

**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 48

**Hearing held at
Audience tenue à**

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

**April 27, 2012
Le 27 avril 2012**

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

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Imprimé au Canada

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), Friday, April 27, 2012
Audience tenue à Smithers (Colombie-Britannique), Vendredi, le 27 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

Laura Bakermans
Pashan Bassett
Monty Bassett
Dennis Courtliff
Simone Groth
Morgan Hite
Richard Jenne
Andrea Newell
Samantha Ormond
Ivan Polfliet
George Stokes
Todd Stockner
Ron Vanderstar
Eric Anderson

ERRATA

Thursday, April 26, 2012 - Volume 47

Paragraph No.:

Should read:

Cover pages

HEARING LOCATION/LIEU DE L'AUDIENCE

Hearing held in Smithers (British Columbia),
Thursday, April 65, 2012

Hearing held in Smithers (British Columbia)
Thursday, April 26, 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS/TABLE DES MATIÈRES

(i)

Description	Paragraph No./No. de paragraphe
Opening remarks by the Chairperson	1494
Oral statement by Laura Bakermans	1512
Oral statement by Pashan Bassett	1534
Oral statement by Monty Bassett	1550
Oral statement by Simone Groth	1573
Oral statement by Dennis Courtliff	1595
Oral statement by Morgan Hite	1617
Oral statement by Richard Jenne	1647
Oral statement by Andrea Newell	1662
Oral statement by Samantha Ormond	1690
Oral statement by Ivan Polfliet	1723
Oral statement by George Stokes	1759
Oral statement by Todd Stockner	1791
Oral statement by Ron Vanderstar	1835
Oral statement by Eric Anderson	1861

LIST OF EXHIBITS/LISTE DES PIÈCES

(i)

No.	Description	Paragraph No./No. de paragraphe
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--- Upon commencing at 8:59 a.m./L'audience débute à 9h59

1494. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Good morning everyone, thank you for being here. My name is Sheila Leggett and on my right is Mr. Kenneth Bateman ---

1495. **MEMBER BATEMAN:** Good morning.

1496. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** --- and on my left is Mr. Hans Matthews.

1497. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Good morning.

1498. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** We'd like to give our thanks and appreciation to Chief Namox for welcoming us to the Wet'suwet'en Nation when we began these community hearings on Monday afternoon, and also thank him for his inspiring words about respect.

1499. As we get underway, I'll just point out the exits; there's two at the back of the room, two at the side, another two at the front here. Washrooms are either close to this room or turn right down the hall and there's another set by the restaurant.

1500. We have a number of staff members with us as well, and many of you will have already met them. Everybody is wearing a gold nametag and that identifies them as being with the NEB or the Secretariat Members and if you have any process or procedural related questions, they would be the people to ask the questions to and they'll be able to give you the answers, or at least find the answers if they don't have them readily at hand.

1501. In addition to that, we have a couple of contractors with us; we have our court reporter as well as our IT/sound technician.

1502. Kenneth, Hans and I are all members of the National Energy Board and we've been tasked to make decisions for the Northern Gateway Pipeline Limited Partnership Application.

1503. 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 receive as part of this joint review process.

1504. The session today, as all our sessions are, is being broadcast through our -- live through our Panel website and that's also the place where you go to find out any

Opening remarks

additional information that you might want, as far as our procedure, the written record that's already been filed on this process.

1505. The process for the joint review includes two sets of hearings and the set that we're here today for is the community hearings in which we're going to oral statements from registrants who've already registered to provide these to us.

1506. Oral statements are an opportunity for participants to provide their personal knowledge and views about the proposed project to the Panel.

1507. The timeframe for each oral statement is a maximum of 10 minutes and we do this to be fair and also to make sure that everybody has the opportunity to speak to us who have been scheduled for today.

1508. There's a timer system here and I'm pretty sure it's already been explained to all the presenters but there's an audible sound and a yellow light at three minutes, and then another audible sound and a red light at 10 minutes.

1509. I'm sorry, did I misspeak? At seven minutes, thank you very much. Sorry. Thank you for the correction.

1510. And lastly, before we begin to listen to you, I'd just confirm that all the speakers who've registered to give an oral statement today have been previously sworn or affirmed by our Panel staff.

1511. So with that, Ms. Bakermans, have I got that right, Ms. Bakermans? Please proceed.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ PAR MS. LAURA BAKERMANS:

1512. **MS. LAURA BAKERMANS:** Good morning.

1513. I've been a Smithers resident for about five years. I chose Smithers as my home primarily because it offered many opportunities for outdoor recreation. Since moving here, I've also developed a huge appreciation for this community.

1514. I feel very fortunate to live in an inspiring place that's full of inspiring people. And having been here all week listening to the local residents speak eloquently and passionately about the area, I'm sure you have some idea of what I'm talking about.

1515. Enbridge's proposed pipeline has the potential to irrevocably damage this community, our rivers, our fish, our local economy, our lifestyle, our health and our happiness are all at risk. I spend as much time as possible outside, exploring on foot, on my bike, in a boat or on skis. I feel happiest and most myself when I'm in the mountains or on a river.
1516. In my white-water kayak I've had the opportunity to experience many north western B.C. rivers from a unique perspective; the Telkwa, the Bulkley, the Skeena, the Babine, the Nass, the Clore, the Kitimat and many more.
1517. I've seen eagles swoop down just in front of me to grab fish from the water. I've floated quietly along so as not to disturb a mama grizzly and her cubs. I've admired familiar scenery from a different viewpoint. I've paddled beside First Nations fish wheels in operation. I've camped in remote and beautiful areas.
1518. I've watched the faces of new paddlers as they rolled up successfully in a challenging rapid for the first time and I've been in eddies that are so full of salmon that there's a continual thumping of fish on the bottom of my boat.
1519. These are all amazing experiences, they connect me to the people I'm with, to the landscape, to the communities and the history in the area. These are experiences that I want to continue having; they're experiences that I want to share with friends, family and new acquaintances who choose to travel or settle here. These experiences don't have a dollar value that can be factored into any equation but they are very important to me.
1520. I work as a civil engineer and my only encounter with oil pipeline projects to date was being involved in the design and construction of a new water transmission main. And that was required because the drinking water supply for the community of Chetwynd B.C. was compromised by an oil pipeline spill in the Pine River in 2000.
1521. And I guess you could say that the engineering firm that I worked for derived some benefit from that spill, but I find it hard to consider that incident in a positive light.
1522. I like to approach problems and decisions methodically. I'm definitely a pros and cons or risk versus benefits kind of girl. I've done a lot -- quite a bit of reading about this project in the last little while and a few things are clear to me.

Oral statements
Exposés oraux

1523. The risks and benefits of this project are not equitably distributed and the people who take on the risk are certainly not the people who see the benefits. There are many risks, the risks are high, they're well known and they have potentially long-lasting and far-reaching effects.
1524. The reported benefits are short-sighted, they're not broadly applicable. And in the case of figures regarding job creation and increased revenue, the numbers used to support the arguments do not seem to capture the entire picture.
1525. I'm here today to state clearly that I do not support the proposed pipeline project and I do not believe that it is in the best interest of the Canadian public. I fully support the First Nations and I thank them for their conviction in opposing it.
1526. I disagree with the decision not to consider broader climate change issues in evaluating this project. I'm not a radical. I haven't received any foreign funding to be here, and I'm not anti-development. I just think that development can and should be smart, sustainable and have long-lasting benefit to many.
1527. I appreciate having this opportunity to be heard, but I am concerned about government statements implying that this process may have little real power to influence the end result.
1528. It also bothers me to know people who don't feel able to take part in this process and share their opinions on this project because of perceived conflict with their roles as provincial government employees.
1529. I want to believe that Canada is still a democracy. I want to believe that, in the end, the many voices opposed to this project will truly be heard. I want to believe that Canada will set good examples of sustainable and environmentally responsible development.
1530. Please consider these words in making your decision. Thank you.
- (Applause/Applaudissements)
1531. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Good morning Ms. Bassett, on this beautiful morning.
1532. **MS. PASHAN BASSETT:** Good morning to you.

1533. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Please go ahead and present to the Panel.
 Okay, thank you.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MS. PASHAN BASSETT:

1534. **MS. PASHAN BASSETT:** Have you heard the news this morning? The Highway 16 is closed from Houston to Burns Lake because there is a big sinkhole. Just a testimony of where we live. This land is very, very active. Very alive. We never know from one day to the next what will happen.

1535. I acknowledge my brothers and my sisters, for we are kin in our same view of the love and responsibility we carry for our mother, the Earth. I acknowledge the Wet'suwet'en. I sincerely thank the Panel for their presence, making it possible for us to express ourselves.

1536. My name is Pashan Bassett, and I have lived in Smithers since 1998. I have lived in many parts of the world, which makes me realize exactly where I am and what I and all have to lose. I have two nationalities, one French and one Canadian, and I have chosen to live the remainder of my life in this valley, in this land. And my roots have grown deep in a short amount of time.

1537. I have been here all week listening, seeing and listening some more when I returned home. These brave people have set aside all their masks and have spoken with their hearts and with their inner wisdom. It takes bravery to stand naked, for without the mask one is as if naked, and speak not only to the Panel, but to the country and to the world.

1538. Their sincerity humbled me and it consumed me. In fact, I have been feeling all consumed all week, like a fire has been lit in my belly, a raging fire that I wonder what will appease it.

1539. I had written my statement to you before coming to listen to this week's process of citizens conveying their deep feelings on an issue such as this, a totally insane idea that we are supposed to reasonably discuss in polite and civil way. Of course, last night I started to re-write my statement over and over, trying to set down on paper every single thing that had been given to you in a slightly different way. I wrote until 2 o'clock this morning.

