added solidarity songs because it looks like we're going to need them.
247. (Sung/Chanté)
- "We're fighting for our children, we shall not be moved. Fighting for our children, we shall not be moved. Like a tree that's standin' by the water, we shall not be moved. We shall not, we shall not be moved. We shall not, we shall not be moved. Like a tree that's standin' by the water, we shall not be moved."*
248. Thank you.
- (Applause/Applaudissements)
249. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Mr. Livesey, have I got your name pronounced correctly? Oh, thank you very much. Please proceed when you're ready. Thank you.
- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. DAVE LIVESEY:**
250. **MR. DAVE LIVESEY:** Well, that was very moving.
251. I would like to start by making it clear that I do not support the proposed

Enbridge Pipeline and would like the panel to please recommend that the Northern Gateway Pipeline not be built.

252. As many presenters have made it clear, the pipeline is not in the Canadian public's interest, nor is it in the interest of the wildlife and wildlife habitat from the tar sands to the ocean and beyond, to China.
253. I happen to live on the Telkwa River and enjoy catching a couple of salmon in season. I'm not a good fisherman, but that's the beauty of living here, is you don't have to be. You can catch these fish, and I don't try and fill my freezer because I lose a lot of lures and I also recognize that the resource is limited, and even though we live here it doesn't us give us rights to deplete it.
254. And even if I didn't have the pleasure of living right on the river, I'd still be against the risk and threat that this pipeline poses to our watersheds in northwest B.C.
255. My family enjoys harvesting mushrooms, berries, and Labrador tea, and going camping in the local area, and they feel as strongly about this issue as I do. My stepdaughter wrote a very convincing essay against the pipeline for her Grade 7 social studies class, and my wife is practising hard for a play protesting the pipeline and she has written a song decrying it.
256. I grew up in northern Ontario living in a pretty similar outdoor lifestyle, except without the mountains, and I could fortunately still do so if I was to return there someday. I don't plan on returning there because, as so many presenters have told you, it's really amazing to live here.
257. But residents of northern Alberta are not so fortunate, as the oil and gas industry has polluted and laid bare so much of that province. This panel has heard from local First Nation speakers that what has happened to their brothers and sisters living in Fort Chipewyan, downstream from the tar sands, those people are living with poisoned water, fish, and wildlife and increases in cancer rates.
258. The Enbridge pipeline would encourage expansion of the tar sands and all residents of Canada should recognize that this is not in our interest.
259. Now, I know that the Panel -- you've told people that you're not supposed to consider the tar sands in its decision. I hope this means that it also would not be considering Enbridge's inflated job estimates which are also based on tar sands

expansion and spinoff jobs.

260. The fact that effects at both ends of the pipeline are not considered shows that the environmental review process is flawed and should have been improved upon rather than gutted as the Harper government is doing.

261. When I was in high school and university I studied the *Environmental Assessment Act* and it was reputable with the Boards being at arm's-length from government. This has not been the case with this process here with Enbridge, with both Harper and Oliver making interfering statements and changing rules as the Panel has been trying to do its work. And I appreciate that you are still trying to do your work.

262. Now, I admit that I was reluctant to speak up, to sign up to speak because I thought the process was a sham. Then, like many others, I decided to sign up precisely because I realized that it is indeed a sham and should be shown for what it is. This has been proven now that the federal government has changed the law and given Cabinet the authority to override any recommendations that the Joint Review Panel may make.

263. Now, I'm glad that I did decide to participate because it has made me attend and listen online to more of the Panel discussions than I would have otherwise. And it has been really inspirational and uplifting to see the groundswell of support for our environment and our communities. It has been like watching amazing community theatre; there has been singing, dancing, marches, impassioned speeches, joy, tears, there's been everything.

264. So it was pretty much inevitable that Harper would gut the process because he never has been supportive of the arts.

265. --- (Laughter/Rires)

266. **MR. DAVE LIVESEY:** I've also done some extra reading, focused around environmental issues and philosophies, and I'm thankful for that inspiration.

267. One thing that I was reading was Buckminster Fuller's Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth in which he discusses concepts of wealth. He defines wealth as:

"Our organized capability to cope effectively with the environment in sustaining our healthy regeneration and decreasing both the

physical and metaphysical restrictions of the later days of our lives”.

268. Now, the kind of wealth that Enbridge is hoping to generate does not sustain our environment, less. And when a spill occurs in the future days it will seriously restrict all the systems that we rely on to support us here in northwest B.C.
269. Another thing that Fuller in his book talks about is -- he's comparing human resources to that of an unhatched chick in an egg and we'll have so far had seemingly inexhaustible supplies on earth but they are rapidly depleting and our environment is losing the capacity to support us. And like the chick, we need to break out of old habits and find new ways of sustaining ourselves or we will suffer.
270. So we need to find a substitute for oil and change our consumption habits, and building more pipelines is not going to help us to do that.
271. Other ideas that I've come across lately or rediscovered include, that there are no strictly national environmental issues anymore; global warming is international; the salmon in our rivers cross international borders. So this is definitely not a local issue. It has global implications, and if the scope of this review can't take this into consideration, the scope was set far too narrowly in the first place.
272. For corporations like Enbridge and people like Stephen Harper and Joe Oliver, personal responsibility and morality is submerged in the anonymity of the economic system. In that system nobody bears any responsibility for their actions. We need to reverse that way of thinking, make people feel part of the community and start taking responsibility for our actions.
273. And another thing that I was reminded of lately is that the Canadian Constitution gives provinces the jurisdiction over resources. So the federal government should not be given such strong powers to make decisions over our resources.
274. Now, getting back to the country's interests or due to the Panel mandate, only the interests of those living along the pipeline route, I believe it is not in our interest to export raw resources for processing in other countries, basically exporting jobs. I think a refinery could be built for the same price as the pipeline.
275. It is not in our interest to send oil to other countries instead of to our relatives in eastern Canada where it is needed. It is not in our interest to increase oil

prices by maintaining an artificially inflated international market, making all of us pay more for the fuels we still need to live in the current system. It is not in our interest to invest in the oil industry at the expense of other industries and potentially cleaner technologies.

276. Now, last week in B.C. it was announced -- or actually leaked, the forest industry is on the verge of fall down which means a shortage of timber supply so the mills won't be able to keep going. Now, I think that this is what happens when corporate science is allowed to dictate how the environment is managed.

277. And the first suggestion that the government came up with to solve this problem was to start cutting the reserve areas that have been set aside, which is ridiculous to say the least.

278. Now with this kind of attitude prevailing I want to know what would happen in the case of a catastrophic oil spill from the pipeline into our rivers or along our coastline because we have no reserve rivers and no reserve oceans, just one of each.

279. Now, on Monday, a presenter mentioned the anger she is encountering in the community and she was rather concerned with that. But I think that anger is an honest human emotion, and as John Lydon said, "Anger is an energy".

280. Now, if it takes people getting angry to get them off the couch and involved then that's okay because this project needs to be stopped. I am angry that we have now a legally elected Prime Minister changing important laws without discussion or debate and without even announcing the changes.

281. I'm angry that Joe Oliver has called many of my community members radicals and implied that they are too ignorant to make up their own minds about important issues, just because they want to express an opinion different from the government. And I'm angry that the federal government has no regard for Aboriginal title and plans to impose this pipeline on their territories.

282. There are legal battles ahead and there will be protests and blockades. It is unfortunate but Stephen Harper seems determined to force the issue. He will find out that an illegally obtained 39 percent vote does not give him the right to act as a fascist dictator.

283. So, in closing, I would ask that you please rule that the project should not

be allowed to proceed. Force the Harper government to make it a purely economic greed-based political decision and have them face the repercussions of such a decision.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

284. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Welcome Mr. Mes. Please go ahead and present your oral statement.

--- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. SERVAAS MES:**

285. **MR. SERVAAS MES:** Thank you for being here, thank you to the Wet'suwet'en for hosting us all here. Thank you to the people of Smithers to be here, thank you of the Panel to be here and all the people who were here before which are hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people who you have seen along the route.

286. The first thing I would like to say is that we have heard the term “environmentalist” many times. Even “terrorists” came up this afternoon, and if you really understand what we’re trying to say here that term is not really encompassing what we’re trying to do here.

287. I’d like to work with the term “existentialists”. We’re fighting for our existence. The environment is just a little bit of the bigger picture.

288. I’m looking at the picture here of the pipeline. It’s too bad because I’ve worked in many places, from Edmonton to Prince George, Vanderhof, Burns Lake, Telkwa, Smithers, Hazeldean, Kispiox, Terrace -- what else is there, Kitimat, Prince George, Kitkatla, and it’s not on the map. I’ve worked in Europe, I’ve worked in California, I’ve worked in Australia. I work with people, I study people.

289. I work with people. I do not study salmon, I do not study pipelines, I do not study oil but I understand consciousness, a little bit more than most people because I’ve studied it for 25 years.

290. The big picture is how do we relate to what’s going on. What is the big picture that’s at stake here?

291. A couple of weeks ago a friend of mine gave me some tapes and I plugged them in and it’s Allen Watts, a famous British philosopher who was very big in the 1960s. He passed away in 1973. And he came up with four questions after studying

all the great philosophers in the world and he literally said on the tape: "It all comes down to four questions".

292. And the first question is, who started it? The second question is, are we going to make it? The third question is, where are we going to put it? And the fourth question is, who's going to clean up?
293. The fifth question that Alan came up with is, is it serious? This is a serious matter what we're talking here. It's a serious matter if you understand it from different perspectives. If you can only understand it from one perspective, you have made up your mind.
294. A simple example is a salmon. A salmon can be seen as your grocery store, as your food supply, as your existence. And a salmon can also be seen as a dead piece of meat wrapped in plastic at the grocery store.
295. There's a difference to that. The difference is the emotion behind it. This goes for a salmon, but I'd like to make the relationship to people, because that's what I've been working with. That's my specialty. You've got your specialty.
296. I've had the chance to put my hands on people, thousands of people. I have touched them. Within seconds, they allow me to touch at their most private personal areas of discomfort, all with respect, all with allowance, all with permission.
297. When you learn to put your hands on people, you feel something different when you touch somebody who's alive compared to somebody who's dead. There's a different sensation in that meat. The flesh becomes alive. It has the ability to sense and it has the ability to move. And because of that, it has the ability to evolve.
298. I've worked with lots of people. I've worked with people who are pipe fitters, who blew out a disk because at the moment they bend over, they were holding their breath.
299. I've worked with people like Sofia, earlier on the Panel, who started with "I feel suffocated because the pipeline is 500 metres from my house." If she has to bend over, she might hold her breath and throw out her back too.
300. But the fact that she would throw out her back is minimal compared to the ongoing low grade of fear that is in her body all the time.

