

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

PRESENT: Ms. CLAUDETTE JOURNAULT, Chair
Mr. DONALD LABRIE, Commissioner

**PUBLIC HEARING
PROJECT TO ESTABLISH A
TECHNICAL LANDFILL SITE AT DANFORD LAKE
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALLEYN-et-CAWOOD**

SECOND PHASE

VOLUME 7

Hearing held June 16, 2007, 9 h
Salle récréative d'Otter Lake
394 Tessier
Otter Lake

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MS. CLAUDETTE JOURNAULT,
THE CHAIRWOMAN:

5 (Translation) Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the seventh hearing of the public
hearings concerning the project to establish a technical landfill site at Danford Lake in the Alleyn-
and-Cawood municipality. And I would remind you that you can always register at the back in
order to intervene at the end of the present session or if we don't have time this afternoon - if we
10 have time this afternoon, or if you want to register for the right of correction. Now, Karen
Montague, please, come forward.

MS. KAREN MONTAGUE:

15 (Presentation of brief)

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

 (Translation) Thank you.

20 THE COMMISSIONER:

 (Translation) Thank you, Madam; you have given us additional information on truck traffic,
but in order to compare it with those which exist now, you say you have measured it on 105 and
25 301. However, that's a total that you give us. Where was this counted? Is it the total of both
roads, or you don't seem to distinguish between 105 and 301?

MS. KAREN MONTAGUE:

30 It was conducted when I began my run in Danford Lake on the 301, and throughout my run
to Highway 105, and then north on Highway 105 to the village of Gracefield. During that period, I
was not on the road, on them highways, the whole time. I do have a lot of back roads or secondary
roads that I travel on.

35 THE COMMISSIONER:

 (Translation) Yes, but did you spend more time on the 105 than on the 301 in the course of
your trip?

40 MS. KAREN MONTAGUE:

 No, I would say it would be about the same distance that I travel on both.

THE COMMISSIONER:

45 (Translation) Thank you, Madam.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

50 (Translation) Ma'am, could you please tell us, earlier you said you go through the village of Alleyn-and-Cawood - we went through the village of Alleyn-and-Cawood, and we were looking for the sign that said reduce speed. And after a lot of effort, we found it behind a branch somewhere.

MS. KAREN MONTAGUE:

55 That's right.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

60 (Translation) So, perhaps the Department of Transport would - it would be interesting to tell the Department of Transport that the signs calling for reduced speed in the village are not quite obvious. And I wonder if the municipality might want to answer about this, but tell us whether they had asked the Department of Transport for better signage regarding speed limits in and around the village.

65 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) In fact, the sign that says - gives the reduced speed is clear, but the sign that says at exactly what point you're supposed to reduce speed is hidden behind the bush, so, to complement what Mme. Chairman has just said.

70

MS. KAREN MONTAGUE:

75 Oh, I agree it is. And if the council was doing their job, they do have inspectors and councillors dedicated to doing that to the inspections of the roads. They should have caught that and reported it to the Ministry of Transport or looked after it themselves.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

80 (Translation) Thank you for your testimony, Ma'am; Mme. Georgia West, please.

MS. GEORGIA WEST:

Mme. Minister, friends, my name is Georgia West --

85 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Ma'am, when you are going to give - present your brief, please follow me, and I will sort of give you a hand signal to tell you when to leave a little break, a little few seconds pause, to make it easier on the interpreters, please.

90

MS. GEORGIA WEST:

Okay, thank you. (presentation of brief)

95

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Your drinkable water, where do you get your drinking water from?

MS. GEORGIA WEST:

100

We have a deep well. It's about - just a minute, I can't get the English, just a minute here. I'm not getting any English translation.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

105

(Translation) Can you hear the interpreter now?

MS. GEORGIA WEST:

110

Yes, good.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Okay.

115

MS. GEORGIA WEST:

Thanks.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

120

(Translation) Okay, please go ahead, Ma'am.

MS. GEORGIA WEST:

125

I didn't hear the question.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

130 (Translation) Your drinking water, where do you get it from?

MS. GEORGIA WEST:

135 It's a deep well. Presently, we're getting it from about a hundred and fifty (150) feet down.
We can go to three hundred (300) feet, if we want.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

140 (Translation) Okay, and are you going to take advantage of the lakes around the village?

MS. GEORGIA WEST:

145 Yes, we've always gone to several of the lakes to swim, Danford Lake, Knox Lake, Presley
Lake, and we use Mount O'Brien wilderness area.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Okay, and the Picanoc River, do you use that as well?

150 MS. GEORGIA WEST:

Yes, my son canoed on the Picanoc, did several canoe trips down there. That was his first
experience in an overnight canoe trip, and it's just - he loved the wilderness.

155 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) You decided to come and live in this area. You were not a native of the area,
if I understand correctly.

160 MS. GEORGIA WEST:

I was living in Ottawa before moving here, and we saw an advertisement for a solar home
on an alpine meadow and couldn't resist.

165 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Thank you for your testimony; Mr. George McCormick.

MR. GEORGE McCORMICK:

170

Mme. Chair, Mr. Commissioner, my name is George McCormick. My wife and family have a permanent home on Danford Lake, approximately nine (9) kilometres from the proposed landfill site. My parents have had a cottage on Danford Lake for sixty (60) years and have thoroughly enjoyed the Gatineau countryside.

175

My interest in the project relates to a number of issues: certainly concerns about additional truck traffic, resulting in some safety issues.

180

Another issue is the integrity of the impermeable liner, as we know other landfills have had liners that have experienced leaks, where leachate has found its way into the adjacent drinking water supply and associated waste treatment facilities, which has resulted in deterioration of the water quality of the Picanoc River.

185

My third concern is the plans to cover the garbage to ensure that seagulls do not become prevalent as a result of the landfill.

I am concerned about these three (3) issues, but am particularly concerned with the seagulls and the proposed deterrent methods.

190

During the hearings at Mont Ste. Marie, LDC indicated that there were no populations of seagulls in Danford Lake itself, and that the nearest populations were in the Baskatong area of Quebec to the north.