1540. My husband could feel my frenzy and I could see his worry. I coached myself to sleep and awoke after 4:00 a.m. with a memory of a nightmare that stuck to

me like glue. So, once again, I scrapped all that I had written and rewritten in hope I could capture all the voices through my voice, for this is very serious.

1541. For the record, the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline is not only an insane proposal, but a frightening and dangerous one. When I think of this proposal, my heart starts to go into despair and I feel it ache and break. No words are clear enough to convey to you how I feel. So I go back to all the testimonies I have heard this week, hear them, see them and take comfort from them.

1542. We are on top of this abyss coming into this new century. We wonder how we're going to get to the other side. It all of a sudden becomes clear; there is only one way. We will build a bridge, a bridge using each unique gift that each unique person has so generously shared with us this week. And together, this bridge will be built and it will be strong, strong enough that many new generations will be able to cross to the other side.

1543. There are no more First Nations or white people of European descent; there is only one people, the people who believe in each other and who love this Mother Earth who puts up with us, one bad idea after another. But she is coaxing us to become the magnificent beings that we are and I begin to feel my inner raging fire come into control. And I feel my inner peace and all I can think of is I most definitely want to hang on to this feeling.

1544. I am an artist. I attempt to put down on a flat surface with paint the essence and feeling of this clean, rugged, beautiful land. Everything about it embraces my spirit. I have always known my kin, my tribe is in this land and together we will stand, true north strong and free.

1545. I will leave you with an image. Sitting here all week, listening to each testimony, I began to see each person as a unique golden thread. These threads began to weave together, creating the most incredible tapestry. It was stunning. I could imagine it could be seen from the -- way out into the cosmos.

1546. There are some of us who refuse to go along with the constant assault to the earth, the constant violence to the natural world. For what? To line a few pockets with more profits? To that I say no. Let's put our value house back in order.

1547. Ms. Leggett, Mr. Matthew and Mr. Bateman, I have been watching, with attention, the attention that you have been listening to us, and my heart knows that you will make your decision fairly and justly, with HGA, which means the highest

good of all.

1548. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

1549. **MEMBER BATEMAN:** Mr. Bassett, thank you for being here. Please present your oral statement.

--- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. MONTY BASSETT:**

1550. **MR. MONTY BASSETT:** Good morning. My name is Monty Bassett and you're Ms. Leggett, Mr. Bateman and Mr. Matthews? Great. Amayah (ph). Welcome.

1551. I live on a ranch on the east side of the valley. You met Pashan and you know that we have five daughters, and each one of them is an environmental warrior. I make a living as a natural history documentary filmmaker for a number of national and international broadcasters and, like so many here today, I came to this valley 36 years ago out of choice, not necessity.

1552. There are many stories I can tell you about why I came here, about seeing a wonderful wild land where I was raised in Wyoming that was turned into a wasteland where you can light the water with a match. I could talk about a dream of Canada, that we could be a role model for the world instead of an embarrassment.

1553. My reasons for wanting to stop this project are many, and they run deep. But because so many people have spoken ahead of me so eloquently and passionately, I will instead talk about -- talk to this Panel about two items that haven't received much attention.

1554. The first item is thank you. Thank you for sitting on a chair paying attention for eight hours a day for 100 days or more. This is undue torture, you know.

1555. We don't even ask convicted felons to put up with that, listening to 4,336 people, each of us hoping that you will carry away a grain of what we've said, each speaking from the depths of our hearts with such moving fervour and resolve.

1556. Certainly this outpouring of emotion has to have a huge effect upon you. I sincerely hope that the petroleum industry pays you well. You deserve it.

1557. Unfortunately, mere words and reasons do not convey our feelings for our water, for this land and for the wealth of the ecosystem that is supported by it. It's too bad that we didn't have the chance to show you around.
1558. In fact, there's this great walkland -- Webways Walkland just behind the hotel here where you could have experienced what we're talking about and understand a little better the depth of our resolution.
1559. But most of all, I want to thank you for this process. Even though it may just be window dressing for a deaf government, your presence here has done so much. You have provided us a point of focus for collectively bringing our thoughts together, a forum to express ourselves amongst ourselves, sharing ideas, strategies, forming alliances and, most of all, strengthening our collective resolve. We cannot have done it without you.
1560. This process to legitimize Enbridge's proposal has backfired. Instead, it has become an exciting democratic event for galvanizing us into a powerful force. Mark my words, Enbridge will be Canada's dismantling of the Berlin Wall, our Arab Spring.
1561. Our voice via the internet is going global. In fact, thanks to the net, I have friends in the West Indies -- Canadian friends in the West Indies who are listening to us live. Yes, with all sincerity, I do thank you for coming here. And of course, I thank Enbridge and Mr. Harper.
1562. The second point neglected in these hearings is this. The proposal is not just an issue of environmental degradation, tar sands, supertankers down our treacherous Pacific west coast, nor is it just the devastation that a single mishap will inflict upon our lives and the First Nations, their very culture is at stake.
1563. In fact, it is not even an issue about serving China's national interests and the Harper government's need to feed them at the expense of our children's future. This pipeline proposal is nothing less than a historical, epic drama between the international petroleum industry and the foundations of democracy.
1564. Strong words, but just think; in just the last few months, we have witnessed the very laws to protect the environment and fisheries completely gutted. Opponents are called radicals, native nations are called dysfunction.

Oral statements
Exposés oraux

1565. In fact, we recently discovered that even the foreign ownership laws and the offshore investment caps are being changed to accommodate foreign interests like China. More germane, this very review process that is supposed to examine proposals of national, environmental -- national, environmental and energy concerns has been turned into a toothless, muzzled watchdog.

1566. What is coming next? Will we see events unfold, the enactment of the *War Measures Act* to silence us?

1567. Still, for all of the Prime Minister's shenanigans, this pipeline will not proceed for three succinct reasons. First, you can polish the stupid idea until the very fabric of Canada is in tatters; it will still be a stupid idea.

1568. Secondly, and this is my grain of salt that I hope you take with you -- grain of sand that I hope you take with you. This proposal is not the will of the people. It is not the will of the natives, of northerners, municipalities, eminent economists or even Anglican Bishops think this is a stupid idea. It is not the will of the people.

1569. Thirdly, the world's petroleum industry has tragically -- excuse me -- missed the depth of resolve of so many who will do whatever it takes. Whatever it takes. This proposal is not the will of the people.

1570. In conclusion, Ms. Leggett, Mr. Bateman, Mr. Matthews, I hope you will take our grains of sand -- our grains of sand back to Ottawa and make a beach out of them. And when the time comes to face the Prime Minister, I hope you will stand tall and say to him, "Steve, we've reached a decision and you're not going to like it".

1571. Amayah (ph). Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

1572. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Welcome, Ms. Groth. Please proceed with your oral statement when you're ready.

--- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MS. SIMONE GROTH:**

1573. **MS. SIMONE GROTH:** Good morning. I first came to the Bulkley Valley when I was 16, visiting a good friend who had immigrated to Telkwa.

Oral statements
Exposés oraux

1574. For me, coming to northern B.C. was a little like stepping back in time. I said to myself, so this is what it's like when Europe still had bears and wolves and salmon. And there was so much free space compared to my crowded home country that I felt liberated. Needless to say, I love the outdoors.
1575. I came back a few years later and now live in Houston with my three children where we have a small acreage and we drink the water out of a well, and it's excellent.
1576. So far, there has been a lot of talk about the possible effects of the proposed pipeline. All the concerns that I had originally listed have been brought forth already, and -- by others, and very eloquently. I therefore thought I would tell you a little about my experiences growing up in the Rhine Valley in Switzerland.
1577. With Europe being heavily populated, especially along the waterways, the industrial revolution had managed to pollute the Rhine so badly that there was no longer any salmon returning and only very resilient species of aquatic life forms could still be found in the river.
1578. Realizing that conditions needed to change, the international cooperation for the protection of the Rhine was formed in the 1950s. They tried to reduce the wastewater that was going into the Rhine at the time, but progress was slow.
1579. It took a large accident in 1986 where -- when a fire at a chemical plant in Basel, Switzerland spilled millions of toxic chemicals into the river, killing millions of fish and other wildlife. I still remember the public outcry over that accident.
1580. Pressure from the public brought about the Rhine Action Program, which set out with the goal of reintroducing salmon into the river by the year 2000. This project was actually successful.
1581. However, the recovery of the Rhine River ecosystem will take decades more, and the costs for the salmon 2000 projects were in the multi-million Euros, and is still ongoing.
1582. Well, it is no longer the 1950s when people in Europe just started to realize that rivers needed to be taken care of. We are now fully aware of the effects pollution has on our water bodies, and subsequently, on all life around it.
1583. Our river still flows into the Pacific unhindered and clean, and we should

consider ourselves very, very lucky to be living here and put all our efforts into keeping it that way.

1584. When I was reading about the proposed pipeline on Enbridge's website, I came across words such as "extensive training of our employees", only to find an article about Enbridge being cited for not properly training its employees. Or another statement, "If an incident should occur, Northern Gateway will be there quickly to control, contain and clean up".

1585. This made me think of the Kalamazoo River, which was polluted in July 2010, and crews are still now cleaning it up. Or another statement, "Enbridge invests heavily in pipeline safety", while at the same time being cited for improper corrosion monitoring.

1586. Reading Enbridge's website actually made me think of my ex-husband's stories while he was working in the Alberta oil field, where safety was preached and environmental protections were being preached, but the reality was different. Shortcuts were taken.

1587. Building this pipeline could also double the production of oil in the tar sands. Allowing this to happen would then also mean that we are okay with what is going on in the tar sands.

1588. That extracting oil from the soil without a satisfying and safe solution for the disposal of the waste produced in the process is okay. There's no problem with huge tailing ponds from which poisons slowly leak back into the Athabasca River.

1589. We don't mind that the people living downstream are experiencing increased cancer rates because, let's face it, making a profit is much more important. Let's deal with possible side effects only when they actually happen sometime down the road and hopefully our scientists will then come up with some solution.