301. Who started it? Are we going to make it? Where are we going to put it? And who's going to clean up?
302. For human existence, this is a serious matter. And what you see is when you work with people in that different dimension than just what the medical system is doing, then you can feel the fear in somebody's body. And I've felt the fear in people's body.
303. And especially when I work with First Nations people who have been through residential schools and had a very negative experience, I felt fear in ways that I have never, ever felt. It immobilized them. Their energy body is petrified. And if you look at how they move, that's how it is.
304. You have seen many of them. They are wonderful people. They are gracious people. They welcome you. They speak from their heart because that's all that's left.
305. If you study consciousness, then all the latest research goes that consciousness is not just in the head, but the centre of consciousness is actually in the centre of your heart, in the SA node. You can notice that when people get heart transplants, they get different behaviours. Documented well.
306. It's a different science. It's not the science of pipelines. It's not the science of salmon. It's not the science of oil. But it's the science of who we are, no matter what race we are.
307. Our Mayor Taylor earlier brought up the United Nations and he talked about the rights that we have as human beings. I teach with First Nations as well. And the first five birthrights that came out from the World Congress -- the first World Congress of Indigenous People, we have the right to belong. We have the right to be free. We have the right to be worthy. We have the right to have fun. And most important, we have the right to be loved unconditionally.
308. Those are topics that need to be addressed. I haven't heard a word of that from Enbridge, which means I'm actually very strongly opposed to this pipeline because it doesn't respect us. It doesn't respect the people who are affected by this. It encourages a system that goes very much into a third-person entity.
309. The third person is approaching everything and everybody as a he, a she, or an it. And we have all become an it, just like money is an it, just like oil is an it,

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just like a salmon becomes an it and a river becomes an it and a spill becomes an it.
And we can literally wipe it under the carpet.

310. On the other hand, you can talk about the human existence from a first-person perspective, the "I". And those are the stories you've heard from hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people.
311. There's more than 4,000 signed up. I feel privileged I'm able to speak here. You've got hundreds more to go. I can see how this whole process is immobilizing you.
312. Our previous Mayor, a couple of days ago, mentioned the term unburdened. Where in the beginning, the government puts you on as a panel to do this incredible process, you are his second-person perspective. You are his ears. And with you gathering the information of the oral statements, you come up with your perspective on the situation. That's a subjective; that's an emotional concept.
313. However, you have been unburdened, disarmed, disempowered because apparently, the politicians come out with statements that it doesn't matter what you're going to say. So you become an it just like us, just like the pipeline, just like the salmon, just like the people.
314. And I'm very much against that. It's the biggest epidemic movement in our society that we are losing our first-person perspective, our families, our connections.
315. Who started it? Are we going to make it? Where are we going to put it? Who's going to clean up? Is it serious? I think it's very serious. You should be ashamed of yourself.
316. The next question is, is it fair? I'm not going to go into that because if you have a heart yourself, you can understand what fair means. The word "fair" is not an it. It talks about you, who you are as a human being on this planet with or without your job description.
317. This Panel is about oral statements and the only question I have for you is, do you have the guts to speak up, and not wait until this 4,000 people are over, but can you speak up just like all these courageous people who speak up to you and realize that you have become an it?

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318. The country needs to know. The country needs to know what is going on. And I hope you understand a little bit of what I'm trying to say.

319. I'm in town here, if you want to talk more to me. I'm around. You're around for a few more days. I'd love to sit down and talk more. It's about concepts. It's how we relate to things, to people, to events.

320. Is it serious? I'm going to stop. Is it serious? Yes, it's very serious.

321. Is it fair at the moment everything I've seen with this pipeline? It's not fair. And that's a viewpoint as an existentialist. Forget the term environmentalists.

322. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

323. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** I thank you, to each of you, for presenting your views.

324. Let's take a 15-minute break. It's five to three by my watch, so we'll start back again at 3:10.

325. Thanks everyone.

--- Upon recessing at 2:52 p.m./L'audience est suspendue à 14h52

--- Upon resuming at 3:09 p.m./ L'audience est reprise à 15h09

326. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** If we could take our seats we'll get ready to get underway shortly.

327. Thank you.

--- (A short pause/Courte pause)

328. **MEMBER BATEMAN:** Ms. Donker, thank you for coming today and for presenting. Please begin.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MS. TITIA DONKER:

329. **MS. TITIA DONKER:** Okay. Sheila, Kenneth and Hans, I am grateful

to have my voice heard by this Panel, and I'm honoured to be speaking here in Wet'suwet'en territory, surrounded by community and friends who have voiced and articulated eloquently their truth. I wish for my voice to join in sharing with them to oppose the Northern Gateway Project.

330. I've only moved to Smithers in September of this year. And less than two years ago I was sitting in Toronto, my west-end apartment, wondering where I might find my first teaching job. I knew that it would be a place that would teach me, and it would be a small community and it'd be teeming with natural beauty.
331. I applied and was offered a position as the kindergarten and grade one teacher with the Kitkatla Nation. The Kitkatla Nation, who are they, where are they exactly, how do I get there, and once I'm there how am I going to feed myself, this island?
332. Maps were not often helpful; Kitkatla was not always there. Some maps showed it part of Porcher Island, a much bigger island that lies just to the north. I felt disconnected from Canada's northwest coast, and for the first time I connected with the idea that people live in our northern waters.
333. Throughout my story today I would like this idea of disconnect to be understood. Because disconnect with people and places leads us to judgment and a belief system that elevates one person above another, and make decisions based on material wealth and power and greed.
334. My first week of school; I read flashy books, colourful books, exciting books, and I was animated, and nobody listened. My kids were a bunch of wiggle bums and at the end of each story my questions were met by stunned expressions. I wondered, and I worried, and I judged. And I wondered more, and I wondered my way to thinking that it might be about connecting.
335. I found a story about Raven and how he tricked grandmother into letting go of the tides. Black and white text, single page with one black and white picture; and I began to read, and they listened.
336. And at the end they surprised me with accuracy and interest. They sequenced it, they retold it, they named everything that people would have collected in that intertidal zone. We talked about the other things that live in the intertidal zone; we described them, even though I didn't know the names.

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337. I was told that the tides go out twice a day. And when my experience could not get any cooler I asked if grandmother actually held onto a tide line. And they laughed at me and they told me, “No, it's the moon”. And these are my kindergartens who were sharing that with me.
338. Home in Kitkatla, where you were all there, we listened to the Elders speak and we listened to the youth speak and to the harvesters. You feasted on the riches from the ocean, and you had a chance to connect.
339. I connected when I was welcomed onto the island. And I became accustomed to frequent knocks on my door, “Have you tried lingcod”, and magically there's a plate of lingcod in his hand. “Have you tried halibut, red snapper, eulachon, salmon, smoked salmon, jarred salmon, sea urchin, cockles, clams”. My neighbours, Phyllis and Larry Bolton, and their son Barry, kept me very well-fed. I did hunger for more and I wanted to be on the ocean.
340. I boasted about seafaring legs and that I had Viking blood, and eventually they obliged. My friend Barry took me out to all of his hotspots. He shared with me stories; stories of his family, of history, of how people were named in the community, in his family; his losses, and of course, his many successes at fishing.
341. Connection to the land and waters are profound; knowing it, like you know your own child. I was proud of Kitkatla for sharing their stories with you, and felt proud for listening and feeling connected to their lives.
342. I would call home to Toronto and share with my family and my friends my adventures; really I just talked about fishing and my students. And bless my mother's heart, she would send me the most thoughtful care packages, always including something for my children in the classroom, some premium chocolate from the stores in the city. And one occasion she sent me two cans of Cloverleaf Salmon.
Disconnected.
- (Laughter/Rires)
343. **MS. TITIA DONKER:** I realized that stories without experiences leave us empty of connection.
344. What does it really look like to boast the ocean as your refrigerator? What does it really mean to live in a community without a grocery store? These ideas are disconnected for the majority of Canadians who live in cities. These ideas I was

disconnected from just short of two years ago, and maybe these ideas you were disconnected from too.

345. Clearly, when I speak of the Northern Gateway Project I am speaking directly to the tankers navigating the waters and the inevitable, in the near or far future, of irreversible, the imposing destruction on our oceans.

346. I'd like to read a definition.

"Acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in parts, a national, ethnic, racial, religious group by inflicting on the groups conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in parts."

347. This is how genocide is defined; an act condemned by our civilized world.

348. After all the voices that have spoken, after all the stories and testimonials of connection, to approve this project on the side of the Panel or on the side of our government is nothing short of to commit with intent to destroy by deliberately inflicting on the group's conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in parts.

349. In closing, Sheila, Kenneth, Hans, I am grateful to have my voice heard by this Panel. Please know that I have trust that you will take our stories, our testimonials and our connections, and represent us accurately to our government and the people in Canada.

350. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

351. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Ms. Milner, thank you for choosing to share your oral statement with us this afternoon. Please proceed.

--- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MS. SARAH MILNER:**

352. **MS. SARAH MILNER:** Thanks. Thank you.

353. My name is -- I'm just going to get a little closer here. My name is Sarah Milner and I live in Telkwa.

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354. Thank you, everybody, for being here and thank you for talking about the oceans and the waters.
355. Sheila Leggett, Hans Matthews and Kenneth Bateman, are you prepared to sacrifice the spirit of the rivers, the ocean and the waters? I know that you're not going to respond, but I invite each and every one of us here just to take a moment to really ask yourselves that and notice what you hear inside of you.
356. Are you prepared to sacrifice the life force of the waters, the rivers, the ocean, the waters? Once again, I ask you to ask yourselves that and notice what the answer is within you, each of us.
357. I'm not prepared to sacrifice the spirit of the rivers or the life force of the rivers and the waters and the ocean, and I reject the Enbridge pipeline proposal.
358. Thank you for listening, everyone.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

359. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Welcome, Mr. Mitchell. Can you please go ahead and present your statement?

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. BOB MITCHELL:

360. **MR. BOB MITCHELL:** Yes. Thank you for listening to everyone today.
361. My name is Bob Mitchell. I've lived many places in Canada, including many places in Ontario, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. I've been to many other places. I came to live part time in the Bulkley Valley in 1975. The ambiance of the place exceeded, by far, any place I'd ever lived, and for the next six years I tried to find a way to live here permanently.
362. In 1981, I achieved my dream and established my home in Smithers.
363. In those 37 years the Bulkley River has played a prominent role in my life. I married and raised my three children near the river. Together we swan, kayaked, canoed, fished, boated and played in the river. In the winter we even walked and ran on the river ice. Of course, we walked and ran on the banks of the river all year round.

364. We buried two dogs near their favourite place, the Bulkley River. The dogs spent many days in the river swimming and chasing sticks. Their very values are very dear to me.
365. Will an oil spill force me to move from this beautiful place I call home? I hope -- I'm a retired professional forester and as a professional forester, I spent the last 32 years of my career in the mountains, rivers and forests of the Bulkley, Telkwa, Copper and Morice watershed. I know how important a role they play in the natural environment and I have no doubt they will play a significant role in the proposed Enbridge pipeline.
366. I believe that the proposed Enbridge pipeline will put those values at risk for the following reasons. I've seen the results of several landslides and debris flows in the area of the proposed pipeline. I've seen the devastation they caused.
367. I know places where, as I speak, the earth is creeping down a mountain side, where Hydro is having trouble maintaining its hydro transmission line tower in an upright position, where natural gas lines have been eroded away by river floods and left floating down the river, where roads and bridges have washed away because the best hydrologists and earth scientists couldn't predict the landslides, river flooding or the unstable soils.
368. I've seen where the best designed and most expensive structures were not enough to resist these natural events. I've seen where the most benign landscapes erupt into chaos when structures are built on them by professional engineers, engineers who profess to have designed and installed the right structure for the landscape.
369. Yet here we are led to believe that Enbridge scientists and engineers can overcome all of these obstacles and provide a safe pipeline from rupture. To be honest, my experience tells me, and I don't believe it. It's one thing to have a multi-million dollar bridge or a road collapse, but the collapse or the rupture of an oil-filled pipeline under pressure will result in orders of magnitude more devastation.
370. I know pipelines also get old despite how well we maintain them. Perhaps we can believe Enbridge when they say they can maintain pipelines into the future on flat simple accessible ground, but I question whether this is possible in or around or under the mountains and rivers that I know are constantly in a state of flux.