195

Although, today, there may not be large populations of seagulls in and around Danford Lake, there are, however, seagulls which use the lake most days. A recent report concludes that, in 1996, there were six thousand (6,000) pairs of ringed-bill gulls in Ottawa's national capital region. There were only five (5) nesting pairs in 1974, which is thirty (30) years ago. So, it has gone from, you know, from five (5) pairs to six thousand (6,000) in thirty (30) years.

200

A number of seagull populations have been increasing by approximately twelve percent (12%) annually. And according to Transport Canada, from 1993 to 1999, gulls were the most frequently reported species group involved in bird strikes by aircraft in all regions of Canada. There are approximately three (3) aircraft which use Danford Lake regularly, two (2) of which land their aircraft via pontoons, while the other one lands on a nearby airstrip.

205

As we know, seagulls are aggressive and will flock to any area where food of any kind is exposed to the elements such as a dump site. Seagulls are predators to songbirds, frogs, and baby turtles. They also carry diseases and require water in which to live, thus making Danford Lake an ideal location for their population to flourish.

210

The noise factor alone of populations of seagulls in Danford Lake would take away the peace and quiet, and potentially replace the peaceful call-of-the-loon sounds with a screech of a thousand (1,000) seagulls.

215

Even, today, beaches on the Ottawa River are closed each summer because of seagulls and their droppings.

220

We are concerned for the smaller lakes such as Neil Lake and others along Highway 301, that the population of seagulls will increase to the point that they will come and roost on these lakes as well, thereby polluting them.

225

According to a former president of Little Red Pine Lake, which is situated eight (8) kilometres from the proposed landfill site, Quebec Environment has agreed that Little Red Pine Lake is one of six (6) protected lakes in Quebec. Seagulls could have a serious impact on a protected lake. As you know, lakes are not capable of cleaning themselves like a river is able to do, as lakes do not flow.

230

Given the other seagull landfill problems in the area, such as the Trail Road landfill in Ottawa and its large seagull population, we can only expect that should the Danford landfill become a reality, we will likely see similar problems. After all, despite the best efforts of many landfill operators, it is now acknowledged that gulls cannot be controlled. Their droppings also corrode paint, metal, the roofs of cars, for example.

235

I also understand that the Trail Road landfill in Ottawa is covered with a layer of dirt or similar material each day to help deter seagulls, however, to little avail.

240

I would like to draw your attention to this photo, the one you have in front of you. This is the Trail Road landfill. I took this picture last Thursday morning at ten twenty (10:20) in the morning. In fact, it was quite early in the morning in that the garbage trucks had really not arrived yet. The big garbage trucks that dump every day had not arrived yet. As we can see, there's a couple of just pick-up trucks here just off-loading. So, there's only really a small amount of garbage being deposited at ten twenty (10:20) in the morning on Thursday.

245

However, there is certainly over one hundred (100) seagulls there probably at least two hundred (200). I guess that when I took the picture, a few minutes later, a great number sort of flew up and were in the area.

250

I spoke with the manager of the Trail Road landfill on Thursday and asked the lady if they cover the landfill every day. She said, "Oh, yes, oh, yes, we cover it". So, I said, "Well, why all the seagulls?" And she said, "Well, they come and sort of hang around and wait for the garbage trucks to come and deposit".

255 So, I said to her, "What happens at the end of the day when your - when the garbage trucks leave the area?" And she said, "Well, once the seagulls are finished feeding, the seagulls then move from there, they fly from there, over to Britannia Bay", which is on the Ottawa River. That is a distance of fourteen (14) kilometres, as the seagulls fly. So, they travel fourteen (14) kilometres to get water.

260 So, if we had our dump at Alleyn-and-Cawood, it would be no problem for the seagulls to fly only eight (8) kilometres to Danford Lake to obtain water and spend the evening and relax and that sort of thing.

265 The proponent has indicated that they would cover portions of the landfill area on a daily basis with fifteen (15) to twenty (20) centimetres of soil in order to deter seagulls from frequenting the area. So, given the problems with seagulls at Trail Road and similar landfills, where soil is used as backfill over garbage, a covering of this thickness is insufficient, in my opinion, to adequately deter seagulls. A thicker covering of soil may not be much assistance either in deterring seagulls, as they have a unique ability to be able to dig and scavenge garbage as required.

270 In addition, it is unlikely that there is enough soil material over the life of the thirty (30) year project to adequately cover the garbage material on a daily basis. This, of course, may necessitate trucking in additional soil material, which will lead to increased truck traffic on Highway 301.

275 So, I'd like to move along to suggestions for improving the project.

280 Due to the problems highlighted above with seagulls and landfill sites, as well as the potential for future health and environmental concerns of water bodies such as Danford Lake, it is recommended that the LDC proposal not proceed.

As an alternative to the LDC proposal, the BAPE hearings should consider newer technologies for landfills, which are being used with success in Quebec and other provinces, such as the plasm gasification system.

285 In addition, the location of the facility should be closer to the source of the garbage, for example, Gatineau or Lachute and not in the municipality of Alleyn-and-Cawood. By locating the landfill closer to the source, this would help reduce the heavy traffic and safety problems associated with such landfills. Thank you, Mme. Chair, Mr. Commissioner.

290 THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Can you hear me, Mr. McCormick?

MR. GEORGE McCORMICK:

295

Yes, sir.

THE COMMISSIONER:

300

(Translation) The first specification, you said you took this picture last week. That's right?

MR. GEORGE McCORMICK:

305

That's correct.

THE COMMISSIONER:

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(Translation) Because the one that you gave us, it says July 14th. Did it mean June 14th?

MR. GEORGE McCORMICK:

315

Oh, my mistake, I'm sorry, it should be June 14th.

THE COMMISSIONER:

320

(Translation) That's okay, no problem.

MR. GEORGE McCORMICK:

325

Exactly.