1590. Let's not think like that any longer. I say we need to radically change our way of thinking. Let's put way more importance to the long-term effects of our actions. We need to realize that while we can find other forms of energy, we cannot live without clean water. I thus strongly oppose the Enbridge Project.

1591. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

1592. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you to each of you for taking the time to prepare your statements and to be here to present them to us.

--- (A short pause/Courte pause)

1593. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Okay, good morning to everyone. We're interested in hearing your oral statements; so we'll start off with Mr. Courtliff.

1594. Thanks.

--- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. DENNIS COURTLIFF:**

1595. **MR. DENNIS COURTLIFF:** Morning. My name is Dennis Courtliff and I'm a retired teacher, and I've lived in Smithers since late 1980. Previously I lived in Kitimat for six years.

1596. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be heard.

1597. At the outset, let me say I'm opposed to this project. I fully understand that we're extremely dependent on oil and will be for some time to come. But what experiences have led me to the conclusion that this project should not take place.

1598. At university in the late sixties I studied psychology, and I was intrigued by an experiment which introduced insects into a closed environment. The population of insects expanded rapidly and then collapsed immediately or in a very short period of time. The insects had expanded beyond the capacity of their environment to support them. And this has implications, I believe, for the human population given the projection of a nine billion population by 2050.

1599. In the 1980s the concept of spaceship earth was circulated. We needed to preserve our environment for our own survival. At the time I used an analogy with my students in school. Imagine the earth's ecosystems were like a thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle that you could turn on its edge and it would stand alone unsupported. Each time we damage a part of the puzzle in some way a piece is removed.

1600. Using a computer we could predict before each piece was removed whether the whole puzzle would collapse. Then we would move from the jigsaw puzzle to the earth. In comparison the jigsaw puzzle, the complexity was almost infinite.

1601. Our knowledge is limited as to the nature of each ecosystem and their dependence on each other and our dependence on these ecosystems. Predicting if and when removal of a puzzle piece, i.e. damaging an ecosystem would cause collapse is totally impossible.
1602. It would make some sense then to minimize the risk of damage to the environment as much as possible. Given the nature of this project, it does not, in my mind, fit into the minimizing risk category.
1603. The nature of the substance to be moved is more harmful than most other sources of oil, and the terrain is such that landslides, or if not frequent, they're known to happen more than in other areas.
1604. Since I have lived in the northwest, I can think of five such events which affected the people of this area. In the early 1970s there was a slide west of Terrace which killed several people. In the late seventies, I remember -- I was away at the time travelling, and I heard that heavy rainfalls in the northwest had caused a landslide which caused a train to go into the Skeena River.
1605. I have experienced a week without a supply of natural gas because the PNG gas supply was cut off. East of Terrace, in 2007, there was a landslide which blocked the road, and recently I was travelling back from McBride toward Smithers and there was a stoppage and road works. And what had happened was the road had collapsed completely. One half of the road had collapsed completely and slid away.
1606. These events are all in areas which are not remote. How many other events would have happened in areas too remote to be noticed or deemed not worth reporting because there was no obvious impact on people?
1607. When I came to use a search engine to establish dates for the slide events I mentioned, I was stunned by two studies I came across. The first was entitled "Flooding and Landslide Events in Northern British Columbia, 1820 to 2006". The author of this report is D. Septer and it is published by the Province of B.C., Ministry of the Environment.
1608. The chronological list of events fills 193 pages. The write up for each event ranges from five lines to a page in length. Understandably, there are very few reports for the early years, but the number of reports increases with the greater availability of information.

1609. The second report was entitled “An Overview of Recent Large Catastrophic Landslides in Northern B.C., Canada”. The authors are Barton Geertsema et al. I quote from the introduction:

“At least 38 rapid landslides, larger than .5 million cubic metres, all with run-outs longer than 1 kilometre have occurred in Northern B.C. since 1973.”

1610. This statistic begs the question, if there are 38 of this magnitude how many might there be which are lesser, yet capable of producing severe damage to infrastructure, but they are not recorded in a study because they were smaller than the size chosen for that study?

1611. Another area I see as a concern which is relevant here is the nature of the corporation. While the law does not say that a corporation must maximize its profits, it is somewhat ambiguous.

1612. Milton Friedman held very strongly that corporations should do so. And that would seem to be the most commonly held view today. Executives tend to feel that they are ethically obliged to maximize the return for the investor. Add to this equation the results of a recent study that suggests that people tend to be more optimistic than circumstances would dictate, and there is perhaps a reason for concern.

1613. If executives are in a situation where they feel maximizing returns is important and at the same time they are looking through rose-coloured glasses, they are not being dishonest or in any way underhand when they claim that the project is safe and risks are minimal; their opinions are formed by the culture they live and work in.

1614. It is up to those like myself who do not feel the same way to clearly say that we believe this project is problematic and should not go forward. Our opinions are formed in a culture with different perceptions.

1615. Thank you for allowing me to put my thoughts forward and I hope these presentations are of some value to you when you make your decisions regarding this project.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

1616. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Mr. Hite, thank you for choosing to be here today. Please proceed with your oral statement.

--- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. MORGAN HITE:**

1617. **MR. MORGAN HITE:** Thanks. Ken, Sheila, and Hans, thanks for coming here to town.

1618. I want to say I appreciate your coming in the spirit of inquiry and fairness, and I think that even if the environmental assessment has been tinkered with at higher political levels, I think that you three are genuinely interested in what you're going to learn here.

1619. I liked what Jane Stevenson said yesterday about ground truthing and I think your mission is worthwhile. And I'm sure it's quite difficult to see this continuous stream of people here addressing you and to absorb all the emotions and the points the people are making.

1620. I really had two careers; one as a computer guy, I've been playing with computers since 1973, and one as an instructor and wilderness expeditionary travel. So I won't regale you of advice about how to stay warm above tree line in a storm. But I do want to say a couple things about technology.

1621. Think about how normal it sounds for someone to say to you, I'm having a problem with my email; my car is not working quite right; iTunes isn't working; something's wrong with my GPS. These are so familiar to us. Nothing designed by human beings just works, except duct tape, which always works.

--- (Laughter/Rires)

1622. **MR. MORGAN HITE:** But my point is that in the technical community failure is normal and even enjoyable if you get to fix it. But that's not how we think of technology. As buyers, we always deny past experience and we make the leap of faith that this time it'll be different. That shiny new iPad will work and not give us any problems.

1623. The Enbridge pipeline is a shiny new iPad, and there will be problems. They're building in a new kind of terrain for them. And we would be in a state of complete denial to think it'll just work. But their place -- this place is too precious to

be a sandbox for tinkering around in.

1624. You know, being north and remote often means that we're looked upon as a convenient area for resource extraction. We are not a convenient area. We are not a convenient area for the location of a piece of resource-related infrastructure either, like the pipeline.
1625. Of course when visitors come we take them fishing. And how will it feel to say, "Yeah, the river's not so good as it used to be. People don't fly in from the U.S. and Europe to fish here anymore because of an industrial accident." An industrial accident here; we don't need that risk.
1626. Spill or not, if the pipeline goes in I will lose some pride in Canada. This country is usually such a model of wisdom. We don't do the BP spill here. The Exxon Valdez doesn't run aground in our waters. Are we trying to join that club?
1627. I would argue that you should say no to this project because the energy return on investment of tar sands oil, when delivered through this pipe, is too low. An energy source makes sense when its energy return on investment or EROI is quite high.
1628. Eighty (80) years ago, the EROI for light crude could be as high as 100:1. That means you consume the energy equivalent of one barrel of oil to deliver 100 to market. The EROI of tar sands oils delivered through this pipeline to the far east, once you factor in the shipping of the condensate and the energy consumed to extract the bitumen from the tar sands, has been estimated at less than 3:1.
1629. That means we're burning the energy equivalent of one barrel of oil to deliver two and a half; an energy price so high as to make the most experienced energy executive nervous. After all, who would walk into a grocery store and be excited at a "Buy five for the price of seven" deal which is what this amount to.
1630. You should also say no because even if it were light Alberta crude with an EROI of 1:100 Enbridge has an appalling spill prevention record. And you should say no because tanker traffic in the Douglas Channel is just too risky.
1631. So in short, I would summarize this proposal as the wrong oil, in the hands of the wrong company, in the wrong place. And while two rights often make a wrong, in this case I think three wrongs just make a big wrong.

1632. Sadly, none of this is a good argument against the pipeline. A good argument may be based on facts or feelings but a good argument will only be good if it can answer the central question.
1633. And the central question here is what are we going to say to the serious oilmen and politicians who want this pipeline? How will we answer them? How will we stand up in front of them and say, "Bad news boys, we're not going to be able to build this one".
1634. I consider this my problem as well as yours because if you decide to buck the trend and come out against the pipeline you're going to need all the help you can get. You may be in the position of saying to your colleagues, perhaps your mentors, possibly even your friends, that this one just won't go.
1635. And to be able to do that you're going to be able to convince them that you still believe in their vision, you still believe in their goals, you still believe that in the long-term they will succeed, just not on this one.
1636. There are a number of ways we can go about this. The right of First Nations as established by the Supreme Court may be one piece. Arguments about the wisdom of keeping the oil for Canadian use may be another piece. The precedent of the Berger Inquiry is there.
1637. Arguments that the route is too hazardous or too environmentally sensitive, I might avoid these even if they appear significant to you, as they do to me. The problem is that engineers tend to hear this sort of thing as a challenge. "We can solve that problem" they say.
1638. Lingering doubt can be a useful ally in these situations. Perhaps the proposal is approved, yet the environmental assessment process has brought to light so many other issues that it would be wise to delay its implementation for a number of years.
1639. A project I've undertaken recently on the side has been to map the pipeline route at a large scale. I downloaded the most detailed set of provincial data on streams and rivers and laid it against the pipeline route in B.C.
1640. So when we look at the map projected up here, how many rivers and streams does it look like there will be a crossing of? The maps are great, but you have to remember that every map being authored consists of a series of deliberate

choices. And the shortcoming of this map is its lack of detail.