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371. Is maintenance probable or even possible in much of the area where access is limited to a few months of the year and pipelines are buried under rivers and mountains?
372. Air is the only way to access a pipeline during the winter. Can spill response equipment be flown under normal conditions, let alone during winter storms or in temperatures that are 30 to 40 degrees below zero?
373. I've placed a -- planned many a winter fieldtrip in the mountains that had to be put on hold by cold temperatures or a winter storm. Can we put on hold an oil spill response?
374. The rivers I'm familiar with near the Enbridge pipeline are fast moving in the summer. These rivers are not meandering streams that you can simply put a boom across and trap the oil. How will Enbridge clean up oil in these high-speed rivers?
375. In contrast, heavy oil will accumulate and settle in eddies and mouths of the tributaries where the current is slower, just the places where the large fish rest on their migration to the spawning grounds and the small fry avoid the silty spring runoff.
376. These places dot the river in thousands of inaccessible places along its length. How will Enbridge clean up all these inaccessible areas? Will they even know where the oil lurks?
377. What about the winter when the rivers are frozen solid on top and fast moving below and there's only air access to most of the area? How will the cleanup occur without access or under metres of ice?
378. What about the banks of the river where oil will seep into the surrounding forests? Destabilizing stream banks to remove oil and burning oil saturated debris are techniques that may even cause more damage to the integrity of the streams and the adjacent forests.
379. How will Enbridge avoid destroying the very areas it is trying to protect during cleanup? Will damage to the environment during cleanup be even more than the spill itself? Will this be an excuse used by Enbridge?
380. We know our community is at risk of an oil spill upriver. Within a few hours it will be upon us. Currently our community has a fire department to respond to fire, an

airport emergency department to respond to air accidents, and a community wild fire plan to reduce the hazard of forest fires. The devastation that will occur as a result of an oil spill will be huge.

381. Before a spill happens, will Enbridge be required to supply our community with an emergency response fund? Will they supply us with trained personnel and equipment to respond to the inevitable oil spill? How much time will elapse before we are notified that a spill has occurred and how are we going to respond in a very short time?

382. We have already suffered the loss of a large ship, the Queen of the North Ferry, to human error. So many of us travelled on the Queen of the North and its sinking affected us deeply. So we know, through experience, the pain of the loss of the Queen of the North.

383. We also found out that technological safeguards, no matter how sophisticated, cannot protect us against accidents at sea. Think of the devastation of a sinking of a supertanker filled with oil will bring to the inside passage and other coastal waters.

384. Can Enbridge, with all its promised sophisticated technology, possibly perfect (sic) us from this devastation?

385. In conclusion, please do not recommend approval of the pipeline. The risk of damage to our river, our valley and the quality of our lives is too high.

386. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

387. **MEMBER BATEMAN:** Mr. Murphey, welcome.

388. I see from your nametag that there is an "A", which indicates that you will have visual aids that you intend to refer to.

389. For the benefit of those who are listening in, as well as for yourself, I'll just take a moment and review how that should be handled tonight.

390. What that will require is that no copies of your visual aid will be circulated to the Panel Members during your presentation. Because the Panel

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Members and those who are listening in will not have it in front of them, if you would describe what it is that you are wanting to communicate in a way that might help parties to visualize.

391. You are free, as I'm sure you're aware, to, at a later date, file those visual aids as a letter of comment so that they are on the record and your use of visual aids will not extend your 10 minutes, and so if you will contain all of your comments and your use of the visual aids to 10 minutes.

392. Please proceed.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. MICHAEL MURPHEY:

393. **MR. MICHAEL MURPHEY:** Thank you. And I have already filed the comment and the copy of the handout.

394. Let me start by saying this is my chosen town, my chosen province and my chosen country. I was raised in the United States and immigrated to Canada in 1988.

395. So unlike most people in the room, I have sworn an oath to Her Majesty to be a true and loyal subject. I've also sworn another oath to also hold true and loyal allegiance to her, as I am an Officer of the Court, and it is in that respect that I need to address the Panel.

396. I understand that you will not be able to process some of what I have to say, but my comment are not just to you, but also to the Harper government, who has usurped your authority, and to the people of Canada and British Columbia.

397. If you will, I'm a bit like Cassandra; I'm going to issue a warning. I feel a bit like Haile Selassie speaking to the League of Nations. I have a sinking feeling about the inevitable outcomes. But the warning needs to be delivered.

398. First of all, the main problem that we have right now on the planet is global warming. It will threaten our survival. The linking of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to increased temperature is no longer in doubt, notwithstanding what the few naysayers have to say. And in that regard, I would ask people to look at the peer reviewed articles published in the area and not just commentaries in the mass media.

399. A quick way to catch up with this topic is a book called "Six Degrees" written by a fellow, Mark Lynas, published by The National Geographic in 2008. He's a professional journalist, and in it he describes the geological evidence for past times in history when the planet changed its climate, when things became warmer, and also the biological effects at each of one, two, three, four, five and six degree changes from the baseline which everyone is using, which is roughly 1960.
400. A second work that I would recommend to everyone is a thing called "Climate Wars" written by our own military theorist, Gwynne Dwyer, also published in 1988, in which he uses primarily studies done by the Pentagon on the political and military implications of climate change. All of these are disastrous for the human species.
401. I would also note that there is a chart that is available in the materials that I've filed that originated from NOAA, the National Oceanographic and Aeronautic Administration, in the United States based on global measurements of carbon dioxide and the paleontological record back roughly 650,000 years. And if you look at the graph, the upward slope since 1950 has been unremittant.
402. We are now higher above the baseline than the lowest glacial period in that time has ever shown to us. The last time that the planetary CO2 was that large there was a global die-out which killed roughly 60 percent of all life forms on earth, not just individuals, but species.
403. I would also reference another piece of material that's in the reference materials, which is the temperature charts from the Copenhagen Diagnosis, which can be found on the internet. It was published by the University of New South Wales, essentially a report to the International Committee on Climate Change as an interim report between their main sittings.
404. And again, it shows for a period of time going back roughly 2,200 years the temperature changes that correspond quite readily with the CO2 levels. So again, the science behind the link between CO2 and temperature and die-outs of species is something we can't argue about.
405. Mr. Harper has taken the approach of Bismarck and talked about real politik, blut und eisen, blood and steel. Well, I'm going to speak to him in the same terms. These are hard facts. I don't care what his ideology is. He will not escape this. The people of Canada will not escape this. The people of the Bulkley Valley will not escape this. I won't escape this, neither will anyone in this room. When

these things come to pass, they will affect us all.

406. Now, the last time there was a major shift in climate, fortunately, there were thousands of years for species to migrate and to adapt to those climate changes. However, the rapidity of the shift in CO₂ that we are undertaking in our experiment by burning fossil fuels and coal has shifted it so rapidly we no longer have that mechanism at work and we don't know what the outcome would be. I suspect it won't be positive.
407. These now are becoming issues of life and death for each individual on the planet, and the people of the planet will begin to treat it as such, notwithstanding what their leaders say, notwithstanding what the politicians say, notwithstanding what those with power and influence say.
408. The primary problem we have is that carbon-based fuels have an incredible amount of energy bound into them. If you look at the number of BTUs in a gallon of gasoline, it's just amazing. We are using a very high-end concentrated source of energy, and so if we are to take this refractory problem and do something in the time that remains for us to try and save the species, we will have to replace it with something that is also a high-end energy source.
409. So I'm going to speak to you now about something that might work, probably will work, and that is a thing called thorium molten salt reactors. These are reactors in which thorium is bound with fluorine, sometimes also with beryllium. These are reactors which were pioneered back in the forties, fifties and early sixties.
410. The United States military looked at these. These have a number of positive aspects to them.
411. There is an article that was published in 2005 in Nuclear Technology; it can be found on the web. It was received August 9th, 2004. One of the two co-authors is a fellow called Edward Teller.
412. Now, Edward Teller was one of the key scientists on the Manhattan Project. He was the lead scientist on the U.S. hydrogen bomb project. When he speaks about anything nuclear, I believe him. I think he knows what he's talking about.
413. He tells us that the reason that thorium reactors, in particular, molten salt reactors, were not proceeded with in the 1950s and sixties is that nation states wanted

their weapons and, therefore, the light water reactors became the norm so that fissionable material could be extracted to make bombs.

414. The thorium light -- or the thorium molten salt reactors have a number of things in their favour. For one thing, thorium is an abundant source of fuel. It is the same amount of thorium available on the plant as there is lead, which makes it four times more common than uranium.

415. You cannot proliferate with it. You can't make bombs out of it, it just doesn't happen. What you get out of this reaction you can't make a weapon out of. You can't have a meltdown because the coolant is the same as the fuel, and beyond a critical temperature the fission reaction stops. It cannot go critical, it cannot melt down.

416. It is also a low-pressure process, unlike light water reactors, which are a high-pressure containment. These are low-pressure. There is a passive cooling off mechanism with a molten plug at the bottom of it. If there is a catastrophic loss of control the fuel goes down into a holding tank, it cools off, and within a couple of months you can put it back online again with the same fuel. It is chemically stable.

417. Fluorine has the highest electro negativity of any element. Once it gets its fingers on some, it doesn't let go. You could take this material, dump it on the ground and thousands of years later it's all still there. It is a completely inert salt. It will not go into the ecosphere. And, almost as important as the rest of it is, these are scalable. These can be used to build small reactors.

418. I'll make three other quick comments.

419. **MEMBER BATEMAN:** Mr. Murphey, I understand that the technical points that you're making are on the material that you've indicated has been put on the record. What I'd like you to do now is just in two sentences summarize your final thoughts.

420. **MR. MICHAEL MURPHEY:** Yes, I'll give you two final thoughts. First is, this pipeline puts us in as part of China's military infrastructure, supplying oil to their Navy, which will bring us to where either China or the United States may take military action on our territory.

421. Second, because theses pass over sovereign territories, this is an invitation

to civil war that the state should not be engaging in. Negotiations are still underway and the people of this area can and will resist.

422. My family knows the cost of this; I am part Cherokee, who were annihilated; I am part Irish who were oppressed. One of my ancestors was Davy Crockett who participated in rising against the central state and paid with his life for the freedom of others.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

423. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you to each of you for sharing your oral statements with us today.

--- (A short pause/Courte pause)

424. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Ms. Puentes, thank you for being with us today. Please go ahead with your oral statement.

--- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MS. SARAH PUENTES:**

425. **MS. SARAH PUENTES:** All right. I wrote this down because I'm a bit of an introvert so I don't speak in public much.

426. My name is Sarah Puentes, and I am here today to let it be known that I stand against any proposal to pipelines in B.C., moving oil from Alberta to B.C. coast for export or otherwise. I am a resident of Smithers and a member of a family that goes back four generations in this valley.

427. I stand beside First Nations and immigrants who chose this valley as home and seek to be a part of a community that grows and prospers, centred on true economic value, people.