THE COMMISSIONER:

330

(Translation) Second question, in the first part, the promoter told us of his intention to cover the waste once or twice a day. Do you think it's possible? Do you think it would improve the phenomena that you have identified in Ottawa?

MR. GEORGE McCORMICK:

335

I don't think that it would. I don't think it would help. I think that when you have garbage trucks arriving at a rate of every few minutes, I think the seagulls would still be there in great numbers to feast on that garbage.

THE COMMISSIONER:

335

(Translation) Could it reduce, in your opinion, but that there will be some regularly, according to you?

MR. GEORGE McCORMICK:

340

Do you mean reduce the numbers of seagulls?

THE COMMISSIONER:

345

(Translation) Yes.

MR. GEORGE McCORMICK:

350

I still think there would probably be some great number of seagulls, even if we had, you know, a smaller version of this site.

THE COMMISSIONER:

355

(Translation) But it will not avoid them. Is that right?

MR. GEORGE McCORMICK:

360

Exactly, there are still going to be seagulls there. That's right. That's correct.

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) Thank you.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

365

(Translation) Mr. Jan McCambley.

MR. JAN McCAMBLEY:

370

Mme. Commissioner, Chairman, my name is Jan McCambley, a resident of Danford Lake, a taxpayer of thirty-one (31) years. I just started wearing these, and I forgot to put them on.

I would like to speak to you today about the wood turtle, a species that is present and along the shores of the Picanoc River. The wood turtle is a species that is classified as

375 vulnerable in Quebec and is protected by several Quebec laws.

We had expected that Dr. Raymond Saumure, a leading authority on the wood turtle, would be here today to speak to you, but unfortunately he had to cancel at the last moment.

380 Dr. Saumure was born in Gatineau, Quebec. He received his PhD in wildlife biology from McGill University for his research on the ecology and conservation of the wood turtle in Quebec. He conducted much of his research along the Kazabazua River on my property, that I own. That property is located near Danford Lake. As a result of his research, we, as landowners, have made considerable effort to set aside this land for the preservation of the turtles.

385 Wood turtles are known to inhabit several rivers in Quebec. The Kazabazua and the Picanoc Rivers are amongst several inhabited by wood turtles in the Pontiac county. The first specimens were reported from the Kazabazua River in the Danford Lake area in August, 1946. In June of 1953, an adult male specimen was collected from the same area and deposited in the
390 Canadian Museum of Natural Herbatology Collection. The first sighting of wood turtles in the Picanoc River occurred much later, reported to the Canadian Museum of Nature in May, 1987. Thus, the presence of wood turtles in these two (2) rivers has been documented officially for the last eighteen (18) years.

395 It should be noted that the Kazabazua River is directly connected to Johnson Lake, which is located very close to the site of the proposed landfill. If untreated leachate should make its way into Johnson Lake and into the Kazabazua River, the turtle's aquatic habitat will be seriously affected.

400 I have a copy of historical record of an official sighting of the wood turtle on the Picanoc, which has been submitted. This record is registered in the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa. The sighting was made by Mr. Saumure's father and brother.

405 The following is some specific information about the wood turtle and the Quebec laws that protect them.

The North American wood turtle is a disturbance-dependent species that requires openings in the forest canopy for thermal regulation, egg incubation, and some foraging. The species is semi-aquatic with population centred upon small meandering rivers and streams
410 characterized by sand or gravel substrates, relatively clear waters, and slow to moderate currents.

Wood turtles require the aquatic component of their habitat for hydration, mating, and hibernation. Being only semi-aquatic, they are also known to frequent various types of forest, meadows, bogs, swamps, fields, and pastures.

415

Historically, wood turtle populations were likely confined to open areas created by beaver activity and the forest fires. Today, most wood turtle populations now appear dependent upon agriculture and logging operations and other manmade clearings, which create suitable foraging and nesting habits. The proposed landfill site would be a manmade clearing to which these turtles would be attracted for nesting. Today, the tendency to occupy manmade clearings exposes wood turtles to significant risk.

Wood turtle populations are declining throughout the range as a direct result of such human activities as habitat destruction, vehicular traffic, and collecting for the pet trade. For millennia, turtles have relied on the protection afforded them by an armoured shell, an adaptation quickly becoming obsolete in a world of motorized vehicles.

Consequently, wood turtles now rely on a number of laws to protect them. In Quebec, the wood turtle is protected, protected as a non-harvestable reptile under law, LRQC.C-61-1. Thus, it is illegal to capture, hunt, and/or keep in captivity all turtle species native to Quebec, regardless of their origin. Article 26 also specifies that one cannot disturb, destroy, or damage the eggs or nest of an animal.

The wood turtle's aquatic habitat is also indirectly protected under law LR1985CHF14, a law that specifically protects fish habitat. Moreover, Quebec law LRQCQ2 includes a decree concerning the protection of riverbanks and adjacent flood plains, the wood turtle's primary habitat.

To further protect the wood turtle in Quebec, the Ministry of Environment et de la Faune initially listed the wood turtle as a species likely to be designated threatened or vulnerable. In March, 2005, the wood turtle was officially listed as a vulnerable species, as it now afforded special protection by the Quebec government.

When we look specifically at the potential threat the proposed landfill to the wood turtle, there are several areas of concern.

There is a potential for contamination of their eggs through run-off in ground water.

Raccoons are known predators of the wood turtle. The landfill would attract raccoons leading to an increase in local populations. Raccoons would pose a significantly increased threat to the wood turtles that would be attracted to this manmade clearing for nesting.

Seagulls are also known predators of the wood turtle.

A study carried out in the Outaouais has confirmed specifically that heavy trucks are the greatest cause to highway mortality of the wood turtle. I have here an article on the mortality of turtles on the routes in the Outaouais. It specifically refers to incidents of wood turtle mortality

460 where the Kazabazua River crosses the 105 in the village of Kazabazua and also on Route 301, where the river crosses the highway near Danford Lake. The increase of a hundred and twenty-two (122) heavy trucks per day as a result of the proposed landfill would pose a significant increased threat to the wood turtle.