1641. I might guess 100 streams will get crossed on that map but the truth is that I found 681 stream crossings in B.C.; 681 streams and rivers, roughly one every kilometre. The pipeline route also manages to hit the watersheds of 11 major rivers.

1642. To tell you how remarkable this is let me say there are only a couple other places you could run a pipeline across B.C. and hit that many watersheds. We have the Smoky, the Pine, the Parsnip, the Peace, the Fraser, the Stewart, the Babine, the Nechako, the Morice Bulkley, the Zymoetz and the Kitimat.

1643. You could conceivably, and I'm not saying this will happen, but you could conceivably send pollution from this pipeline, simultaneously down the Skeena to the north coast, down the Fraser to Vancouver, and up the Peace to the Arctic Ocean. You have to agree when they say it cuts right through the heart of the country.

1644. I'd like to thank you for listening to my statement. And as my last point, I'd like to say, it is government's job to stop wealth creation projects that are bad for the country. This is one of them. I ask you to give the project a decisive no.

1645. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

1646. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Good morning, Mr. Jenne. Please proceed with your oral statement when you're ready.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. RICHARD JENNE:

1647. **MR. RICHARD JENNE:** Thank you. I'd like to welcome the Panel to our community and thank the Wet'suwet'en for permitting these hearings to be held on their territory.

1648. I'm opposed to this pipeline. I was born, raised, studied music, met my wife and started a family all in Edmonton, Alberta. We left Alberta when the tar sands development was in its infancy and moved to Smithers where our son was born and we lived for 27 years.

1649. I'm a father of three and a grandfather to two gorgeous little boy who live here in the Bulkley Valley. Northern B.C. is my home and I feel responsible to care

for, nurture and protect this area that supports us all.

1650. Enbridge proposes to build a pipeline to transport bitumen through hundreds of miles of rugged terrain, across hundreds of watercourses to the coast where it will be loaded into supertankers that will then try to make their way through extremely difficult waters, on to the open sea and eventually to China; a country noted for its abysmal environmental standards.
1651. This is a project that B.C. residents oppose, the Union of B.C. Municipalities opposes, more than 100 B.C. First Nations oppose, and the city councils of Prince Rupert, Smithers and Terrace oppose. Our MLA and our MP have also spoken out strongly against the pipeline.
1652. The reasons for this opposition have been eloquently and repeatedly stated through these hearings, and will, if this process is not hijacked, continue to be expressed by scientists, business people, farmers, educators, working people, mothers, fathers, grandparents, in short, Canadian citizens hoping that this review is a fair process and that good sense, good evidence and the true value of this land, these communities and, most importantly, these waters, rivers, lakes and ocean will prevail.
1653. I am an educator, a counsellor and a musician. I'm not a First Nations person with thousands of years of history on the land, I'm not a hydrologist or a river guide or a botanist or a coastal fisherman, but I am confident that you've heard and will hear from the local people with these backgrounds.
1654. These are the experts. They live here, they know these waterways. They know this terrain, they know this climate and its challenges, they are all saying no. The risks are too great and the benefits to Canadians are too few.
1655. If this pipeline is built there will be spills, and we, the northern residents, the First Nations and our children will be left tending the remnant damage.
1656. I'd like to talk about courage now. The definition of courage, according to the Miriam Webster Dictionary is: "The mental or moral strength to venture, persevere and withstand danger, fear or difficulty".
1657. I'm overwhelmed by the courage of the citizens who have presented to this Panel, who have taken time from their busy complicated lives to do research, to take time off work, to put their lives on hold to state their opposition to this project. They've been called radicals and enemies of the state, and still they persevere.

1658. The definition of moral courage is the ability to act rightly in the face of authority, popular opposition, shame, scandal and discouragement. Moral courage is directly related to my final plea.

1659. I ask the Members of the Joint Review Panel to have the moral courage to listen to the statements from our local citizens and the evidence from our local experts. I ask you to have the moral courage to resist the pressure from our federal government to disregard public input. This review feels like our last hope for democratic input.

1660. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

1661. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Good morning, Ms. Newell. Please go ahead and present your oral statement.

--- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MS. ANDREA NEWELL:**

1662. **MS. ANDREA NEWELL:** Hi. Thanks. Okay, thank you for the opportunity to speak.

1663. Before I begin, I would like to say that I'm speaking on behalf of myself and I'm not representing any group or organization.

1664. I live 20 minutes south of Houston off of Buck Flats Road, in a little community of no more than 50 houses. I live approximately 5 kilometres from where the proposed Enbridge twin pipeline will cross Buck Creek. This creek is the major water source for the community of Buck Flats.

1665. For those of you not familiar with the area, Buck Creek bends and turns, it travels roughly north before heading into Houston. Once in Houston, it runs through town past the pool, park, senior centre, retirement home, college and mall, before it flows under Highway 16 and the railway tracks. Further along, it joins the Bulkley River and eventually the Skeena River until finally reaching the ocean.

1666. Buck Creek and the valley through which it runs separates Pleasant Valley from the head of Francois Lake. Not far away is the divide between the Fraser and the Skeena watersheds. These mighty watersheds curl around one another, making it

confusing at times. For example, Buck Creek and Morice River, located 20 kilometres to the west, are both part of the Skeena watershed, while Parrot Creek, located in between the two, is part of the Fraser.

1667. Buck Creek has a history. A Wet'suwet'en Elder told me that he used to fish the falls when he was a kid. The creek once thrived with salmon. As industry in the area increased, fish began to disappear. Forestry and mining have taken their toll, including the Equity Mine spills in the early 1980s.
1668. For those not familiar with these events, acid rock drainage, or ARD, leached from the mine into surrounding creeks that eventually flowed into Buck Creek, contaminating the water.
1669. Goldcorp states that they expected to be collecting and treating ARD at the Equity Silver Mine site indefinitely. Over 30 years later, this waterway has not yet recovered from industry.
1670. The community of Buck Flats also has a history. The road was built in the early 1900s. For many years it was a route connecting Houston to Francois Lake. You can still see the outline of old cabins that have now become part of the forest floor, a long cook stove still standing, a testament to the strength of the prospectors, farmers, ranchers and loggers that once called this area home.
1671. As people who live here now know, weather conditions can be unforgiving. Sometimes crops failed and livestock died, but people survived, living off the wildlife, berries and salmon to get them through the rough times.
1672. On the outskirts of the community, the remnants of industry gone by can be seen marking the passage of time. A telegraph cabin, Bob Creek's old mine site, a long-abandoned beehive burner. This area has made it through boom and bust cycles, but industry sustained us. This historical context is needed to understand the people who live here now.
1673. Today the majority of people that live here work in big businesses, in either resource extraction or manufacturing. We need industry, there is no denying that but we also know the environmental legacy that irresponsible industry can leave. You don't have to go very far to find it.
1674. Most people still hunt and fish, supplementing their diets with fresh foods while helping to cut back on high grocery bills. The people that live here are

resilient. They have survived floods, fires and record snowfalls. In October of 2006, we experienced four feet of snow in one extended snowstorm. We could not get out for two days until a neighbour ploughed the road with a skidder.

1675. Through events like this I have learned that where I live can be dangerous and unpredictable place because of extreme weather and the remoteness of our location, but I've also learned that I love my community. I am raising my family here. I want to grow old here.

1676. So when I heard about the project, I went to the scheduled open house in Houston and looked at the route map. I spoke to Enbridge employees who assured me that these pipelines were safe, the best technology.

1677. As information became available I read up on the project online. I soon found a confusing world of facts. The deeper I looked, the more apparent it became that each camp had their own set of experts, numbers and vocabulary. What exactly is the definition of “rare” or “small” when it comes to spills? There seems to be little agreement.

1678. What we can agree upon is that, without question, water is our most valuable resource. All living things depend on water for survival. Around the world clean water sources are disappearing through depletion and pollution at an alarming rate.

1679. We can't ignore the risks that certain industries pose to this essential resource, especially when considering how these effects flow downstream.

1680. Stewardship of our waters is a responsibility that we all bear to safeguard our most precious resource. Water belongs to the people who depend on it, not a far-off government who is willing to risk it because it's not in their backyard.

1681. Our kids can't vote, and future generations not yet born will be the ones who will be the most impacted by the decisions made by this Joint Review Panel.

1682. Water is priceless. How do you put a value on it? How can you -- how can the risk be justified? With these pipelines the stakes are high, the area of potential impact large, not to mention the added challenge of adverse weather, remote locations, unstable slopes and avalanche areas. Think about the major fish-bearing rivers like the Morice, it also will be crossed by these pipelines.

Oral statements
Exposés oraux

1683. I firmly believe that industry that threatens a way of life, no matter what is gained, should not proceed because the risk is too great. There is a lot of issues surrounding the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project that I didn't talk about today, not because they aren't important, but because I want to focus on the area that I live.

1684. Just because I didn't talk about tankers in Kitimat or the exporting of raw resources, such as bitumen, or the environmental impact of the tar sands development, please do not misinterpret my silence for support or indifference.

1685. I am not a lawyer, nor a scientific expert, nor an engineer. I am speaking here today because no matter what has been said, spills happen, and no matter how we try to stop it, water flows downhill. And no matter how much money is offered, we cannot buy back what will be lost.

1686. I want it recorded that I stand opposed to the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project proposal.

1687. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

1688. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you to each of you for taking the time to prepare and to be here today.

--- (A short pause/Courte pause)

1689. **MEMBER BATEMAN:** Welcome to the panel, Ms. Ormond. Thank you for being here. Please proceed.

--- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MS. SAMANTHA ORMOND:**

1690. **MS. SAMANTHA ORMOND:** Thank you.

1691. Hi, my name is Samantha Ormond. I want to first take this opportunity to say thank you to the Panel for having us here today to speak our opinions on the Northern Gateway Project. How blessed we are to live in a nation where we are encouraged to speak our minds without persecution.

1692. I have lived in the Bulkley Valley for seven years, prior to that I was in Vancouver but originally I was born and raised in Ontario. I remember the first time

as a young girl that I saw a picture of a B.C. snow-capped mountain nestled beside the glittering ocean. And at that moment I knew in my heart that I would live one day in B.C. and it was something that I both longed and strived for.

1693. It was not until I moved out west that I realized how truly magical this province is. That it is much more than just mountains and ocean, but encompasses the glory of turquoise rivers, lakes and watersheds, extraordinary wildlife, timeless cultures, majestic old-growth forests, an incredible coastline and remarkable free people and lifestyles. No question, the west is the best.
1694. Upon moving to the valley, I was convinced that we were living in God's country, a paradise that offered a quality of life beyond what I had ever hoped for. Finally, I found the place that made my heart content and I settled down with my career as a nurse and started to build my family here. The appeal of the area has even caused my family from Ontario to uproot and plant themselves here with us. I feel very fortunate.
1695. But now, there is a dark cloud that hovers over this bright existence we all have here. The Enbridge pipeline and other proposed pipelines promise to wreak havoc on our paradise and possibly ruin it for generations to come.
1696. It's mostly our children that I am worried for. Now even my three-year old son understands this pipeline is a bad idea. When I told him about it he said to me, "Mommy, you have to talk to the people to tell them not to do that so they cannot ruin our house and our water".
1697. It breaks my heart to think of the impact this pipeline is going to have on our children. How Enbridge's victory with this pipeline is destined to be a defeat for the people of British Columbia.
1698. As a nurse, I cannot help but think of the detrimental health impacts the pipeline will have. I have a hard time envisioning any positives in this project.
1699. The construction of the pipeline alone is a dirty process, runoff and discharge from excavation will harm salmon and their habitat. There will be increased traffic along the coast. And let's not forget tar sands' production will increase so pollution and greenhouse gas emission is bound to increase too.
1700. Now the biggest concern is what happens when the pipeline leaks or when one of the massive tankers carrying oil spills, because we all know that this is

inevitable. The oil in the pipeline is corrosive and the pipeline will fracture at some point. The channel that the massive oil tankers are going to navigate is tedious and it's prone to spill at some point.

1701. The impacts of an oil spill on our environment, our ecosystems, economy, culture, lifestyle and livelihood will be massive. All in turn it will negatively affect our health. I have read many research articles about other health -- or other oil spills and their health effects and numerous problems have surfaced.
1702. Many common themes have been mentioned because honestly, not a lot of long-term studies have been conducted. Terms are repeated over and over such as:
1703. "The potential impact of physical and mental health has not yet to be comprehended; or there is need for bio monitoring of those exposed; or need for long-term effects on the population studied; and finally, the full magnitude of an environmental economic and human health effects of this major disaster remain unknown".
1704. That's right, an oil spill is considered a major disaster and we do not fully know the entire impacts such a disaster will have on our health or our area. Because recent studies, much like the skimmers that recover an oil spill on the water surface, only skim the surface of the real issues.
1705. So let's look at what harmful effects we are aware of with oil exposure. Much research refers to oil exposure as toxic or poisonous, where the toxic ingredients are benzene, polycyclic hydrocarbons and other heavy metals. All of these in present in the environment to pose health hazards to both wildlife and people.
1706. Some may use the argument that oil is biodegradable. Even so, the rate of degrading is unknown in a spill and the harm done in the initial spill stages to wildlife, ecosystems and those exposed is of importance.
1707. The following is just a short list of symptoms following acute exposure to oil: Vision loss; burning pain in ears, nose, mouth and throat; abdominal pain; nausea and vomiting; low blood pressure; breathing difficulty; throat swelling; convulsions; confusion; dizziness; headaches; weakness; seizures; skin blisters; burns and irritation.
1708. Many people after both the Kalamazoo River spill and the BP spill experienced respiratory illness, throat and eye irritation, headaches, dizziness, nausea

and vomiting.

1709. As you can see, symptoms can be widespread and once the crude oil is in the body, the chemicals can enter the bloodstream and circulate rapidly. These chemicals can move through cell walls and change the way cells work, damage DNA and disrupt normal hormonal body functions. Reproductive abnormalities, infertility, immune suppression and abnormal blood cell development has also been documented.
1710. There is no safe level of exposure to oil as it contains ingredients that can cause mutations and cancer. Longer term exposure such as the exposure for those cleaning up the oil spill or those who reside close to the spill can result in cancer and nervous system damage.
1711. Children are at higher risk with exposure because their increased respiratory rates increase the amount of toxins that they can inhale. Their skin is at increased risk for toxic exposure, and their bodies detoxify chemicals less effectively which can possibly lead to genetic toxicity and developmental abnormalities.
1712. Another huge area of harm noted in most studies is the mental health problems, ranging from general life destruction post-spill to anxiety and depression, post traumatic stress disorder, hopelessness, stress from the loss of employment related to spill and their financial difficulties, increased domestic violence and substance abuse.
1713. Even children have experienced mental health problems after spills, exhibited in irritability, poor feeding and sleep regression, poor school performance, social withdrawal and delinquency. Nobody is immune to the negative consequences of an oil spill.
1714. Let's assume that even if the fish or wildlife or humans are not immediately harmed by the oil spill, the optimal ingested at some point where there is bioaccumulation of hydrocarbons which may cause harm in the form of cancer, reproductive, hormonal or developmental problems. This is where the safety issue is involved in consumption of contaminated fish that occurs after a spill.
1715. The economical impact this may have on fisheries or for those who depend on salmon for their livelihood is huge. This economical impact increases when you add the cost of cleaning the oil spill with that of the loss of money in tourism and fisheries, with the increased cost of health care to treat those harmed by

Oral statements
Exposés oraux

the spill in the short and the long-term. Add this all up and the pipeline is becoming a huge cost to all of B.C.'s health.

1716. So from a nurse's perspective, holistically the pipeline is bad news. The financial gains for Enbridge will be a loss for us British Columbians as the pipeline strikes our determinants of health. Our social and physical environment, our economy, our physical and mental health, and our genetic composition is all at risk with an oil spill and with this pipeline.

1717. I fear that if this pipeline happens, in another 50 years a young person will not look at a picture of B.C. with the same longing that I once did because the brilliance of this province will be gone. I love this province with all of my heart and I am not willing to see it wrecked for the love of money. I am not willing to let our legacy be one of destruction.

1718. I say no to Enbridge and pipelines and tankers and I pray that the government will truly hear my voice.

1719. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

1720. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Good morning, Mr. Polfliet. I understand that you have a visual aid that you're going to use. I would just ask you when you do hold it up, if you would just describe it so that people listening in on the website will be able to understand what you're referring to.

1721. Thank you very much.

1722. Please proceed when you're ready.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. IVAN POLFLIET:

1723. **MR. IVAN POLFLIET:** It's Ivan Polfliet. Before I start, I would like to apologize for my English. Last summer my family and I emigrated from Belgium to this beautiful country. So we are still working on our new language and trying to fit it in this lovely town of Smithers.

1724. In spite of this language barrier, I want to be here today to tell you why I'm convinced that the Canadian government is making a huge mistake if they would

allow Enbridge to build the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline. I will try the best I can to make myself clear and share with you how this project would impact me, my family and my new community.

1725. Ten years ago, my family and I visited Canada for the first time and we were overwhelmed by the natural beauty of B.C., by the big open spaces and the impressive scenery this country still has to offer. Our children were speechless when they gazed at the wildlife that still can be seen when travelling to western Canada.
1726. Encountering whales while sailing through the inside passage makes a human being feel humble on this planet. I don't know if you Canadians realize it, but there's a big contrast with Belgium, the country I have lived in for 45 years.
1727. I have seen what happens with a country when governmental decisions destroyed most of our nature because they decided to give priority to making money instead of preserving the environment. It made Belgium, along with Cyprus, the most polluted country in all of Europe.
1728. Almost one year ago, I left the country to live here thinking that Canada would provide a better, healthier and greener future for me and my family. For years, I kept a file on my computers with a list of motives why it should be better to live in Canada than in Belgium. The way Canada had succeeded in protecting their natural environment in spite of an economy that relies on natural resources was one of the most important reasons to immigrate to Canada.
1729. I thought that Canada had a government that was ready for this century, realizing that protecting our natural environment is crucial for mankind to survive. But now I am here and, to my surprise, I see this country heading in the same direction as Belgium.
1730. With this oral statement, I hope I can help to stop this insanity because I know what lies at the end of the tunnel. I have been there. It was my natural habitat for 45 years, a land with almost no natural forests left, with almost all fauna completely wiped out. We don't know what wildlife is any more because we hardly have any wildlife in Belgium, a land in which rivers are so toxic and polluted, they support almost no life.
1731. We lived on the edge of the Scheldt, one of the major rivers in Belgium. And that river is so toxic, no one in their right mind would consider swimming in it. A land which consists of overpopulated cities connected by traffic-jammed highways;

a land in which breathing is all but enjoyable, and likely to give you cancer.

1732. Each year, 13,000 people in Belgium die because of the fine particles in the air they are breathing. In larger cities, people are given the advice to sport indoor because of the poor air quality.

1733. I can go on like this for a while, but I think you get the idea. Is this really what you want to happen to this great nation? Is this really what you want for those few places on this earth that are still more or less undefiled?