428. There are so many reasons for me to be here today where money can actually mean wealth, and residents can also mean community. Where growth can equal prosperity and where not in my backyard does not apply.

429. Maybe it isn't worth my time or yours just to say I oppose an act that is so common of private exploitation of public resources and the externalization of risk and damage onto the general population. But it is worth discussion, because our world is at a turning point, and it is all about choice.

430. We need to see the value of community, not as a bunch of people sharing services and leading separate lives, but as a functioning whole. That wealth without vision cannot build a sustainable future for people or water or fish or culture, joy or happiness.
431. We are living in a world fueled by oil when it doesn't need to be that way. Why does food that can be grown locally have to compete and lose to that grown tens of thousands of kilometres away? Why isn't there options for recycling in most of Canada? Why do we have a Panel Review to see if a multinational corporation can sell off resources, but we don't ask the questions that has brought us to an energy crisis?
432. There must be solutions to the problems that we face and they exist in the minds of each community member you have heard from. If only the questions now could be directed to where we want to go and not where we want to run away from.
433. Yes, I oppose the pipeline proposed by Enbridge and I oppose the petroleum-based economy that we have grown dependent on.
434. Let us stand together and build healthy communities with sustainable growth. It is important that we do change, because it isn't right, for example, to keep B.C. pristine while allowing others to suffer on our behalf; such as the petroleum-based food industry that has caused havoc, for example in Mexico since NAFTA, and yet we have benefited in B.C. from lower prices and access to great amounts of food from that country while they suffer cultural erosion and physical displacement.
435. So not only do I oppose our involvement in a pipeline, but our way of life as a destructive force around the world, producing a culture of consumption and waste, growth without vision.
436. Bring more panels, but to fact find solutions to these problems. Let the tax credits and grants implement a new economy. Sure, there will be a few casualties, some CEOs may find themselves without a job, some shareholders without dividends, and what will the advocates and bureaucrats do for a living? But that's exactly what they will do; we will all start living for work instead of working for a living.
437. This is a vibrant community trying to find ways to adapt to an economy less dependent on fossil fuels. One hundred (100) mile diets, credit unions, First Nations culture, farmers markets, we need encouragement from government and

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institutions to make these efforts become a reality and allow a healthy lifestyle for all, Smiththerines, B.C'ers, Canadians, and inhabitants of communities wherever they are found.

438. So I thank you for your time and I hope that we will have an opportunity to create a sustainable living in the northwest and beyond.

439. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

440. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Good afternoon, Dr. Soto. Please go ahead and present your oral statement.

--- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR DR. CRISTINA SOTO:**

441. **DR. CRISTINA SOTO:** Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Panel Members, community members.

442. First I'd like to acknowledge and thank the Wet'suwet'en for allowing us to be on their traditional territory. I'd also like to say that I'm so proud to be among you, really humbled and proud.

443. My name is Cristina Soto; I'm an independent consultant. My university credentials are a Bachelor and Masters in Marine Biology. This means that I had -- oh, sorry. I have a multi-disciplinary PhD in resource and environmental management. This means I had to do significant work on resource economics, policy and planning, and biology.

444. My other education comes from observing the world and listening to wisdom, whether from Elders or chickadees. Most recently Mary David, a Wet'suwet'en Elder, was teaching me about the big mountain whose shadow we are under right now.

445. I have lived in this area for six years and worked for three with the Tsimshian First Nations on marine us planning and fisheries. There are a number of reasons why I think this project should not go forward, that have been repeatedly addressed by others.

446. Number one, it is on indigenous territories that have never been seeded,

and I respect the will of its original owners. Second, the risk of harm from potential spills is too great.

447. What I want to look at today is why is this process not appropriate or sufficient. I suggest that is because it is based on models that do not reflect reality and world views that are outdated. The dominant world view assumes that development is good. The popular media and economic system create and fan our appetites for consumption, acting as if there are no limits. I'll return to this point later.
448. In this case, according to the National Energy Board, national public interest refers to a balance of economic, environmental, and social interests. As a regulator, the Board must estimate the overall public good a project may create and its potential negative aspects, weigh its various impacts, and make a decision. I want to unpack some key parts of the NEB's definition.
449. First, we see the national public interest defined as some kind of magic balance between three categories of interest: economic, environmental, and social. This is the three-legged stool of sustainability. It implies that if we pay equal attention to all three of these areas, then all will be well. It is an improvement over economic development without any consideration of the environment. However, it is fundamentally flawed.
450. We don't give these models much thought because most of us involved in this process have access to what we need, but right now people's lands are being flooded as a result of climate change. We know that in the South Pacific literally islands are disappearing. People, animals and fish have increased cancer rates from toxic tar sands developments.
451. These people know firsthand that the correct model is that the social, cultural, and economic systems sit inside the container of the ecosystem, utterly dependent upon it. Or did humans suddenly stop needing to eat, drink, and breathe? Using a flawed model in this case is like insisting that the earth is flat when it is round.
452. Second, the Board must consider a project -- a project -- and its impact; that is to say, one project. This project has been defined in such a way that the tar sands' development impacts will not be considered.
453. It is alleged that there is no sufficiently direct connection with any existing

or proposed oil sands development or other oil production activities that requires it to look at the environmental impacts of production. In other words, this is a project to transport oil, not to extract oil.

454. This is too narrow a definition of the project. The fact that this project transports oil makes possible the export of the project. So to de-link the project from the oil sands development is illogical and short-sighted at best.
455. There are three related points I want to make here. First, this narrow definition of the project is the case even though cumulative effects are part of CEAA's purview and named in 3.10 in Appendix 1 List of Issues in this process.
456. Second, also named under the List of Issues for consideration are supply and markets for the oil and condensate to be transported by the project and economic feasibility for the project. The context of these points is international markets. So why is there not a parallel consideration of the cumulative effects on the international ecosystem?
457. And third, if the project were merely about a pipeline and transportation and not also about the associated tar sands development and economic impacts, then this government would not have made the kind of statements that it has, nor recently proposed fixed timelines for projects seen to be tabled in Parliament.
458. This is clearly about a much bigger picture, but there is no venue to address in a rigorous and structured way the real benefits and impacts at the appropriate spatial scales, and I'm going to elaborate on that.
459. So who is responsible? The panel states that tar sands' impacts are a provincial responsibility and it wishes to avoid unnecessary duplication by examining them. But how can the national and global impacts of a development fall under provincial responsibility?
460. My question back to the NEB, to CEAA, to Environment Canada, and to the government, is, who is tasked with considering the cumulative effects of alterations to the natural environment at a large scale if not your agency and this government?
461. And that brings me to my last point on the insufficiency of this process. The process does not fit the problem. We do not have, and desperately need governance, institution, and laws that are binding and effective, that match the scale

and complexity of ecological degradation and destruction.

462. We have polluted our nest, devastated biodiversity, water tables, topsoils, acidified the oceans. We are rapidly destroying the engines that produce the basics we need to survive.
463. Einstein had this to say in 1946, "In the light of new knowledge, a world authority and an eventual world state are not just desirable in the name of brotherhood, they are necessary for survival. Past thinking and methods did not prevent world wars. Future thinking must prevent wars." All we need to do is substitute environmental or planetary destruction for wars in the above quotation.
464. So what can we do? We must deliberately shift our world view and adopt stewardship values and laws that flow from this. Behave as if our very survival depends on the planet. Indigenous cultures have maintained that everything is connected and value relationships of reciprocity and respect between human beings -- humans and other beings.
465. Another way of seeing it is through economics and the provision of what's called ecosystem services, like oxygen from trees and plankton in the oceans; protection from the sun from the ozone layer; provision of clean water from the snowpack infiltration through vegetation and soils. We must create institutions at the right level of governance to address the problem.
466. One such initiative is being spearheaded by Polly Higgins, a British environmental lawyer who has worked with the Bolivian government on similar laws. She has proposed an international law of ecocide, which would be considered an international crime against peace, alongside genocide, a law that prohibits extensive damage to, destruction of, or loss of ecosystems, closes the door to industries that cause extensive carbon dioxide emissions, and would create innovative and new solutions.
467. If this sounds like pie in the sky, Higgins analyzes the slave trade by comparison. Three arguments were used to support slavery that apply to fossil fuels today: necessity, public demand and imminent economic collapse. It's a fascinating story and I encourage you to read about Charles Grant, the owner of the British East India Company, the owner of over half the world's slave trade at the time, who provided the tipping point and said no.
468. What will we do as panel members, individuals, communities,

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governments and agencies? I leave that as a question. Thank you for your attention.

469. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you to both of you for sharing your oral statements with us this afternoon.

470. That concludes the oral statements that were scheduled to be heard for this afternoon, except I'm getting a note.

471. My apologies, we have another panel to sit, I understand. No? Oh, okay. Is Mr. -- is Mr. Richard Barden in the room? No? Mr. Richard Barden? He was scheduled to speak this afternoon, but I gather he's not here.

472. So that does conclude our oral statements that are scheduled for this afternoon. We will sit again tonight, starting at 7:00 this evening. Thank you, everyone.

--- Upon recessing at 3:59 p.m./L'audience est suspendue à 15h59

--- Upon resuming at 7:01 p.m./L'audience est reprise à 19h01

473. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Good evening, everyone. Thanks for being here.

474. My name is Sheila Leggett, and on my right is Mr. Kenneth Bateman, and on my left is Mr. Hans Matthews.

475. We also have a number of staff members with us, and they're all wearing gold name tags, so if you have any -- most of you who are speaking today have probably already met many of them. But if you have any questions about process or procedure, they are the people to talk to, and they'll be able to help you out.

476. We also have a court reporter with us, as well as our sound/IT technician who are both contractors with us.

477. Kenneth, Hans, and I are all Members of the National Energy Board, and we have been tasked to make decisions for the Northern Gateway Pipelines Limited Partnership Application.

478. The NEB is an independent, quasi-judicial regulatory body. Our decisions as a panel will be based solely on the information that we receive during the joint review process.

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479. The session tonight, as are all the sessions, is being broadcast live over our website. The process for the joint review includes two sets of hearings, and tonight we'll hear from one of the community hearing sessions where we will hear from parties who have -- or interested registrants who have signed up to present oral statements.
480. Oral statements are an opportunity for participants to present their personal knowledge and views about the proposed project to the Panel in their own words. In order to assist, if it is of assistance, there's two maps which I believe the oral statement presenters would have been shown before, and if you want to make reference to those, or if you want the second map up, you just need to ask us, and we'll make sure that it gets pulled up, if that helps you.
481. The timeframe for each oral statement is a maximum of 10 minutes, and we do that to make sure that it's fair for everyone and that we have the opportunity to hear from everybody who's registered for each session to participate.
482. Tonight, I just would note that we've had -- it appears a number of people who had registered but who aren't going to be with us tonight, but we will still be proceeding in the same way.
483. This is the black box, if you want to call it that, which the timer gets set for 10 minutes and at seven minutes there's an audible noise and a yellow light, and then at 10 minutes, there's a red light and an audible noise as well.
484. And the only other thing I'd just like to mention is that we confirm that all the individuals who are going to be presenting an oral statement to us tonight were either sworn or affirmed previously by Panel staff.
485. So now it's our turn to listen; that's what we're here for. So we'll begin listening, and we'll start with you, Ms. Cobbett.
486. Thank you for being here.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MS. VIRGINIA COBBETT:

487. **MS. VIRGINIA COBBETT:** So good evening. My name is Virginia Cobbett, and I have concerns over the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline.