465 The environmental impact study submitted by LDC indicates that efforts were made to locate wood turtles. This search was conducted in June, 2005. Dr. Saumure indicates that it is almost impossible to locate wood turtles in June, because they are nesting, and that only an expert on the species would have the specific knowledge as to where to look to confirm whether or not the species was present. The month of May is the correct time of year to conduct a search for wood turtles.

470 Therefore, before any decision could be made on this project, it would be necessary to conduct a thorough search for the species by an accredited specialist at the correct time of year.

475 I also have a copy of a 2005 article describing where the presence of the wood turtles stopped the development of a proposed sports playing field in New Jersey.

The wood turtle is a fully protected vulnerable species in Quebec and North America. I have submitted copies of these proofs, and there is an e-mail there to contact Dr. Raymond Saumure, if you feel necessary, for more documentation.

480 That's my presentation on the wood turtle. I do, however, have a few personal comments, nothing I prepared other than I brought this booklet with me that I found in the mailbox yesterday, and it's from the MRC Valley of Gatineau. And in briefing through it this morning, there's some interesting information in here. I'll leave this with you afterwards.

485 In terms of recycling, it says:

"Quebec alone produces roughly eleven (11) million tons of garbage annually, and eighty-five percent (85%) could or should be reused, recycled, or composted".

490 It also says:

495 *"Reducing quantities of garbage has a direct effect on greenhouse gases. In fact, the rotting of our garbage in various dump sites produces methane, a greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming and climate change. Dump sites represent one-quarter of methane emissions in Canada. They also produce twenty-five (25) mega tons of CO₂, the equivalent of five point five (5.5) million cars on the road".*

I thought that was interesting.

500 I'm speaking now strictly from the heart. Nothing is prepared. Having been in the

trucking industry and running a trucking company for twenty-four (24) years, to give an idea of the fuel consumption of large trucks on the 105, which I have worked across many times, no one seems to have mentioned that the winter fuel/summer fuel contributes to different mileage in big trucks.

505

My experience has been that, in the winter, a large-loaded truck, you could expect probably an average of four point eight (4.8) to five point two (5.2) miles per gallon on the average. Summertime, you would be looking approximately between five point seven (5.7) to six point two (6.2), possibly even six point eight (6.8) miles per gallon, depending on the day, per mile - sorry, miles per gallon, I'm sorry. So, when you look at the number of truck increase, you're talking about a huge, huge, huge amount of fuel emissions in the air, which I myself am guilty of.

510

As far as recycling goes, my lifestyle at home is and has been for many, many years probably above the standards that the government recommends. We have a small organic farm. We grow our own produce. We have a few animals. Their waste matter is turned back into the soil, which produces organic vegetables.

515

As far as the - back to the turtles, in 2004, I invested in a large piece of property, which includes - it's bound to the westerly side by the Kazabazua River. The Kazabazua River - so, this piece of property, including the property which the farm is located on, comes up to approximately a total of two (2) miles of river flowing through our property. If the Kazabazua River were to become polluted, it would certainly affect our quality of life.

520

I've heard you mention many times about the community and the bringing about of - how do you bring the community together. And, actually, I have a little different light to shine on that.

525

I think, from what I see, the community has - for me personally, is larger and stronger than it has ever been. We have mayors, we have people from up and down the Gatineau, neighbouring cottagers that I never met before, have all come together for this important issue.

530

It is true there is a difference of opinion, but as far as the coming together of people, this project has supported the coming together of people from all walks of life, as we have seen: one of the aboriginal leaders, doctors, lawyers, woodsmen, cottagers. It has been a tremendous coming together for the common good of man, for the common good of the planet.

535

I am appalled in this day and age that we would even consider another landfill. We have a responsibility to our neighbours and to the land, and the time has come - and it is a global thing.

Once again, I see that the MRC's seem to have dragged their heels on a solution for garbage problem. I do not see this as a negative. I think in - call it divine intervention, if you want to, ten (10), fifteen (15) years ago, this dump may have happened without hesitation. Today, we

540

have alternatives. I do not have the answers, but I know when you have a large coming together of people, things can happen.

545 I think - Mr. Rouleau, I do not know the man personally. I think he would be wise maybe to, in this day and age, to - and as well as the investors, to consider the way of the future.

550 It's like all other things. They say they can't afford - we say we can't afford a newer technology. Let me give you an example of maybe - I have an old vehicle at home. This is hypothetical, a vehicle sitting at home. You want to buy a car, and I come to you. I say I will give you a good deal on a vehicle. It has a new motor, a new transmission, the best of everything, but it's a 1984, but you can buy it cheap. It's a four (4) wheel drive. It's loaded. You can have this car for five hundred dollars (\$500.00). It sounds like a good deal. Now, you invest money in this car or, beside it, I have parked a new Volkswagen Jetta, seventy (70) miles to the gallon, diesel, 555 twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00).

560 At the first, it may seem like that car is very expensive at twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00), but, over the long term, you will not be investing money into the new car. The money you will save on fuel consumption alone will pay the payments on it, and you will be driving a new vehicle. The choice is simple.

I think the reason that this project is having such a hard time is because it's obsolete. It's obsolete like the old vehicle. There's no place for it anymore.

565 And I think, in a way, it's kind of a blessing that - MRC Pontiac should not, in my opinion, at a time when the globe is trying to come together, I do not think they should set themselves apart from the other MRC's. I think the solution is in working together. As I have said before, when people come together for the common good, good things happen.

570 And I think that's all I can say. I did want to present my case on the wood turtle, because it is something that has been precious to us on our property for many years, which we have, till this date, kept silent, but I think now is the time for the wood turtle to maybe help us out, if it can.

575 I don't know, but we do not - in my opinion, I'm strictly against this dump, and the reason is - well, you've heard all the reasons from others. Mine personally is air quality, water quality. When I leave on my truck to be gone even for a couple of weeks, I always take my own water with me. It's a precious thing. Clean air is a precious thing. And that's all I have to say.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

580 (Translation) Thank you, sir.