1734. For 23 years, I was a teacher in Belgium and I tried to teach my children in Grade 6 how they have to respect nature. I tried to make them aware of our role in the present situation in the world and what that role can or should be in the future. I taught them about global warning, about rainforests.

1735. A couple of years ago, we had our own project about this subject at school. We called it Mitakuye Oyasin, which means "everything is connected" in Lakota. With this project, we tried to tell our Belgian children that what happens to nature, to animals inevitably will happen to man.

1736. I used the natural beauty of Canada as an example to show them how people, for thousands of years, successfully lived in harmony with their environment. Every year, I showed my children in Grade 6 this movie, "The Great Bear Rainforest", to illustrate what wilderness really looks like. And the movie starts like this:

"It is the last wilderness of its kind. A forgotten northern rainforest where hundreds of pristine waterways splash from on high into the Pacific and where islands remain lost to time."

1737. So last year, we sold our house, packed our bags, left our friends and families and came to Smithers hoping we could spend the rest of our lives living the dream we had for so many years, living in a country where people still have the chance to feel part of nature instead of thinking that man can have it all his own way.

1738. You can't imagine the disillusionment when I first heard about the Northern Gateway pipeline and the devastating consequences it will have for our environment. After all, you don't have to be a genius to know that disasters eventually will happen.

1739. The transportation of this highly acidic and corrosive diluted bitumen, a substance that already did unbelievable damage to the environment in Alberta, is just too risky for the small monetary gains it may bring to Canadian citizens.
1740. Is it worth the risk just to contribute to a major chronic polluter, China? Many experts agree that the transportation of oil is always a guarantee for a spill, whatever safety measures are involved.
1741. Why, then, are we still considering the transportation of this bitumen through one of the most beautiful and undefiled places on earth? And not only that, but also through difficult terrain that even increases this already pretty much guaranteed chance for an oil spill.
1742. Large landslides and devastating washouts happen every year in northern B.C. You don't even have to live in Canada to know that. And with the changing climate, you just know that this will happen more often than ever before.
1743. Haven't we learned anything from the past? I was only 12 when, in 1978, the Amoco Cadiz ran aground five kilometres from the coast of Brittany, France, but I still can remember the horrible images of polluted coasts and suffering wildlife on TV and in the papers.
1744. And now this government thinks that we can navigate even bigger vessels through the narrow Douglas Channel because we have a better technology? Is this is a case of collective amnesia, ignorance or just pride, or did everybody forget about all the oil spills back east in 1988, the Exxon Valdez disaster in 1989?
1745. The damages of Hurricane Katrina in 2005; the Burnaby crude oil spill in 2007; how can you already have forgotten the Enbridge oil spill polluting the Kalamazoo River in Michigan, 2010, the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico or the Little Buffalo oil spill in Alberta last year?
1746. The damage of every single one of these oil spills can still be seen. It is naïve to think that an oil spill can be cleaned without leaving traces.
1747. Does this government really believe that man and his technology can control nature as it occurs in this hazardous and rugged part of B.C.? If this bitumen is spilled, life as people in northwest British Columbia know it will end. Just as it happened with the tar sands, the whole ecology of B.C. will be affected because at the centre of this ecology lies the salmon.

1748. If this bitumen enters our streams, all life in these streams will be poisoned, poisoning all other life around it, including the communities that live near these streams, including this community, that tiny little spot on the globe we picked to start our new lives.
1749. The fact that so many people along the proposed pipeline route are protesting, sending petitions, organizing rallies, writing letters, attending all these hearings says it all.
1750. Are we really becoming this detached from others that we are able to ignore these signs and build the pipeline anyway, poisoning fellow humans and animals so we can make the rich more rich, the powerful more powerful and get a little something extra for ourselves, a little something extra for the trouble we go through, poisoning ourselves and others for the sake of money and the growth of an economic system based on selfishness?
1751. An artificial system that crashes every few years, placing the masses into increased poverty while the few in power continue to abuse the poor to retain their wealth and power.
1752. Is this really what we want to work and strive for? This looks like the life I ran away from.
1753. The way I see it, building this Northern Gateway pipeline would be another terrible mistake. The oil in the tar sands is not going anywhere. Let us take the time to find the right technology to extract and transport it in an environmentally safe way.
1754. Maybe by that time, we have a government that will realize that it makes no sense to deepen our dependence on some of the planet's least sustainable energy. I think we can do better than putting the natural beauty of B.C. at risk.
1755. Yesterday, we started building our new house here in Smithers, our new home surrounded by natural beauty, with a great view on a great mountain. For 10 years, my family and I have been dreaming about waking up in this pristine setting, smelling the forests, watching the wildlife.
1756. I beg you; please don't let us wake up in a nightmare.

1757. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

1758. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Okay. Good morning, Mr. Stokes. Please go ahead and present your statement.

--- **ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. GEORGE STOKES:**

1759. **MR. GEORGE STOKES:** Good morning. My name is George Stokes, and I would, first of all, like to thank the Panel for coming and hearing my submission and that of the many others that have come before you.

1760. I've had no outside help with my presentation and I'm not affiliated with any NGO, and I'm also not funded to be here. The words I have for you are mine and mine alone.

1761. I've lived in the Northern B.C. for 52 of my 54 years. I have lived in the Bulkley Valley for a total of 42 years. I have three adult children who call Smithers their home, and I'm very proud to be the grandfather of five kidlets.

1762. I'm self-employed as a builder/renovator and as such have been in the role of employer and subcontractor. I've also taught trades at the local college. I like to mountain bike and hike in the summer, ski and snowboard in the winter.

1763. I chose the Bulkley Valley to live in for quite a number of reasons. Here there's a broad economic base which incorporates mining, forestry, four season tourism, farming and ranching.

1764. Smithers is also a divisional point for the CNR and houses many regional and district government departmental offices, which means that there are many families living here as a consequence.

1765. We live in a place where it is possible to play outside in any of the seasons and we live in a place that has an abundance of wildlife, clean water, and good air. There is good healthcare available, reasonably priced real estate, and a vibrant arts community. And we are linked to the rest of the world with three airline choices, roads, railway, high-speed internet, and have all of the modern conveniences one could ask for.

Oral statements
Exposés oraux

1766. We have world-class salmon and steelhead rivers in our backyard and the Morice and Babine Rivers account for a very large percentage of the Skeena River fish stocks. When you look at a place to raise a family Smithers presents as a very good choice, providing you don't mind a real Canadian winter.
1767. The community has seen slow, steady growth with amenities coming along with the growth, the ski hill, an arena, a pool, two golf courses, bike trails criss-cross the hills, and there are many, many kilometres of hiking trails throughout the region.
1768. These are the same reasons that many others have chosen to live in this part of the world. We live in a stable community and a naturally beautiful and bountiful part of the world.
1769. We've been asked to submit comment on the proposed oil and condensate pipelines that would carry bitumen from Alberta tar sands to a tanker port in Kitimat and conduct the distillate back to Alberta.
1770. The proposal also calls for transportation of the bitumen from Kitimat, through the Douglas Channel and portions of the inside passage en route to Asia. Any proposal of this magnitude has risks and potential rewards.
1771. I have looked at the proposal, the record of the Proponent, the proposed pipeline route, and the navigation route, and it would seem to take -- to get the bitumen from Kitimat to the open water en route to China. I can see an overwhelming amount of risk versus a very small reward.
1772. There are some 700 water crossings to be made and much of the pipeline would be through areas prone to slides and geographical instability. Most of the proposed pipeline would be through remote and difficult access -- difficult to access parts of this province, making response times in the event of a rupture or a spill very slow. Bitumen is thicker and more difficult to clean up than crude oil, compounding the problem even worse.
1773. I have a difficult time thinking of the tankers on the coastal waters and the risk involved with navigating a vessel that large, with such a potentially deadly cargo, in a sensitive marine environment. Any breach of the pipeline or leakage from a tanker would be catastrophic and the damage to the land, water, fish, and wildlife irreversible.

Oral statements
Exposés oraux

1774. The rewards are the potential of a small amount of construction jobs and a few jobs for those who would maintain the pipeline and work at the Kitimat Terminal. There would be rewards for the shareholders in the pipeline, but not a lot of trickle down to the local people. I don't see any reward in this proposal for my grandchildren and I'm being asked to consider and accept the risks for them.
1775. I wonder if there might be alternatives to this proposal; I wonder if the nearly six billion budgeted for this proposal might be better spent on a refinery closer to the source of the bitumen.
1776. The results -- or the benefits would be two-fold; value added here makes for better economic sense, and potentially more stable supply and pricing for our gas and oil needs here in Canada. We are already shipping raw logs offshore and lose the potential to profit from adding value here and it would seem a shame to do this with energy.
1777. I'm proud to be Canadian. We have contributed in past generations to a better world through economic outreach to those less fortunate and have sent military forces into battle to help preserve democracy in far-away places, sacrificing the lives of many to maintain an ideal.
1778. When I was a teenager, people would sew a Canadian flag on their backpack prior to going overseas and be welcomed by host nations because of the deeds of generations past. We are now looked upon as environmental dinosaurs by an ever more environmentally conscious world.
1779. We have an opportunity to start to change that perception with this process. I'd like my grandchildren, when they're old enough to go abroad, to proudly put our flag on their backpacks too and be greeted as Canadians, with environmental integrity added to the list of positive attributes of our nation.
1780. I am thankful that I live in a part of the world where there is a process by which people can express their opinion and have a say in what the future will look like. I am thankful that my voice will be heard and considered by the Panel in making their decision on whether or not to recommend this proposal go ahead or not.
1781. There are naysayers out there who believe that the conclusions are foregone and that the process is a sham. But I would very much like to believe in this process. I would like to believe that the other presenters have had equal opportunity to have their opinion heard and be considered. I'd like to believe that the statements

and presentations individuals have made matter in this process.