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488. As a local resident, I want my voice to be heard alongside the rest of my community. I am going to play my rendition of John Prine's 'Paradise' which is a story of paradise lost due to coal mining.

489. My desire is that the end results of these hearings do not cause a similar ballad to be written about our valley. I am a musician and, therefore, voice myself through song.

490. (Sung/Chanté)

"When I was a child, my family would travel up to Northern B.C. where my parents were born and there's a backwards old town that was often remembered so many times that my memories are worn.

And daddy won't you take me back to the Bulkley Valley that comes from the Morice where paradise lay. Well, I'm sorry, my son, but you're too late in asking. Mr. Enbridge's pipeline has poisoned the way.

Well sometimes we'd travel right down the Bulkley River the abandoned old mine over by glacier gulch where the air smelled like grouse and we shoot with our pistols but empty pop bottles was all we would kill.

And daddy won't you take me back to the Bulkley Valley that leads to the Skeena where paradise lay. Well, I'm sorry, my son, but you're too late in asking. Mr. Enbridge's pipeline has poisoned the way.

Then the oil company came with the world's largest tar sands and they tortured the rivers and spoiled all the land. Well, they drilled for their oil till the land was forsaken and they wrote it all down as the progress of man.

And daddy won't you take me back to the Bulkley Valley that flows to the ocean where paradise lay. Well, I'm sorry, my son, but you're too late in asking. Mr. Enbridge's pipeline has poisoned the way.

When I die let my ashes flow down the Bulkley River. Let my soul roll on up to the Sacred Clapan. I'll be halfway to heaven with paradise waitin just five miles away from wherever I am.

And daddy won't you take me back to the Bulkley Valley down by the clear waters where paradise lay. Well, I'm sorry, my son, but you're too late in asking. They're black waters now and dark is the day. They're black waters now and dark is the day."

491. Thank you.

492. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Good evening, Ms. Knorr. Please present to the Panel.

493. Thanks.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MS. LORI KNORR:

494. **MS. LORI KNORR:** My name is Lori Knorr.

495. Thank you very much for allowing me the time to speak today.

496. I was born and raised in British Columbia. My parents were born and raised in British Columbia, and this is my home.

497. I have travelled this province extensively and have come to settle here in Smithers because this is the best place that I have found. This is my 12th year in Smithers. Two years ago, our family had the fortune to move onto 150 acres and we're in the process of establishing an organic farm with pigs, turkeys, vegetables, and soon-to-be bees. We have to work at our other jobs to be able to keep farming.

498. We have two children, three and nine. Our life is currently jam-packed.

499. I have studied herbology and use the plants that grow around me. We eat salmon and wild meat when my husband is blessed to encounter game during hunting season, and he is one of the most fanatical fishermen I know when it comes to salmon fishing.

500. We live five minutes from the Moricetown canyon and are able to eat salmon all year from what he catches. We are expanding our gardens and plan for a greenhouse and a cellar to become increasingly self-sufficient. Our goal is to live as completely off of the land as possible and we work hard to make that happen. This is our home, our chosen place to live. We plan to live here the rest of our lives.

501. We have made a conscious choice as how to create the healthiest

environment for our kids as possible. I'm not willing to stand idly by when there is a threat as big as the Enbridge Pipeline Project on a fast-track for construction.

502. I'm too busy to be an activist. Currently I spend most of my time researching permaculture gardening or how to breed turkeys or keep piglets alive. But not so many years ago a similar threat came to our area; our property at that time was inside the proposed drilling zone for coal bed methane wells.

503. Similar to the Enbridge Project, the information from the Proponent, Outrider, was reassuring that all will be taken care of, don't you worry. But I didn't understand how the industry worked so I began to do some research. And the more I discovered about CPM extraction process, the more appalled I became as I realized they accepted toxic by-product effects and unknowns that could impact our aquifers.

504. I went to many meetings with the government and company to discuss how my concerns would be addressed, but I became more alarmed when asking basic questions as to how they would handle some of the procedures revealed that I now knew more about the process than they did.

505. I realized that the people of the area had better know the things that I discovered, and set about putting the information out there to stop the development that could have irreversible effects on our water system.

506. I have travelled to many places on the plant and I'm aware of many, many atrocities, but until the problem came to my doorstep I have been unwilling to act. And here it is, just six years later, and I find myself going way outside my comfort zone to talk at a hearing because the government is proposing to allow a business to proceed with a plan that threatens thousands of people's current way of life and health, not to mention our brothers, the salmon.

507. I can find nothing logical to suggest this project should go forward. The project itself is a known carcinogen. The territory it's proposed to cross is rugged and filled with thousands of small and large tributaries to salmon-bearing water systems.

508. Enbridge oil spill record is appalling. In particular, the times when the Transportation and Safety Board of Canada, and the similar entity in the United States discovered a weakness in the pipes months before the ruptures occurred. Enbridge knew there was a problem and did nothing.

509. The spill on the Kalamazoo River led to a ban on 39 miles of river to

protect public health. And how do you ban the river to millions of returning salmon?

510. The pipeline would facilitate 80 to 100 million tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere every year, which is more than B.C. currently emits in total. The government is working hard to change laws, and close offices, and doing whatever it possible can to push this project ahead. We are of this land.

511. The industrial development has put too much pressure on our ecological systems. This is not a time for pushing projects like this ahead and I believe that this may become a time where the line in the sand is drawn. I can feel the pressure from Ministry in China to have this toxic project -- to have this toxic product and perhaps now has become the time to educate them too.

512. We struggle as a family to get our farm business going, but direct subsidies to the fossil fuel industry world-wide amount to half a trillion dollars annually. That's more than 1.4 billion dollars per day.

513. The oil and gas industry is one of the more capital intensive in the world, employing less than 1 percent of Canadian workers. If we want a job strategy there is a great alternative available and a shift to a green economy. Invest in, say, growing food, and you don't have to close 37 environmental review offices or change the *Fisheries Act* to make my project go forward.

514. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

515. **MEMBER BATEMAN:** Ms. Pflugbeil, thank you for being with us this evening. Please present your oral statement.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MS. DOROLENE PFLUGBEIL:

516. **MS. DOROLENE PFLUGBEIL:** Thank you. Members of the Joint Review Panel, welcome to the beautiful Bulkley Valley and thank you for your time and attention. Same to the members of the community.

517. In these next few minutes I would like to speak to you about something that is very special to me, an element in my life that has been essential to my physical wellbeing, and for that matter, the health and life of all things, and also my

psychological and emotional health. I am going to tell you about my love of water.

518. Should the Enbridge pipeline be built the construction process will affect water in the Bulkley Valley and all along the route of the pipeline. Further, if there is a spill, it will not only spill oil and bitumen, but also in the process, the processing chemicals will be spread throughout the watershed as well.
519. Many articles published recently have argued that not only could there be a spill in the pipeline, there likely will be a spill. Any effect that the construction or chemicals have had on this land, that gives us everything that we need for life, will be felt for generations. Hence, my concern on the resource that I love.
520. I love water. I love the way it feels on my hands when I wash them. Looking at lakes and rivers that reflect dappled sunlight always makes me smile. A drizzly rain or fluffy snowfall can bring peace. It is my preferred drink, by far.
521. But my absolute favourite thing about water, the thing I enjoy so much that just thinking about it gives my joy and peace, is the sensation of cool silky water surrounding my entire body when I plunge into a lake on a summers day. It's so cleansing and energizing and nourishing, and pleasurable. It's one of those best things in life are free kind of moments. But that might not be a free or safe activity in the near future.
522. It only takes a few drops of oil, condensate or some wacky chemical introduced by mankind to kill a lake or a stream. A few years ago Lake Kathlyn -- that's the lake you may have seen when arriving in Smithers from the local airport -- was getting choked by milfoil weeds, which were turning it into a stinky green marsh.
523. The weeds took over the lake due to pollution from airport and farm chemicals, as well as the diversion of fresh water for a human project. The water became much warmer, it was rare to see fish in it, and it certainly wasn't much of a pleasure to swim in it, and I certainly wouldn't want to have drunk that water.
524. Here in Canada we have the -- well, I would hope normal and wonderful opportunity to turn a tap and drink what comes out. I know that in Brooks, Alberta, the water tastes like the smell around the slaughterhouse 5 kilometres away.
525. I know that water can also be easily polluted by odourless and tasteless substances like e-coli at Walkerton. But I also know that, for the most part, water in Canada is safe, healthy and clean, and I hope it stays that way.

526. I experienced something entirely different in China. I didn't even brush my teeth with the tap water there. Who knows how many BPAs, or thalates, or carcinogens I consumed there by drinking from cheap plastic water bottles. Showering was even work rather than pleasure. I had to keep my mouth closed the whole time.
527. Our precious blue planet boasts 326 million trillion gallons of water. Of course, only 2 percent of that is fresh water and we use a lot of water to grow and manufacture most of the foods and the stuff that we use every day.
528. Agricultural farms needs 400 to 946 litres to grow the wheat to make a single pound of flour. Then to take that pound of flour and bake it into a Tim Horton's muffin or a Starbucks scone, adds a bit more.
529. So your breakfast of convenience takes, say 500 litres of water. If you want to eat a breakfast of champions, including eggs, bacon, and potatoes, you're probably looking at 15,000 to 68,000 litres, and don't forget the water to make your coffee.
530. Water is essential for day-to-day living, and not just our own immediate needs to quench our thirst or lubricate while talking, but to manufacture our clothes, furniture, houses, and to keep all of those things clean. We all know that, it's a no-brainer.
531. I'm currently teaching some grade ones about basic human needs. Even they get this. What is harder for these children to understand right now is the integral role of water in every single aspect of activity and life, and not just human life here on earth.
532. Water is essential for life, fresh water, clean water, water of a specific Ph, water which consists of simple hydrogen and oxygen molecules, the building blocks of life, plus some dissolved earth minerals from wherever the water has been.
533. One theory about how migrating salmon find their way back to their birth river is -- to spawn -- is by the smell of the river. That is the minerals and whatever else perfume the water. They wouldn't be able to do that if the water had something new added, especially, if that were a strong and deadly substance like crude oil.
534. Not only would that affect First Nations peoples, sport fishermen and

wildlife, such as bears, not to mention the other organisms living in the water system, it would also disappoint me because then I couldn't go fishing.

535. I worked on Babine Lake for a few summers and was able to try fly fishing. That was fun. And the trout I caught, the ones I didn't release that is, were delicious and nutritious. It was all good. I want to try fishing again. I've set aside money to buy gear, and I'd hate to go if the fish were so toxic -- if there were any fish -- that I couldn't eat them, and why waste money on the gear and tackle?
536. The sport and supply stores, the guides, the outfitters, they won't be making a living if there are no fish. Tourists and avid fishermen from around the world won't be coming to fish here, so there goes a huge chunk of our local economy. Over 480 million annually just for anglers in B.C., in fact. And since I don't live on the coast, I won't even begin to imagine how they would be affected by a tanker disaster.
537. To review, I love being in the water, but also doing sports and activities that involve water, like kayaking and fishing. If the Enbridge pipeline is built and used, I fear -- no, I'm terrified, by the realization that life would change drastically for the worse.
538. The local economy would suffer; remember those sports stores and fishing guides, as well as airlines, restaurants and hotels. We couldn't go fishing, or if we did, we could and did catch something we wouldn't be able to eat it. Our First Nations members would not be able to carry on with their traditional way of life.
539. Our locally grown organic vegetables and animals that people work very hard to raise around here would probably harbour carcinogens or some kind of toxin from drinking polluted water, perhaps imperceptibly polluted, but affected nonetheless. And we might have to start drinking bottled water.
540. And since it takes about three or more litres of water to produce one litre of bottled water, not considering transportation energy expenditure, that would just be ridiculous. Then I'd have to start worrying about those darn phthalates again.
541. So this is still less than the amount of water it takes to extract the crude sticky tar from the oil sands. I believe that water is the resource of the future. We can no longer take it for granted. It is, in my opinion, will one day be worth much more than oil is.