THE COMMISSIONER:

585 (Translation) Thank you for your testimony, sir, and I have a little question. For my personal interest, you have lowered my hope of seeing a wood turtle. I don't know how it's called in French. I guess *tortue des bois*. I was hoping to see a few of them before going home to Quebec. I've never seen a free turtle in my entire life in the wild, and now you say we don't see them in June.

590

So, perhaps if I were to come - coming here this afternoon, my colleague thought she saw a couple of small turtles on the road. Are they wood turtles, or are there other types of turtles that we might see this time of year? You say we can't see them in June, but maybe there were a few that had lost their calendar or something that weren't being faithful to the calendar.

595

MR. JAN McCAMBLEY:

Well, I'm not an expert on the wood turtle. From what I understand in talking to Dr. Saumure, the wood turtle hibernates in the wintertime on the bottom of the river. In the springtime, when they wake up, they decide, okay, this year I'm going that way to lay my eggs. Next year, they may go that way to lay their eggs. They breed either late in the fall or early spring, from what I understand, and they nest their eggs during June, which are hatched out more into the fall. So, that's my understanding.

600

605 Dr. Saumure is world renowned for his studies. They have known about him even as far away as Australia. So, I wanted to bring that to your attention, so...

THE COMMISSIONER:

610 (Translation) Thank you, sir.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Thank you, sir; we're going to take a fifteen (15) minute break.

615

SHORT ADJOURNMENT

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

620 (Translation) We now invite the Pontiac Environmental Protection, Mme. Arleen Prost to please come forward.

MS. ARLEEN PROST:

625 Good morning, thank you, Mme. Chair, Mr. Commissioner, for giving us this opportunity

to come and express our concerns. This brief was written by members of Pontiac Environment Protection: Paula Armstrong, Venetia Crawford, Merilee Delombard, myself, and Robert Wills. Just to give you a brief history of our group...

630 (Presentation of brief)

As just a note from myself, for eighteen (18) years, my husband and I ran an environmental camp for children and families on our property near Lady Smith, Quebec. So, it's sort of an eco-tourism promotion, and children from cities, people from cities, had an opportunity to come to the country and experience turtles and stars and things that we take for granted here. So, to continue...

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(Continuation with presentation of brief)

When we were running our camp, we have children from Japan. We had children from Germany. We had children from Mexico. And they just couldn't believe what we had here. They were just amazed.

640

(Continuation with presentation of brief)

There is another problem that PEP would like to speak about. Although we are very pleased with the sessions organized by BAPE where the public can express their opinions, we do have serious concerns regarding the adequacy of the public consultation process required by law at the municipal and MRC level, which must take place before a working residual materials management policy is adopted and certainly before a BAPE consultation.

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Our written brief contains the full text. So, I'm not going to speak to that part. It's quite technical, but it is in the written brief.

So, there are solutions. Every problem has a solution, yea, and here are some.

655

(Continuation of presentation of brief)

And we have gotten - we have lobbied our local grocery store to sell reusable bags, and they're beautiful, and they sell for a dollar. And they fit - two (2) plastic bags can fit into this one bag, and it saves I don't remember how many million plastic bags from going to the dump. Small, small things make a big difference.

660

(Continuation with presentation of brief)

665 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) I would ask you to conclude, if you could possibly do it in five (5) minutes.

MS. ARLEEN PROST:

670

Well, basically, I think what we're saying is for solutions, first and foremost, to reduce the amount of waste that goes to our landfills, to our final destination. And, secondly, we are promoting plasma gasification technology.

675

(Continuation with presentation of brief)

THE COMMISSIONER:

680

(Translation) A few specifications, you said the technology of plasma gasification could reduce to ten (10) to fifteen percent (15%) of what is sent in the - to the elimination process, and that the technology is a potential to reduce a hundred percent (100%), which would mean to eliminate completely the residual matters to dispose of, but in this - but what is sent to be eliminated, there are matters that are in dump trenches or in what we call sanitary dump sites, but there's also other like thousand - maybe tens of thousands of material that go to certain sites with construction material, demolition materials.

685

These dry waste will have to be transformed, and they will need to be closed in 2009. What do we do with these? The plasma gasification, as far as I know, cannot treat these waste. So, there are some waste then, they're not as offensive, but they will need to be disposed of.

690

We have to find a solution, and I haven't heard very many comments or suggestions to treat them. And, here, we have to transport them outside of the region. Once again, if the region wants to be self-sufficient in disposing of its waste, then do you have any comments or any solutions?

695

MS. ARLEEN PROST:

700

If I understand you correctly, you're speaking about waste materials from construction, specifically. In Ottawa, there is a store called "The Rehab Store", and people drop off materials from building that they didn't need anymore. They ordered too much drywall. They have extra bricks, old doors and cabinets and furniture that they take from places. And you can go and purchase these materials, and the money from that store goes to Habitat for Humanity to build homes for people.

705

So, we can reuse many of what we use for construction, and we can watch as we're building to reduce as much as possible what goes. We can buy in bulk, when we're buying things, not the little packages of things, buy our screws in bulk, buy our nails in bulk.

THE COMMISSIONER:

710

(Translation) There are two (2) landfills for dry material in Cantley, and they receive like

715 close to fifty thousand (50,000) tons of demolition and construction material. So, do you think that we can bring that in a site, and people can come and buy pieces of - big large pieces of wood, bricks, stones? And do you think there is a market to recycle these things in this enormous quantity like fifty thousand (50,000) tons?

MS. ARLEEN PROST:

720 I do. I do. There's a web site. I know of a young man in Montreal, who is presently doing that. He's what's called a green builder. He was - he's a young man now, but I've known him since he was a very small man, a small boy. And he is having enormous success with what he's doing. And as he's building, he is using these materials. I don't know where they store it, where he goes to pick up the used materials. I think he told me there's a little store front, and he goes there to pick up his materials, but he also has a web site which helps people see where are used materials
725 available.