1782. We need to believe that the voices of the people will be heard. It's part of being a citizen in our great country. We've been told all our lives that we live in a place where an individual and their opinions matter and that we can contribute them through meaningful procedures to help guide policies. We are Canadian and taught to be respectful, to give the benefit of the doubt, and to believe in the system.

1783. I'm not usually one to publicly take up causes or to make public pronouncements, I'm usually a bit quiet and somewhat shy. But there are times when things are just too important not to say anything. I've been given an opportunity to have my say and would deeply regret not using this opportunity to participate in the process.

1784. In closing, I would like to say that it's not all about oil and money. The things that matter more are water, fish, wildlife, wilderness without the threat of destruction, and employing good stewardship to maintain that which sustains us so it can sustain our heirs.

1785. To accept the threats to our watersheds and to First Nation's traditional lands without any real rewards does not make sense to me. This proposal poses considerable risks to our coastline and our inland waterways which generate much of our food and a large tourism economy.

1786. This project, if approved, would give our country a bad reputation in an ever more environmentally conscious world and put into question many core values that we have as Canadians.

1787. I would like to go on record as one voicing opposition to this proposed project. I hope that by me doing this, along with all of the other people who have submitted to the Panel, that with enough people leading, the leaders will follow and say no to Enbridge also.

1788. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

1789. **MEMBER BATEMAN:** Mr. Stockner, thank you for being here today. Please present your oral statement.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. TODD STOCKNER:

1790. **MR. TODD STOCKNER:** Okay, thank you. Thank you, Panel, for being here and giving me a chance to speak.

1791. So like a lot of other people who've spoken, I've been here and I've been listening online and I've heard, like a lot of others, I've gone through, like, the whole gamut of emotions in the last few days. Everything from being hopeful that my voice would be heard, to the depths of despair when I watch what the Harper government is trying to do to sabotage this process. In fact, by trying to pass legislation to overrule whatever decision you come up with.

1792. But in my thinking in the last 24 hours, the words of Edmond Burke came into mind. A famous Irish orator who was famous for saying:

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that a few -- is that good men and women do nothing. So doing nothing clearly is not an option."

1793. I find it also ironic that we're having these hearings on the 100th -- the month of the 100th Anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, which was another one of the early industrialized society's big shiny baubles that, of course, was unsinkable. It was the latest technology. It was not going to sink; it was going to sail forever.

1794. We all know what happened there and if I could carry that metaphor on a bit, I would like to think that the people of Canada are the iceberg for Enbridge's proposal.

1795. My name is Todd Stockner, and I've had the great fortune to have lived the last 18 years of my life here in the great Skeena watershed, raising my family in one of the most beautiful places on earth.

1796. And I have travelled around the world to see first-hand some of the great cities and places on our small world. I've been to Belgium. I've seen -- I see -- I've been to China.

1797. I've seen what the industrialized -- industrialization does to some of these countries, and I can say first-hand that few, if any, come as close to containing the beauty and purity of this landscape, replete as it is with clean water, air, wildlife, runs of salmon, a wild food source still viable to this day, and people, the people that live

Oral statements
Exposés oraux

here, the First Nations of Wet'suwet'en, the Gitksan, the Tsimshian, Babines, coastal First Nations and non-First Nations who all now reside here as one and who are now all speaking with one voice against this project.

1798. I first came here, though, to work back in 1982, to work as a fishing guide on the Babine River and essentially have not looked back since then, deeply moved by the wild landscapes still largely intact and the wild free-flowing clean rivers, ultimately moving here with my family in 1994. It was a move of the heart and a move of the soul.

1799. So I'm a fishing guide. I spend three months of the year with my feet in the water. I know well -- I know well the moods of these rivers. I see them in low water. I watch the fish in them. I watch the adult fish swim by me. I watch the juveniles. I realize what important rearing habitats these rivers are, what sensitive ecosystems we have all around us that form the foundation of culture, life.

1800. I've watched grizzly bears come down to the river dozens of times. I've watched the females catch the salmon, give them to their cubs. I watch the eagles. I watch all the wildlife that is supported by the salmon. The salmon are the base of a lot of things around here.

1801. I've seen rivers, and I've seen the volatility of these rivers. I see them come up. I've seen them come up 12 feet in 24 hours, massive changes to the banks that destabilize banks quite far off, you know, the rivers changing course. Very unpredictable.

1802. And as an angling guide, I'm a contributor to the wild salmon economy, a \$110 million economic engine on the Skeena River alone, which it must be emphasized, it's a truly sustainable resource. People can make a living from these waters and the coastal marine waters forever with any reasonable amount of stewardship.

1803. So what about my job and the jobs of thousands of others working in the ecotourism, sports fishing and the wild salmon economy? Why are those jobs being put at risk for a few jobs building a pipeline?

1804. Many people have spoken right -- sorry. However, this project -- this project isn't about stewardship. This is about putting all these waters and the benefits that we draw from them now at risk, at very high risk. Many people have spoken about the risk to the water, lands, many, many experts. Many people have spoken

about those, but they bear repeating because they are such huge risks.

1805. So the risks. The risks of this pipeline are oil spills into the river. Please, Mr. Enbridge and Mr. Harper, don't insult our intelligence by saying that the capacity exists or ever will exist to first access with the appropriate equipment and then actually clean the waters and spawning beds and the rearing areas in the remote reaches of the Morice, Copper, Sutherland or Stuart Rivers, to mention only four of the key salmon and trout rivers.

1806. Someone earlier mentioned all the many, many rivers and they've been said -- it's been said before, of which there are hundreds and hundreds that will be crossed and/or paralleled by this pipeline. The steep terrain, remote mountain valleys, swift cold water will make it impossible to actually clean a spill in most of these waters.

1807. And of course, unlike the ocean, where currents, wind and wave action spread the oil, in a river the current, as I said, often swift, volatile will move this mess downstream relatively rapidly.

1808. It gets irritating beyond words to keep hearing Enbridge and the Harper government tell us that it will clean it all up and life will go on. I wonder what the people of Kalamazoo, Michigan would have to say about that.

1809. The other significant risk, obviously, is the coastal factor, an oil tanker breaking up on the coast. So just this morning, just before coming here I just thought, you know, I've heard a lot about these VLCCs, but I didn't really have any numbers. And I'm not here -- I'm not an expert.

1810. I'm not here to talk a lot about numbers, but I just had a quick look because these numbers bear repeating, and it puts things in perspective as to the scale of what we're talking about here.

1811. VLCCs, very large crude carriers, just so people know. Yesterday online I listened to an eloquent statement, and this woman said they're three football fields long. Well, I'm here to say that she's wrong. They're actually five football fields long. They're 470 metres long. That's 1,540 feet. As far as I last looked, a football field was 100 yards. Four hundred and seventy (470) metres is pretty darn close to four football fields.

1812. They carry 2.1 million barrels of oil. To put that in perspective, the deep

water horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, which is the largest oil catastrophe in the history of the petroleum industry ever, that spilled over its time 4.9 million barrels of oil. One VLCC carries 2.1 million barrels of oil, almost half of what was lost in the Deep Water Horizon accident.

1813. Was that buzzer for me? No? I thought I heard it beep.

1814. **MEMBER BATEMAN:** You have three minutes left.

1815. **MR. TODD STOCKNER:** Sorry?

1816. **MEMBER BATEMAN:** You have three remaining minutes.

1817. **MR. TODD STOCKNER:** Three. Okay.

1818. So we know about the tankers. The logistics of moving these tankers through the storm-ridden and risk-strewn waters along the north coast of B.C. are overwhelming. I heard someone yesterday break down the math, and she came up with over 890 degree turns. So we know that this is a ridiculous idea to try and drive these tankers through there.

1819. We've heard Pat Daniels talk about he's making the north coast more safe by running these things through there. And we just heard the federal government has rescinded or reduced the capacity to respond to oil spills now.

1820. I guess with three minutes left, I'd like to skip down here a bit. So it's worth taking a minute to talk about the substance Enbridge is wanting to ship. This is no ordinary crude. There is a reason why it is called the tar sands.

1821. This is more like tar than free-flowing oil, which is why it requires this other substance that they like to call condensate, which is -- really, a more accurate work is solvent. It's much more like the paint thinner that you use to clean your paint brushes. We're talking about very, very toxic stuff that is being proposed to transport by our rivers and our ocean. And as it has been said, the bitumen is extremely hard to clean.

1822. I have a friend who I went to school with who is an expert in oil spill response and he shakes his head when he talks about this bitumen. It's so hard to clean off of the rocks, off the river bottoms -- into the salmon. The stuff gets into our rivers. It's in the river substrate where the fish will spawn. We are talking about, you

know, hundreds of years of cleaning and disaster.

1823. So with what I have left, I just want to just cut to the end of my piece here. Our stewardship of our waters and lands is a kind of investment that pays interest in perpetuity. My family could make a living off of these waters and the natural wealth they contain for generations, far outstripping the longevity of a pipeline which, as we all know, will produce a minimum number of jobs in the long run and has a limited shelf life.

1824. As we're always talking about the finite resources, we're talking about oil and gas. But really, I'm not here because of my job as directly threatened by this pipeline and tanker project as it is.

1825. What kind of life – it's all about what kind of life we want for our children. Do they have the right to share in and experience the natural beauty and abundance that we are so fortunate to have? If so, then it stops now. Full stop. This insane project will not go ahead. There is no future in it for our children.

1826. Why would we support a project that is toxic for future generations and assumes that the citizens of the northwest will accept the risks to what they cherish? This will not happen.

1827. Panel, please hear the people who speak before you. You surely hear a common thread through all of our words, and the word is "No".

1828. One minute?

1829. **MEMBER BATEMAN:** Just wrap up in a couple of sentences, please.

1830. **MR. TODD STOCKNER:** Okay. Okay.