542. Lastly, I might one day not be able to dive into a fresh water lake and be re-energized and reinvigorated by its pure, cleansing waters.
543. So if you'll give me one more minute, I dare to posit a couple of alternatives. One is to simply wait for the value of the tar and oil in northern Alberta to rise in price before we access it. By then, technology may have advanced sufficiently to access it without wasting so much water or impacting our precious natural surroundings.
544. In any case, it would certainly pay better financial dividends than it will garner on the market today.
545. Another is to use existing structures, such as the rail lines or the existing PNG pipeline through central B.C.
546. My final suggestion is one that will sound absurd to some, but I don't think it's so absurd. It is to not merely wait to access the petroleum resources in northern Alberta; it is to leave them completely alone.
547. Billions of dollars have already been invested, and more is on their way into this project as tax cuts, research funds and the like, as Lori gave statistics for. If even a fraction of this money was invested instead toward research and the development of alternative sources and uses of energy, Canada could be a leader in new green technology and innovation.
548. We could be a great model for other countries to emulate. There are many ideas already in existence that require funding for testing and development to be made feasible or usable. Universities could be training the upcoming grads in innovation for energy sources. Alternatively, Canada could continue to chase after an aging, dirty technology.
549. I have no desire to be an oil Sheik, and I think that it is a short-lived, selfish and destructive dream to become one. My desire is that my country be better than normal or expected, or even good.
550. I want my country to be great, to be the one that inspires and drives others, the one that everyone wants to vacation in to enjoy its fresh air, beautiful forests and mountains, golden prairies and wildlife, especially the wildlife, which would definitely be affected by this.

551. These things are not our possessions to be used up and tossed aside. They are what give us life. We are part of an intricate system and we should not carelessly destroy any of it.

552. Thank you for listening. I wish you the humanity, selflessness and integrity it will take to do your jobs effectively. Good night.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

553. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you for being with us, Mr. Vanderstar. Please proceed when you're ready.

--- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. LEN VANDERSTAR:**

554. **MR. LEN VANDERSTAR:** Welcome to the Bulkley Valley and thank you, community members, for coming out. That's a hard act to follow. Very good.

555. My name is Len Vanderstar. I've been a resident of the Bulkley Valley for some 23 years now. I have three professional affiliations, forester, biologist and educator. I'm a founding member of Friends of Wild Salmon, and I'm an advocate of responsible development, and I also have investments in Canada's energy sector.

556. I'm very familiar with the habitat, the landscapes and geomorphology of the proposed pipeline route here in the northwest, both on the ground, on the water and on the air.

557. Over my years of professional work and recreational work, I thoroughly have familiarized myself with the Morice system, the Gosnell, the Clore, the Clore Canyon goats, the coastal range, Hoyt Creek, all the way down the Kitimat River to the Kitimat along the pipeline route.

558. It's very clear that the geomorphology of this proposal, it's the same as the Pacific National Gas pipeline that currently runs through the northwest. In the last 20 years we've had a number of significant landslides and mass wasting events that have taken out the gas pipeline completely. And when a gas pipeline gets taken out, it basically -- it volatilizes and you get flames and fire. Not a lot of direct environmental issues, but nevertheless, the pipeline is completely taken out.

559. The last significant event was a few years ago in the Copper River, and these were naturally triggered landslides. And Jim Suave has conducted a report, and

you might have been submitted. You probably read it, and it speaks a lot to the instabilities of the terrain of these young coastal mountains and the marinal clays.

560. Now, the outline of my talk here, it's actually going to focus on economics, believe it or not, as it pertains to the northwest and Enbridge's proposal because I think -- you might have heard a lot of social and environmental concerns, so I'd like to talk a little bit about some of the faulty economics.

561. And also, before I start on that, I'd also like to refer to what we call the social licence, and I'll lead off with that.

562. Projects deemed to have high-risk that will potentially result in degradation of the environment demand full consultation and participation by residents of the northwest.

563. The simple reason why Kemano 2 completion, salmon farms along the north coast and coal bed methane extraction in salmon watersheds here in the Telkwa and Bulkley Valley, and in the sacred headwaters, which is the headwaters of the Stikene, the Naas and the Skeena, have not materialized is due to the lack of social licence; basically, not having the consent and support by the majority of the residents here in the Skeena region, inclusive of our First Nations brothers and sisters.

564. To date, Enbridge has failed to acquire the social licence it requires to see its proposal through to fruition. History will repeat itself.

565. Now, with respect to the regional economics, our economy in the northwest is largely based on sustaining a healthy environment, whether we talk about forestry or mineral extraction. We also have commercial and recreational fisheries.

566. Now, Friends of Wild Salmon Commission report with PriceWaterhouseCoopers to assess the annual value of the Skeena River salmon stock run alone and, annually, that's worth \$100 million Canadian. When you amalgamate both the benefits of those stocks to Alaskan and Canadian fisheries, both commercially and recreationally, it's a significant industry in itself.

567. We have a viable guide outfitting industry, and also the array of supporting services and merchants that support it.

568. The Bulkley Valley has also become a hub for amenity migrants. In other

words, people are coming from out of region choosing a location based on quality of life. In fact, we have hundreds of amenity migrants in the Bulkley Valley in the last decade.

569. Dr. Ray Chipeniuk, who now resides in the valley and who specializes in the study of amenity migrants, informed me today that each amenity migrant household stimulates two additional full-time jobs just through their spending alone. And this was well researched. This figure does not even include the work that they bring themselves.

570. Now, what truly unites us here in the northwest is that we are a salmon nation and we are a salmon culture. You've probably heard that theme repetitively through the presentations to date.

571. Development proposals are carefully scrutinized by the citizens with respect to risk versus benefits. Enbridge's proposal, from my perspective, does not come close to passing this litmus test.

572. Now, regarding the faulty economics of this proposal, why does 140,000 member organization, the Alberta Federation of Labour, which includes the Union of Pipeline Builders, opposes the Enbridge proposal? Well, the answer is simple, because the export of bitumen also exports competitive jobs in the oil refining sector that should remain in Canada.

573. The economic analysis being tabled by Enbridge and its supporting organizations fail to address the dynamics of long-term economies in the energy sector and fail to address the risks the pipeline will have to Canada's economic and energy security.

574. According to David Hughes, who's an analyst and former research manager with the federal government, there is sufficient bitumen export capacity to accommodate tar sand expansion of 50 to 100 percent over 2010 levels by 2025. And that pipeline expansions and flow reversals to the U.S. Gulf coast -- so to the U.S. Gulf coast -- will close the differential price difference with Asia by 2015.

575. In other words, we get the same price by 2015 as we went to the States with it or to China. This would be perceived to eclipse the need for a west coast pipeline altogether.

576. Even if differential pricing persists, of which Enbridge is proposing in

their analysis, then the massive export of bitumen will surely lead to raising the value of the Canadian dollar and continue to erode Canada's manufacturing base.

577. Now here's an interesting request. The Premier of Alberta, Alison Redford, whose party supports the rapid development of tar sands, asked Dalton McGuinty, the Premier of Ontario, to support the petroleum mega project as a national economic driver.
578. McGuinty's response was no, he refused to do so, simply because the loonie has significantly become the petro dollar and has undermined the competitiveness of Ontario's economy, which is Canada's manufacturing engine.
579. A 2012 study, a recent study by European and Canadian economists, found that 42 percent of the appreciation of the Canadian dollar was attributed to the rapid tar sand development, which accounted for approximately 200,000 Canadian manufacturing job losses. So it's very clear that the Dutch disease now resides in Canada.
580. Now, given our proximity here in the Northwest to viable ports in Kitimat and Prince Rupert, we in the Northwest are strategically positioned to enhance our export manufacturing sector, but our dollar has to remain competitive. Massive export of bitumen will undermine this potential for our own economic growth.
581. Now, well respected economist Robyn Allan has some damning findings in her independent analysis of Enbridge's Gateway pipeline proposal. Let me just read a quote that she has here:
- "Many assumptions employed by Enbridge's application to the National Energy Board, several studies by the Canadian Energy Research Institute and a pro-Gateway study by the University of Calgary and a Wood Mackenzie report prepared by the Alberta government are seriously flawed."*
582. Now, according to Andrew Nikiforuk's article regarding Robyn Allan's findings, he states the studies -- so the studies that I've just cited, he stated that:
- "They simply misrepresent key economic facts and do not account for the negative impact of rising oil prices on the Canadian economy or manufacturing sector."*
- In addition, almost all of the reports base their inflated benefits --*

or all the reports base their inflated benefits on low Canadian exchange rates which will now persist under massive bitumen exports. Both the Enbridge and Wood Mackenzie reports assume that the Canadian dollar will remain at 85 percent in value to the U.S. dollar...

583. And with respect -- oh here -- yes, for 30 years -- so:

"...85 cents to the U.S. dollar for 30 years in the Enbridge case and 10 years for the Wood Mackenzie analysis."

584. The fact remains the oil export industry has appreciated the Canadian dollar while not considering long-term economic or energy security needs of Canada. It has reduced royalties due to the depreciation of the Canadian dollar and has led to slow growth and job losses for the collective Canadian economy.

585. Enbridge's Gateway proposal has to be analyzed, not as an identity in itself but as a collective piece of the national economy. This is what Robyn Allan states in summarizing her findings:

"The report presents an illusion of economic well being created from rapid oil sands growth by omitting key trends such as oil price shocks and by using inappropriate economic models."

586. Why are politicians passing off reports as a business case for a pipeline when no one in business would rely on data based on only one scenario and with no sensitivity analysis over a 30-year time period?

587. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Mr. Vanderstar, you are out of time. If you want to just have a couple of sentences left just to wrap up.

588. And I would just invite you, if you have additional information that you wanted the Panel to receive, you could always put any remaining information into a letter of comment.

589. **MR. LEN VANDERSTAR:** Oh, thank you.

590. Okay. So I'm going to wrap up here then. It seems obvious to me and hopefully to yourselves, the National Energy Board Panel here -- Panel Members -- that a more thorough and all-encompassing independent economic analysis is required to properly determine the justification of the Enbridge Gateway proposal.

591. Why are we subjecting so many people to social and environmental risk discussions and debates when the first step in carrying out adequate economic homework is very questionable?

592. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

593. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you, Mr. Vanderstar.

--- (A short pause/Courte pause)

594. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Good evening, presenters. We'll start off with Mr. Duncan. Please go ahead and present your oral statement.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. CHRISTOPHER DUNCAN:

595. **MR. CHRISTOPHER DUNCAN:** I'd like to thank the Panel for this opportunity for me to speak.