A lot of material also is metal, and there are presently now yards that are reducing by recycling, melting it, and making new things from it. So, some of that that goes in those - in the tons of material is metal. It can be reused by melting it down and making something new, not by reusing what it is.
730

THE COMMISSIONER:

(Translation) I have no other questions, thank you.
735

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Thank you.

740 MS. ARLEEN PROST:

Thank you both.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Mme. Lise Lafrance, please.
745

MS. LISE LAFRANCE:

750 (Translation) Mrs. Journault, Mr. Labrie, I am ready. What concerns me regarding this landfill site, I have been living there for twelve (12) years, and my partner has been living there. We have properties in Danford Lake, and we have really dreams and projects that we would like

to realize that would be interesting, and that would have an impact on the municipality. I am going to be retiring soon. I want to realize these goals.

755

I do not understand that we could think of installing a mega dump where the site is not adequate to receive these tons of garbage of all kinds. After a certain time, the weight of these wastes will make it so that everything will sink in, since the site is a big land marsh. And that's what I believe.

760

And one thing that bothers me that I've seen, I've seen a company put a quarry in a place like this. And after building a large base to support all the weights that were to come, after a year only, under the weight of a lot of gravel, the soil sunk and broke the municipal road that needed to be used to go into the quarry. The scales and the loaders were on the side. So, when there will be leaks, the leachate will end up in the Picanoc River that follows its course in the Gatineau River and then in the Outaouais River.

765

There will be a lot more people than we think that will be affected than we think right now. What will be the price to pay? We will have to go and live someplace else or risk getting sick. So, it will be the end of our projects, of our dreams of hunt, of the fishing, and of the tourism.

770

All these people who live on the west of Danford Lake, I can understand they might agree with a mega dump. The wind always comes from the west, and the water comes from the west towards the east. So, they don't have to worry about it.

775

Talking about transportation, when there will be an accident, that all the trucks will be delayed. What time will they end being on the road? Because all these trucks will have to unload what they've brought.

780

So, there are other solutions that would be a lot more beneficial, more viable, where there will be some work, and we could continue to live peacefully, continue to want to fish, and to have the tourists come and visit us, and take advantage of the beautiful scenery.

785

So, I am against this, and I will be agreeing to something when we will have a better solution. And the price to pay today is a lot less than what we're going to have to pay afterwards, when it's too late. And thank you, Mme. Chair and Mr. Commissioner. Thank you for letting us express ourselves.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

790

(Translation) If you had only one thing to say to the Minister of the Sustainable Development, if he was in front of you, what would you tell her?

MS. LISE LAFRANCE:

795

(Translation) Just to think of how it would be to live near a dump site and of all the impacts that it will have in a paradise. When you live in a paradise land like it is, it would be terrible to destroy it, to spoil it. I can't imagine with everything that has been said, with everything that has been said here, that a mega dump could still be put there.

800

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Thank you so much; Mr. Zenon Chmielowski.

805

MR. ZENON CHMIELOWSKI:

Sorry for the delay, Mme. Chair, Mr. Commissioner, my name is Zenon Chmielowski. I have lived in Danford for twenty-five (25) years. This is my home, and I cannot stand by and watch it destroyed by people with misguided intentions.

810

I oppose this project. I do oppose it very strongly, very passionately, and there are a number of reasons. All of them have been represented here by other concerned citizens. I would like to focus on the issue of road safety. I also have much to say about the attack on democracy so strangely tolerated by the Government of Quebec, but due to the limited time I will go straight into the declining safety on these local roads.

815

However, before I begin, please allow me to introduce an artist's version. Danford Lake has seen better days, days when people were as one, when elected officials shared the people's vision of this little town's future. We are all proud of our pristine unspoiled environment. The mood of those days is so well captured by the logo created by Mrs. Georgia West, a local artist.

820

But then the winds have changed, winds brought on by a private corporation. According to the old war tactic, divide and conquer, the people of this village have lost their unified front. The municipality is on one side, the people on the other; a united front that served them well for many generations. If this hearing does not manage to turn the winds around, this logo will represent the division of Danford Lake for generations to come. Thank you, Georgia; no words could have done us better.

825

Now, let me proceed into the issue of traffic and Quebec's acceptance of the high risk, the issue of the ultimate price some Quebecers may pay for this project.

830

Years ago, I have seen a banner in a windshield of a commuter's van. The banner said "Pray for me, I drive Highway 105". I know no longer see that van. This road has been known as a killer highway. It has claimed many lives, caused many tragic moments in families.

835

840 This shows the road and the only road that we have. There is no other road to go to Hull or to go to Ottawa. In my family alone, we spend twelve (12) person hours per day travelling Highway 105 and 301. Hundreds of local kids travel to and from school every day. Often, when a bus is a little late, I start to panic. Is my daughter okay? What if something happened? I freeze and wait in terror. This is all I can do.

845 As a bus driver myself, I get to see a lot of situations which could end up in horror. No matter how good the drivers are, and a lot of them are good drivers, there are simply too many vehicles on these bad roads.

850 These roads used to be simple country dirt roads winding around hills and river curves. Then, they were paved. They are still country roads, which have been paved. They are not highways. These routes have not been designed for heavy traffic. They have never been designed. They just happened to be there from the old logging days.

Putting more and more traffic on is like playing Russian roulette. It is reckless and irresponsible. It is putting the safety - putting public safety at risk and, in fact, costing lives.

855 Placing a facility of this nature near Danford Lake, which will cause dramatic decline in road safety, is simply criminal. It takes a blind fool not to see at what cost this facility would operate. Human lives are at stake. And everything possible must be done to prevent this from becoming a reality of a twenty-first century Quebec.

860 I make this claim based on experience of my own and my colleagues. If you permit me, I would like to play a short video of a few testimonies of my colleagues.

(VIDEO)

865 MS. SUE MARTIN:

870 Driving Highway 301 between Kazabazua and Danford, I do that trip eight (8) times a day. Over the years, there have been a lot of close calls, and it gets worse and worse every year, where the trucking gets heavier and heavier. This is a road that was never built for this kind of trucking. People put their kids on the buses in the morning thinking they'll be back home safely in seven (7) hours, but will they? More trucks, over a hundred (100) a day, on this highway will only make it more dangerous.