1831. Well, then, it would be this. O Canada, we stand on guard for thee. And I'd like to finish with a quote from anthropologist, Margaret Mead:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

1832. Thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

1833. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** Thank you to each of you for taking the time to prepare your statements and to come and present them to us.

1834. Good morning. Mr. Vanderstar, please proceed when you're ready.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. RON VANDERSTAR:

1835. **MR. RON VANDERSTAR:** Honourable Panel Members, good morning. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak today.

1836. My name is Ron Vanderstar. I have been a Smithers resident for 18 years. For the record, I am opposed to the Northern Gateway project. I am in good company.

1837. Over 130 First Nations in western Canada, the Union of B.C. Municipalities, the Queen Charlotte Regional District, the Prince Rupert, Terrace and Smithers City Councils have all voted to oppose this project.

1838. I am in full support of the First Nations. And this project should not be approved without their consent. It is their land also.

1839. I have far too many concerns with this project to address within my time allotment and as such will limit my comments to primarily four topics. These being the Morice River system -- which is dear to me, which could be impacted by this project -- the economic implications of the project, the review process itself, and several mitigation suggestions should the project ever get approved.

1840. The Morice River, this is a very special watershed. There are few rivers in the world like it. It is the main tributary of our beloved Bulkley River, which flows right through town here.

1841. I spent many days paddling in its waters. My first day fly fishing for steelhead was on this river. Within hours I had caught and released two fish over 20 lbs. These are trophy fish by any standard.

1842. Every year I fish this river in the fall and I am all with awestruck by its productivity and beauty. To watch grizzly bears along its banks while catching some of the most magnificent salmon, steelhead, and bull char in the world is rewarding and rejuvenating beyond description. You would know what I mean if you could

spend time on this river.

1843. A local RPBio, Dave Bustard, has, he authored a report which quantifies the importance of this tributary to fish production in the Bulkley and Skeena rivers. Damage to this river due to an inevitable oil spill would be a terrible tragedy. The river is irreplaceable. It is not a matter of if a spill will occur, but of when and how much.
1844. This river is so valuable that it was saved from hydro development many years ago. Why would we want to put the river at risk now to an oil spill? It would be sick irony if the water diversion project to Kemano was revisited because the salmon runs were destroyed and this wonderful watershed ecosystem irreparably degraded due to our neglect.
1845. Unfortunately, most of the time we justify damaging our environment for the sake of short term economic return. I believe that this project is not in the best interest of Canadians, all Canadians.
1846. The oil and gas industry and some of our governments would like us to believe otherwise. Obviously the pipeline, natural gas, and oil companies will realize profits. That is their mandate.
1847. I contend that this project will lead to increased gas and oil prices for all Canadians. The reason for this project is to expand exports of oil to China and others willing to pay world prices. Any short term economic gains for workers and taxes and royalties collected by the government will not be more than what inflation will erode.
1848. And what about the huge cost required to cleaning up spills from the pipeline ruptures or tanker accidents along the coast? These bills could be staggering. Or do we just turn our backs.
1849. Our local economies are significantly tied to the health of our salmon populations. If even one oil spill should occur in our rivers or along the coast, it could easily cost tens of millions of dollars in local revenues. Proponents of this project tout the economic benefits but what will be the real costs of this prosperity?
1850. With regard to the review process itself, I am very disappointed that climate change, CO² emission targets and other broader issues, such as accelerated oil sand development, and national energy policies are not to be considered.

1851. This is a shame since the ripple effect of this project is significant. I am also very disappointed and annoyed that the federal government has to state its support for this project before the review process has been completed.
1852. Traditionally, we have proven to be rather poor stewards of our land, water, and natural resources. Hopefully this is changing. If this project is approved, I would like to see some conditions implemented. Don't misunderstand me here; I'm in no way sanctioning that this project should go through, but with the pressures that be, the reality is it's possible that it may occur.
1853. So firstly, a fund must be created for the clean up of oil and condensate spills along our coast. At a minimum, it should be substantial enough to do the job. I'm not sure how much that needs to be, but I suspect that \$250 million may not be enough.
1854. This and another fund will need to be used for pipeline breaches. I appreciate that Enbridge tries to minimize the damage caused by pipeline oil spills by having flow check valves installed at regular intervals.
1855. Where the risks of landslides are significant and particularly adjacent to important waterways, flow check valves spacing within the pipeline should be much closer together than proposed. I believe it is currently proposed at eight to 10 kilometres. This is too much oil or condensate to be allowed to enter any of the watersheds.
1856. Finally, why not continue to use and improve the existing pipeline route to Vancouver? Is there no way for companies to share rights of way or infrastructure?
1857. Please, do not approve this project. The risks are simply not worth it.
1858. Thank you.
- (Applause/Applaudissements)
1859. **MEMBER MATTHEWS:** Good morning Mr. Anderson. Please share your thoughts with us today.
1860. Thanks.

--- ORAL STATEMENT BY/EXPOSÉ ORAL PAR MR. ERIC ANDERSON:

1861. **MR. ERIC ANDERSON:** I'd like to thank you for being here and having this opportunity to speak to you. I was born at Britannia Mines on Howe Sound, just north of Vancouver.

1862. And as a child I played along Britannia Creek, we called it Copper Creek at the time. It was orange from one shore to the other. The water was orange, the rocks were orange. And down Howe Sound, the oysters were green.

1863. Across the Sound at Woodfibre, they dumped dioxins and all kinds of nasty stuff into the ocean there. As a child, I'd go across the play soccer and there'd be black foam on top of the water.

1864. And in Squamish, near the estuary, the chemical plant built a settling pond there and mercury was washed into the ocean. They closed the ocean for fishing for crabs and bottom fish for five years, and then another five years.

1865. And I remember hearing about people that ate the crabs. You know, they said, "Oh well, he ate them, nothing happened to him." So that's probably something that's going to show up on the radar one of these days and maybe it's already shown up.

1866. Anyway, nobody asked in 1970 if it was a good idea to build a settling pond a few feet above the high water mark on the ocean. So I appreciate that this Panel is happening and, you know, at least we've made some -- some advancements into the way we develop this country.

1867. I've lived in this valley for four years, just about four years, and I've spent a lot of time fishing out of Rainbow Alley on Babine Lake. I met people from all over the world that come to fish there. It's a world-known fishery. And it's along this lake in B.C.

1868. And yet at the far end, you have the Sullivan River which supplies 66 percent of all the fish in that lake. Now that's a pretty special ecology. And I feel it's threatened by this pipeline. As well as the fisheries of the Morice and the Bulkley, the Copper, the Kitimat, they're all world-class fisheries.

1869. The tourism dollars are renewable dollars. And maybe if we can keep our streams running clear and free-flowing, one day we'll be able to sell some quiet time

to some rich Albertans.

--- (Laughter/Rires)

1870. **MR. ERIC ANDERSON:** I see a lot of threats -- I mean a lot of -- the threats that I see in this project are many and people have been bringing them up here all day and they've said it a lot better than I have.

1871. You know, the whole idea of -- this country is so new. We're north; it's just emerging from the glaciation. It's new country and it's breaking down, it's being weathered away. And with earthquakes, potential earthquakes, with climate change, there's a lot of land slops and slides; it's a changing environment. I see that as a huge threat to this project.

1872. Crossing -- I'd say that, you know, the potential for something to happen is -- it's going to happen.

1873. What do you do when the pipeline reaches its lifespan? Is it 28 years or 58 years; what happens then, you dig up the old pipeline and put in a new pipeline or you wait until it leaks? Oh well, it's just leaking a little bit. Eventually it's going -- it's going to need to be replaced.

1874. And what kind of environmental impact is that going to have when you have to replace a line like that? You've got to dig the old one up and build one beside it, you're making it -- you've got already two pipelines to begin with.

1875. I keep hearing that it's in the national interest to build this pipeline and I'm wondering how it can be in the national interest to sell off an unrefined product. Like why not build a refinery? Why not have a national oil policy and build a refinery? And there's where you're going to get the jobs, if you want to create jobs, building a refinery is the way to do it.

1876. And maybe if we had lower gas prices here -- like we sell -- we sell most of our oil to the United States and the people that live along the border, they get to go across the border and buy cheaper gas. Like where is the sense in that?

1877. You know, we -- so apparently we charge -- we have lots of taxes on our oil and Canadians pay taxes and -- why not take that money and put it into the future of the country and develop an energy policy. And maybe take the oil across to the Maritimes where they're importing oil -- importing foreign oil in Eastern Canada.

Oral statements
Exposés oraux

1878. I just think that this whole idea is just a crazy pipe dream. I'm here today because I believe in the country and I believe that if I didn't speak up and my grandchildren -- and there was a spill 50 years from now, my grandchildren -- "So, well why didn't you say something?"

1879. And I, you know, I think that this is a good process and I'm happy to be part of it and I hope that, you know, some of the -- some of the statements that our Prime Minister and our Energy Minister made recently, some of the legislation that they've passed is not, you know, going to affect what your recommendations are.

1880. Like I believe that you're people just like the rest of us here and I'm hopeful that you've heard what the people have had to say here and thank you.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

1881. **THE CHAIRPERSON:** That completes the list of people who registered to provide oral statements to us over this past week.

1882. We want to thank all the oral statement presenters. We have listened and we have heard your thoughts and your statements and we appreciate everybody stepping forward, taking the time, as we've said, to prepare statements, presenting them to us in a thoughtful way, respecting the timelines that have been established. It's been very helpful to us to be able to just concentrate then on listening to the comments that you want us to hear.

1883. So with that we -- this concludes this community hearing in Smithers. Safe travels to those of you who need to travel. From what I've understood, many don't have to travel far and I hope everybody gets a chance to enjoy a piece of this lovely day.

1884. Thanks everyone.

--- (Applause/Applaudissements)

--- Upon adjourning at 10:51 a.m./L'audience est ajournée à 10h51