596. My name is Chris Duncan and I've been living in the Valley here for four years. I was born in Victoria and spent a lot of time growing up in the Suuk Hills in a vacation property and developed a deep love for nature and for the province. And I live here with my wife and my one and a half year old son. And we're both teachers here. And we're instantly drawn to the place by the majesty of nature and would hate to see that devastated, or compromised, or put at risk in any way by the Enbridge pipeline.

597. I'll be brief. My concerns, one is whether or not the Panel's ultimate decision will be heeded to or heard by, given that the Prime Minister has publicly announced that this pipeline will go through despite that this hearing is taking place. So I hope that the Panel's decision will be heard by and respected.

598. To the issue of First Nation rights and ongoing history of exploitation of natural resources that don't necessarily belong to those who are exploiting it, and given that this pipeline is going to run through unseated territory and that First Nation Aboriginal groups are publicly opposed to the project, it's just continuing a long tradition of colonization.

599. Three, that there is no true guarantee of safety, and I think human beings are often at a place where we are mistaken in our sense of progress, in our conceit and our vanity with our knowledge as to science and technology and issues of safety.

600. Nature -- Mother Nature is unpredictable and is constantly throwing us new challenges and problems and we simply cannot predict on that level what will happen. So whether it's the Titanic or some similar venture, there's usually some element of vanity with science and technology.

601. Also, given that global warming is a fact, as a larger part of this project, the exploitation of oil sands and fossil fuels, it's just the wrong direction for this country to take when we're in a position -- we have the brains and the talent to become leaders in clean and green energy technology rather than going after these dinosaur projects.

602. And I also am concerned that we are, in fact, exporting jobs, along with exporting the oil, when refinement could be done at home. And when you weigh the billions of years of this planet and its evolution of the animals on it, and the thousands upon tens of thousands of years of sustainable ways of life with Aboriginal people, depending on the salmon and the wildlife and the environment, to put that all at risk for some short-term profit is the wrong move.

603. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

604. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Mr. Edwards, thank you for attending this evening. Please present your oral statement.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. MARK EDWARDS:

605. **MR. EDWARDS:** I have a visual aid as well. I do know the parts of it. But this is for you and for all of you.

606. So thank you to the Wet'suwet'en nation for hosting this gathering on their traditional land. And welcome to you, Sheila, Kenneth, Hans, for coming to Smithers and hearing our concerns about the Northern Gateway Project.

607. I feel like I'm speaking on behalf of my community here, but as you've

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heard many of them already and will continue to hear over the next few days, we are many voices and mostly we are united, apart from Dennis Mackay, maybe others.

608. My name is Mark Edwards.

609. **MEMBER BATEMAN:** Mr. Edwards, just as you proceed, address the Panel and not the audience please.

610. **MR. MARK EDWARDS:** Pleasure. My name is Mark Edwards and my expertise is in technology, biology, and environmental education. I'm an avid kayaker, canoeist and hiker and moved to this valley as an amenity migrant, as Len made reference before.

611. I moved here for its stunning beauty and its sustainable community. Sheila, I was pleased to see that you have a Master's degree in biology. Understanding the diversity of life forms affected by this pipeline I think is of great concern.

612. Kenneth, I was pleased to see that you've supported many winds and bio-waste projects. That kind of alternative energy sources in Canada is greatly needed.

613. And Hans, I have comfort knowing -- well, firstly I have comfort knowing about this wind farm situation here. When you have a spill, a major spill at the wind farm, it's just a great day for kite flying. Hans, for you I have great respect in geologists like yourself for making sense of the enormous pressures and processes going around us on earth.

614. Although your task has been altered with Harper's change of the National Energy Board's mandate on this, I am speaking with a plan and strategy of what to do when your work is done and this gets its rubber stamp. He's made it clear to Asia already.

615. How disgusted you must feel when our Prime Sinister -- I mean, Minister, took away your mandate and has continued this process for us all to just air our concerns. Anyways, this will give us time to strategize.

616. Just imagine the interior news headline, "Landslide ruptures Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline." Would you mind changing the slide to please? The news story would read "Three million litres of oil, bitumen and toxic condensate spilled into the Morice River catchment yesterday, affecting Skeena and Bulkley's

salmon spawning stock, right out to the coast. Tourism, fishing season, closed until further notice.”

617. Lucky we're not hearing that today in northwest B.C. But we should ask Michigan residents how the Enbridge spill in the Kalamazoo is going with their three million litres. It was only 21 months ago.
618. I strongly believe that once all this government red tape and public hearings are complete, the Northern Gateway Project will be approved and it will be left to residents along the pipeline to revolt, to blockade, to occupy Enbridge.
619. I wonder what will happen when the pipeline builders come. After hearing my speech, I want three things to be recognized: the risks, the returns and the rationale.
620. As a Panel, I hope you will deliver the democratic concerns of the local people along the pipeline route. You decide if you will stand with the Wet'suwet'en and every other First Nation along this pipeline against this project.
621. So first, the risks. I believe our Canadian environment at the source, at the coastline, and along the route, are at great risk with this project. I grew up near Lake Erie in the 1970s and I know the ecological effects of chemical and industrial spills on a public water body.
622. This Great Lake was known as ecologically dead and it was immortalized in the original version of Dr. Seuss' famous book *The Lorax*. I believe this encapsulates our environmental concern in a brilliant way, imagining an Enbridge spill here.
623. Tom and Dean of BB Printers helped me blow this page of the book out of *The Lorax* up. And it has glopety glop spilling out of pipelines into a water body and fish jumping out of there. The original version of this page includes a reference to Lake Erie -- that's why I thought it was necessary -- because they've actually photoshopped it to say Morice/Bulkley River catchment.
624. But here are the words for the oral record:

"You're glumping the pound where the humming fish hummed. No more can they hum for their gills are all gummed. So I'm sending them off. Oh their future is dreary. They'll walk on their fins and get woefully weary in search of some water that isn't so smeary. I

hear things are just as bad up in..."

625. It would be Lake Eerie. But to consider, we've changed it to the Morice River Bulkley catchment. But I really hope it doesn't come to this.
626. I see the tar sands as a big oil pit in the middle of Canada, covered with peat and boreal forests. They have to cut down a forest to move a tonne of peat for every tonne of bitumen-laced Athabasca sand.
627. I feel like I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues. After super axe hacking, the process then wastes cleaner natural gas to heat up water and pour over the sand to purify it. It doesn't make sense.
628. They dump these tailings in huge settling ponds. And National Geographic did a story recently about migrating ducks mistaking these contaminated tailing ponds for natural lakes and dying by the hundreds when they land.
629. So the wildlife impacts, the forests, the threats to the water of the Athabasca River, the wasted natural gas and the increased health problems and this strange bile duct cancer going on in Fort Chip concerns me greatly. I believe there's a lot of risk at the source.
630. At the other end of the line, as you see on the slide here, this coastline tanker traffic is at astronomical risks for ocean spills. The proposed tanker route involves at least five difficult turns to get into that Douglas Channel. These are exposed reefs in narrow channels. And the tar sands tankers plan to carry more than 10 times the amount of oil from the Exxon Valdez spill, just in phase one.
631. The B.C. ferry Queen of the North sank 70 nautical miles south of Prince Rupert. Investigations concluded that human factors were to blame. And thus I believe it will be with the super tankers. There's just no possible way they can get all through there without the possibility of having a spill.
632. The environmental risks, mainly the marine wildlife and fish populations, will in turn affect all land base populations, wildlife, and the coastal communities and the First Nations of the Hartley Bay area and the Great Bear Rainforest.
633. I found this was best represented in a documentary simply called Spoil. I recommend you have a look at that. It tells of great -- these great beautiful spirit bears, a rare black bear that has a recessive gene to become white. I fear for these

barbaloots.

634. My friend Rich and I have a kayak trip planned to go up to the Douglas Channel next month and visit the threatened community of Hartley Bay.
635. So what of the middle, namely the pipeline? If a pipeline goes in, it will break. Enbridge pipelines have seen more than 800 leaks in the last 13 years. Eight hundred (800). Do we think it will be any different in the Northern Gateway Project? Is this enough environmental concern for you? That's your mandate after all, the concerns.
636. In July 2010, we saw Enbridge's poor response to a three million litre pipeline spill in the Kalamazoo River in the U.S. which flows into Lake Michigan. It was noticed by a farmer.
637. And then after reporting it to authorities, the so-called engineering experts tried to increase the pressure of the glopety glop through the pipeline, and that just exacerbated the spill.
638. Then there are numerous reports of covering up the extent of the damage. Anyone can search the aptly named Battle Creek and the plight of John Bolenbaugh, a former Enbridge worker.
639. Back here, the proposed 1,000 plus-kilometre pipeline, it crosses the prized Morice salmon-bearing rivers. That whole catchment there is of great significance.
640. And Len made reference to Jim Schwab; his report highlights three recent landslide events that ruptured the natural gas pipeline through this region. I'm sure you know of that report, but that's a great part of the concern here.
641. The risk of rupture from landslides is of even more environmental concern since there's so much more remote area up here, and the chances of people seeing the breakage in time before it causes this extreme damage is next to nil.
642. As our former mayor Jim Davidson quoted the local Wet'suwet'en in these hearings, no fish, no future.
643. The risk of that bitumen and condensate getting into our environment is a toxic threat too much to bear for so little return. The glopety glop and shlopety shlop

from a spill would never let us return to the state of the environment today.

644. We interviewed local scientists as part of our local technology show, and we tried to look at what technology would be used to clean up a spill. Nobody could come up with anything ideal to restore the environment, particularly with the river systems.
645. So is it worth the economics of so many sustainable jobs for this pipeline project? Well, the returns; it's basically jobs and tax revenue. Enbridge says this project is worth 5.5 billion, and I really wonder where that money is going to go. I don't see much of it coming back here.
646. And from talking to local Wet'suwet'en, it's a possibility of about 15 jobs for them, but they have to be skilled and experienced. I hope you can see it really doesn't bring much for us at all.
647. The idea of trading this huge threat against long-term local careers, it just seems ridiculous. And the rationale behind the project; it's a political juggernaut.
648. I see it as a done deal, you know, with Keystone being pushed out. We've already got the pipeline going to Vancouver; I don't understand why we send it out the west. It makes no sense whatsoever.
649. So Harper is singing more and more like the Once-ler in Dr. Seuss' Lorax story, just a one-time thing.
650. So basically I put the question to you; the project has three risks, two returns in this political rationale, the environmental risks at the Boreal Forest source, the Great Bear Rainforest coastline, and the landslide prone streams with key salmon spawning areas in between.
651. The economic returns are negligible. The rationale is supported already. So after all this I can only think that we will just see us sort of occupy Enbridge. So I say, "Prepare for that".
652. **MEMBER BATEMAN:** Mr. Edwards, could I ask you wrap it up now, please?
653. **MR. MARK EDWARDS:** Here's my wrap up for you. I am the Lorax and I speak for the trees and the tar sands. I speak for the humming fish along the

pipeline and I speak for the brown barbaloots at the coast.

654. As a Panel charged with this important task, I hope you can speak for them too.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

655. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you for being here tonight, Mr. Schopfer, with us. Please proceed when you're ready.

--- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. PETER SCHOPFER:**

656. **MR. PETER SCHOPFER:** Good evening. My name is Peter Schopfer. I've been living here in the north for about 25 years. I'm a teacher and I've a small educational consulting company. It's as a local businessman looking at local benefits that I wish to address this Commission.

657. Several years ago when I started my business, I was challenged to examine a few important questions and what I'd like to do is briefly examine the Enbridge proposal in light of some of those questions.

658. The first question was is the product or service really needed? Now, petroleum is a ubiquitous commodity, we all drive, fly, and use products made from petroleum but is the petroleum from Alberta tar sands really needed?

659. Petroleum has been extracted on a commercial scale since the 1800s, from many places throughout the world. Over the years new sources have been continually discovered. The first major oil discovery in Canada occurred near Leduc, Alberta on February 13th 1947.

660. Yet, long before that, there had been myriad predictions and warnings about the end of oil. In 1855 an advertisement for Kier's Rock Oil, a petroleum product, advertised consumers to, quote: "Hurry before this wonderful product is depleted from nature's laboratory".

661. Later, in 1874, Pennsylvania State geologists were predicting that there were only about a four-year supply to keep the nation's kerosene lamps burning. And these are just two of the many, many erroneous prognostications surrounding the world's oil supply. Now of course there is a limited supply of petroleum on earth. Some day we will run out, but that day is not in the near future.

662. And when conventional, easy-to-get reserves do run dry, wouldn't it be nice for our children and grandchildren to have access to non-conventional sources like the tar sands?
663. Compared to the world, Canada needs a relatively small amount of petroleum for our own manufacturing and transportation. I find it puzzling though, that while we are importing oil to the east coast we're wanting to export it from the west coast.
664. Now, I'm certain this Commission has heard, and will likely hear again, that if we're looking at the best interests of Canadians, then we should perhaps be advocating to extend the reach of consideration to include -- sorry -- we should perhaps advocate extending the pipeline infrastructure east to meet our own domestic needs instead of worrying about world needs in Asia.
665. Furthermore, if we extend the reach of our consideration to include future generations of Canadians, that of our grandchildren and their children, perhaps we should be considering limiting petroleum export rather than facilitating further exploitation of this valuable resource.
666. Second question: What's a realistic economic return? Now, it wouldn't be very smart of me to take a consulting job in Dease Lake several hundred kilometres to the north, along remote and dangerous roads if I wasn't going to be adequately compensated.
667. The same consideration applies here. Pipeline construction requires specialized skills which most of the locals do not have. Though perhaps a few token jobs will be tossed to us locals, but the pipeline will not bring high-paying long-term jobs to the north.
668. A few service businesses in our community might benefit a short term influx of workers but once the pipeline is built, we'll only be left with the anxiety and worry about pipeline integrity and the resulting oil spill that all people seem to think will come. Those of us who will be impacted when there is a breach of the pipeline will receive virtually nothing.
669. Third question: What are the potential risks and are the risks worth the return? I'm sure this Panel has and will continue to hear of the catastrophic results of a breach in the pipeline or a marine spill from the accompanying tankers so I'm not

going to address those details.

670. But it's clear that when the spill occurs our long standing sustainable industries of tourism and fishing will be seriously damaged at best, and at worst, completely eradicated. The benefits to us in the north, which are nearly none, are dwarfed by the huge potential risk. It just doesn't make economic sense to us.
671. Now, will anyone benefit? Well of course. Multi-billions of dollars of profits glint in the eyes of investors, while a small fraction of these investors include all of us in the form of our pension funds, most of the value of our Canadian bitumen resources will flow to the U.S. and overseas to offshore investors. They gain. We will lose.
672. Now, our own governments, provincial and federal, are rubbing their hands in anticipation of an influx of tax revenues. While this would benefit the government's balance sheets, as we have learned from the long history of resource development, the royalties and taxes realized from these resource projects goes largely to serve the needs and desires of the majority of people in the densely populated urban centres, namely Vancouver, in the entire lower mainland.
673. While we, here in the north, navigate dangerously around pothole populated highways on our ways to overcrowded and underserved hospital waiting rooms, our neighbours in Vancouver enjoy the luxury of a \$557,000,000 retractable roof on B.C. Place, a \$3.3 billion Portman Bridge, and an almost a billion dollars to throw a two and a half week party called the Olympics.
674. In spite of the plethora of prevarications we in the north will not receive any substantial benefits from this project.
675. As a businessman I look at this project and shake my head. Industry and government want us to accept the massive risk of this massive project, but not receive any substantial benefits. If this project is stopped, and I believe it will be, the resources will not disappear. We do not lose the wealth, we simply retain it until a time when we can come up with a plan that will see the wealth and benefits come to us in a safe and sustainable form.
676. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

677. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Good evening, Ms. Struthers. Please go ahead and present.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MS. KIM STRUTHERS:

678. **MS. KIM STRUTHERS:** Good evening. My name is Kim Struthers. I am a resident of Smithers, and for the record, I'm here to speak to you about my opposition to the proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline Project.

679. I grew up in Smithers. I moved away to go to university and to live an urban life but I moved back after growing weary of 20 years of city living.

680. I found that the urban lifestyle, my urban lifestyle was increasingly disconnected from how I wanted to spend my time and from what was important to me, which is being closer to my family, being connected to my community, and being connected to the land.

681. I grew up fishing in Babine Lake, hiking, biking and playing in this vast wilderness that is my backyard. I moved back because of the fresh water, the wildlife and the access to remote, pristine places. I do not want any of it destroyed by dirty development.

682. It was shortly after I moved home that I learned about this proposed project. I felt that there was some great irony at play; that as soon as I learned to truly appreciate the place where I grew up, and as soon as I moved home to reconnect with the mountains and the rivers that make up this special place, that it was all coming under threat.

683. I never thought that I would have to fight for something that I grew up taking for granted. I just assumed that it would always be here.

684. I believe our way of life in the northwest is unique and worth protecting, and I don't want its future undermined by people in Ottawa who do not speak for me, who do not represent my best interests and who apparently have vastly different values. I'm here to stand up for what is important to me and to speak up against a project that not only threatens my region but also my planet.

685. The environmental risks are local, regional and global in scale. Locally and regionally our rivers, streams, and land will be put at significant risk from both the construction and the operation of the pipelines. And once the pipelines reach the

coast the dangers of the supertankers have to be taken into account.

686. Globally our environment is threatened from the resulting increase in greenhouse gas emissions due to the expansion of the tar sands, which are required for the project to be built. Expanding the tar sands is not sustainable economic development or a way to bring long-term gain to Canadians and citizens of the global community.
687. To me, the Proponent's claim that there will local economic benefit does not stand up. This is a raw resource being extracted in another province, transported across ours and then shipped offshore. And there won't be any local jobs during the construction phase because no one around here knows how to build a pipeline, and personally I'd like to keep it that way.
688. Just like the government has allowed our raw logs to be shipped south and offshore they now want to ship unrefined crude oil west. So any jobs that could have resulted from processing that natural resource are shipped off too. The only Canadians I feel will benefit from this project are Enbridge's shareholders.
689. Economic development is important but not at the risk of ruining what we already have in place. We already have a functioning economy in the northwest and I feel that it has not been given enough credit. Smithers alone has a tourism industry that contributes \$21 million a year, and when you look at the combined value of the sport and the commercial fishing industry and the fish processing industry you're looking at \$1.7 billion a year.
690. And amenity migrants that have already been referred to, they choose to settle here because of our stunning scenery and the corresponding way of life and they bring their talents and skills to further develop our local economy. No tourist or skilled worker is going to come to the northwest if we don't have salmon, clean water and unspoiled hiking terrain.
691. And when there is a spill, we will not only have a ruined economy but we'll have a ruined environment and be left on our own to try and clean up the mess.
692. Enbridge has permanently damaged the Kalamazoo River and I don't want a single one of the thousand streams and rivers that the pipelines will affect to suffer the same fate.
693. Local residents need to have control over what happens locally. Decisions

that could ruin our environment, our economy and our social communities cannot and should not be made by the federal government, or by private corporations who are motivated by greed and by profit, and not by taking care of communities for the long-term.

694. And why is what is right for the Chinese, or the Enbridge shareholders, or the Conservatives more important than what is right for us here in Northwestern B.C.?
695. This project is not in our national interest. And who defines that anyway, not Harper, not Daniels, but by citizens, and the evidence that I've seen in the latest poll affirms that the majority of British Columbians are opposed to this project.
696. So much of this is about trust. Enbridge wants us to trust them. And when I'm asked to trust something or someone that I don't know, I look around for evidence that they are trustworthy. And when I look around, all I see is evidence that I cannot trust Enbridge. I see the spills in Michigan in 2010 and up in the Northwest Territories in 2011. I see Enbridge's record of 610 spills between 1999 and 2008 and I can't believe that they expect us to take another chance.
697. So whom and what do I trust? I trust the mountains; I trust the rivers, the salmon that swim through them year after year, decade after decade, century after century. I trust the seasons and I trust the landscape which has shown us its faults and its foibles and will surely humble us again if this project goes ahead.
698. I also trust the others who are speaking with me. I trust the people who have lived here much longer than I have, who have tradition spanning generations and centuries. I trust the people who live and work on the land and on the water and who have decades of technical knowledge and personal history. These are also the people that you should trust.
699. I wouldn't be here if I didn't have hope. I have to believe that this will make a difference. I have to believe that 120-plus people from one community alone, standing together and united with one another and all the others who have spoken to you over this long process can help illuminate the project's dark and shadowy dangers that Enbridge and the federal government do not want you to see.
700. I'm here because I have to say I tried. I have to say that I took a stand, literally and figuratively, to voice my opposition and to make it known on public record that this project could do irrevocable damage, while not bringing any lasting

sustained or sustainable benefit to our community or our region.

701. We have everything to lose and nothing to gain and those who will benefit don't have to put anything on the line but everything that we value will be put at risk.

702. We know that none of you are from here, let alone from B.C. I wish at least one of you had some local knowledge so that when I say, as I did in my intro, that I grew up fishing in Babine Lake, that you not only know where that is but that you have a body memory of travelling there and been there, you know the sensations that I'm talking about, you can see not only the specific landscape but the journey to get there in your mind's eye and that you have your own memories that wash over you when I share mine.

703. I wish that when we talk about these rivers that they weren't some abstract concept for you but that they were also your childhood's playground and cast a net of memories around you.

704. I wish that when we talk about the coastline and our fears about the supertankers being able to navigate it, that you were here during the sinking of the Queen of the North and that you were as deeply affected by it as we were; that you feel what we feel; that our fears are your fears; that our ambitions to defend our backyard, our values and our way of life are your ambitions, and that our hopes for an oil-free and a pipeline-free northwest and coast are your hopes as well.

705. I urge you to reject this project application in its entirety.

706. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

707. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Is Mr. Eric Smith in the room? Mr. Eric Smith?

--- (No response/Aucune réponse)

708. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** No. Okay. Not coming, okay. Thank you very much.

709. That then completes the oral statements for this evening. I want to thank everyone who came and presented oral statements this evening.

Oral statements
Exposés oraux

710. We will sit again tomorrow afternoon and tomorrow evening. So we will start again tomorrow afternoon at 1 o'clock.

711. Thank you everyone. Good night.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

--- Upon adjourning at 8:07 p.m./L'audience est ajournée à 20h07