875 Just for an example of a close call, this week, there was a convoy of three (3) transports behind me, three (3) trucks, not loaded, so, moving pretty quick, very close behind me, so that I could not make a safe stop. I couldn't even safely pull over to let them get by me. This is the kind of thing we deal with every day. More trucks can only make the situation worse.

MS. KAREN MILFORD:

880 My experience was I was stopped to let children off. I had put my four (4) ways on. And a
big truck came around the corner, and when he'd seen the four (4) ways, he tried to brake and
stop. And when he did this, the trailer of the truck jackknifed, and it headed for our bus. It was
unbelievable. Like I just screamed at the kids to get down and brace themselves, and I held onto
the steering wheel and braced myself. And he managed to regain control of the vehicle, and he
885 stopped like inches from our bus. Like I'll never forget it. It's in my mind. Every time I close my
eyes, I see it.

MR. ZENON CHMIELOWSKI:

890 Just this last September, I and some students returning home to Danford escaped death
by a matter of inches. It was a nice warm sunny day. We were only a few kilometres from
Danford. I stopped the bus to let a student off. The bus stop is just past a curve on a downhill
slope, not visible to the traffic behind the bus until the last few moments.

895 Actually, I have that particular section of the highway to show you right here. As you see,
the car is going. There is no bus. There's no danger. You pass the hill, and there's the bus. You
only have moments to stop. This car stopped in three (3) seconds, but then this car knew about
this situation. It was my wife following me just to film. Other cars may not expect anything on the
road not moving.

900 Now, back to the story, as the student was getting off the bus, I heard some squealing
noises. I looked back and saw a truck burning tires trying to stop. It did stop just inches from the
back of the bus. I cannot describe what I felt. I was numb. Had this been a rainy day, I and the
bus passengers, all Danford residents, students from Danford Lake, would have been dead. I
905 cannot emphasize enough how much danger hangs over our heads every day.

For the purpose of this hearing, I have studied the issue of safety or rather the science of
collision, and I would like to present my findings. As a marine engineer and a computer
programmer, I was well equipped to do so. I have refreshed my knowledge of some laws of
910 physics, which could be applied in calculating the dynamics of stopping a vehicle. I have also
visited web sites of road departments of various countries, as well as many university sites.

In order to be able to play what-if scenarios, I have developed a computer program which
would take away all the laborious calculations and allow me to concentrate on the issue at hand.

915 The main question I wanted answered was: What are the factors involved in stopping a
vehicle in motion? And, finally, what are my chances of surviving this job, considering the state of
the roads and traffic placed on them? What I have found is this. I should quit this job as soon as

possible, because the next time it rains, a heavy truck may not stop in time.

920

Let us now load the program and play a few scenarios. This program performs certain calculations to show how various road conditions as well as human reflexes can impact the safety, and that the dangers we face on these roads are much greater than most people expect.

925

We'll start with a preprogrammed data for a car, for a small passenger car, that starts to see the bus three hundred (300) feet before the bus' - actually from the position of bus. This is the situation that you saw the video clip of. You see a straight line, but, in fact, we're talking about a curve and a hill in addition to the distance. To make it easy to visualize, I have also provided a small animation to actually show the position of the car after analyzing this data.

930

So, let's go ahead and calculate this particular situation. We have a speeding - a car speeding at ninety (90) kilometres an hour. The initial distance is three hundred (300) feet.

935

There is a decision time and an action time that had been documented by many Departments of Transportation and other scientific communities. Basically, this is a time for the human brain to process the danger, to perceive the danger, and to actually invoke action. Typically, it is two (2) seconds, but that depends on the condition of the driver, the age, how much sleep they had, and so on. I will start with this typical data of two (2) seconds.

940

So, what happened here, you see that the car has stopped just three (3) feet from the bus. It took a distance of two hundred and ninety-seven (297) feet to stop. A hundred and sixty-four (164) feet were lost to the two (2) seconds. During these two (2) seconds, the driver would be driving at ninety (90) kilometres an hour. Here, they start stopping, and this takes a hundred and thirty-three (133) feet for a regular passenger car on a good day.

945

But let's make it a rainy day. Again, data documented in many sources says that the coefficient of friction, which is the tires working against the pavement, typically zero point eight (0.8), goes down to zero point three (0.3) on a rainy day. So, if I change that to zero point three (0.3) and recalculate, notice we have a collision data, and this is where the car stopped. It has actually gone off the chart. It's way, way past. It actually took it five hundred and forty-three (543) feet to stop.

950

What the impact of this collision would be? Well, let's see. This would be equivalent of dropping four point one eight (4.18) tons onto the bus from a height of thirty-two (32) feet. That would be the force generated by the impact of this collision.

955

Now, a car is lighter than a truck. So, the car, we assume, would take more damage, but let's put a truck on this, in this situation, a heavy truck, and let's make it back a nice dry day. We already have a collision on a nice dry day. If we take away the decision time, say that the truck driver was really good, and didn't need any time to decide, we have no collision.

960

965 And I think, in this situation, on that hill, this is a typical daily situation, because a truck following a bus will see in time and will start slowing and will stop, because it followed the bus. So, it knows to expect it there. However, the day I almost died, that failed, even though this person followed the bus and should have seen.

970 It happens that people talk on cell phones, listen to music, or struggle with a mosquito in the cabin. Whatever the distraction is, it will be only seconds that will be enough to cause an accident here, two (2) seconds in the - actually, let's try. Yes, even two (2) seconds is enough. The impact of this, the force of this impact, would be thirty-seven (37) tons dropped onto this bus from the height of thirty-two (32) feet. I imagine I should really quit this job very fast.

975 We could play a lot of this what-if here. Actually, I have spent days and days. And the more I look at this, the more I get scared that this highway will cause death sooner or later, even as it is today without any additional traffic, without thirty (30) ton monsters travelling down this road.

980 I would like to point out and show that this is based on science, not hearsay. These are the principle laws that have been applied and the calculations that were used to figure it out. I will present that in my written brief, so that anyone can examine this data.

985 In summary, as we have seen, Highway 105 and Highway 301 are not suitable and cannot support this project. Mme. Chair and Mr. Commissioner, if you do recommend that this project be licensed to go ahead, please include in your recommendation that this project will require a new highway designed and capable of supporting this operation. If a new highway is not possible, this project is not, either. This is the only route to a major centre for local population. This route cannot be monopolized by a private corporation. Better, more sensible solutions are available, and they must be chosen.

990 In final words, I demand that this province put the safety of its citizens first before any other interests, before the interest of private corporations, before the interest of government officials without vision.

995 I do have another brief on the lack of democracy. However, I'm not sure what the timing - if I would be permitted to do it or not.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Could you take about five (5) minutes for that part?

1000 MR. ZENON CHMIELOWSKI:

Okay.

1005 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) Is Mr. Rowan in the hall? And how much time do you need, sir, for your presentation? Okay, then, you can take fifteen (15) minutes, if you wish. Let's say ten (10) minutes, okay.

1010 MR. ZENON CHMIELOWSKI:

Thank you, thank you; democracy, a huge issue in this project, every few seconds a child is born into this world. From that moment until the last breath, we have so many days to experience our creative ways of survival.

1015 It is said that every human being is the author of their own story. Of course, this can only be true in a free democratic society, a society based on fairness, mutual respect for one another, where respect for the people's values is a driving force of freedom and prosperity. In such a society, any person can indeed become the author of his own or her own story.

1020 One should think that this would not be difficult here in Canada. After all, we live in a country that so proudly proclaims its freedoms, its democratic system. Any time a Canadian high-ranking politician travels overseas and points out to the hosting governments that the track record in human rights may be lacking and should be improved, we feel proud and fortunate to be
1025 Canadians, the nation that can offer a lesson in this area of democracy and freedom.

We feel so fortunate, because, here in Canada, we have a Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We respect one another. We have a strong belief in democracy, a word that stands for so much, but do we really know what it is to live in a democratic society? Do we know our rights and obligations? Do we know what democracy is or what its basic principles are?
1030

Perhaps some of us take democracy for granted. Perhaps some of us have forgotten their history lesson, have forgotten how democracy came to be, or what the alternatives are.

1035 I, who was born and raised in a country under Soviet Communist system, do know some of the alternatives. I know the state of lack of freedom, the taste of lack of freedom. I can recognize the symptoms of the non-democratic disease. I know the fear of growing where everything is forbidden, where your mom and dad are afraid to share their thoughts with their own children. I know what it is to live in a country where you know you have no rights, where it is others who
1040 decide how you're going to live and how you're going to die.

I left my home, Poland, some twenty-five (25) years ago, leaving behind my family and friends, leaving my memories, my dreams, leaving it all to start in a new place, a new home. This

1045 new home was to be Canada. Here in this promised land, I could do everything with all this freedom and all these opportunities just waiting to be grabbed. I could start all over again, go places.

1050 But all I wanted was a home, a family, peace, and safety. I wanted safety from oppressors, dictators, corrupt officials, from all that which interferes, which brutally walks into one's life saying now you will do this or you will do that, because I say so. Here in Canada, I did not have to fear. This was democracy, and I was safe, or was I?

1055 Having chosen a peaceful corner away from the rush of a big city, away from noise and pollution, away from crowds, it was time to build that new life. It took years of schooling, working, building, all with a sense of accomplishment and with a sense of safety. I was building a new heritage, something that I could leave to my offspring, and if I was lucky enough, to my grandchildren. I gave my dream the prime years of my life. Remember, Canada, the democracy, was the guarantee of that future, and that future would be safe.

1060 Now, twenty-five (25) years later, when I'm no longer a young twenty-five (25) year old who can start all over, I find myself thinking and feeling that it may be time to pull the roots up again. Was the safety under the umbrella of democracy an illusion? Has Canada failed to protect my right to be the author of my own story? Would, once again, someone else, not myself, but someone else with different values be placed in authority to become the writer and write my script for me, or should I say instead of me? Why do I again struggle with a feeling of living in a country where
1065 there is no real freedom, where human rights are just an illusion?

1070 Here, during this hearing, an official, a Canadian official, stated that people have no rights, have no say in the matter of any decision taken by a municipality or an MRC. These words struck me hard. Canadians have no rights, imagine, these words spoken by a Canadian official in a public meeting.

1075 I now understand why the local authorities and the Mayor of Danford Lake have expressed no fear in adopting a dictatorial approach to governing by going against the citizens they are supposed to represent and protect, by disrespecting them with actions and behaviours unbecoming of public officials.

1080 Now, I understand where all that courage has come from. It has come from above, for it was an official from a higher office higher than the municipal level who stated that the people of this country have no rights.

Well, with such encouragement, the members of Danford Lake council feel that it is okay to dictate rather than to vote, that it is okay to work against the people rather than with the people, that it is okay to mislead, manipulate, all as a means to an end.

1085

I see that the Canadian democracy is in danger, for it is too weak and too easily circumvented by the clever foxes living among us. In its inherent weakness, the system tries to be fair to everyone, even to those who tend to abuse it.

1090

The local council of this municipality has clearly abused democracy by denying the people the voice that belongs to them, a very basic principle of any democratic society. Yet, this council continues to be recognized as a legal body with full public functions of this land. I can only assume that higher authorities of this region fully support the actions of this council and, therefore, are equally involved in the scandal.

1095

This world belongs to us all. Earth supports the life of all creatures, has done so for millions of years. During those millions, humans have evolved to what they are today. And this I'm not sure if I should be proud of. For the sake of this land, I wish the Indians had never allowed the white man to enter these domains. This land would not be scarred, and it would hold its untarnished beauty forever.

1100

As it is today, here in Canada, in the so-called developed country, we are about to show some savage behaviour. We are about to dig a hole in the ground and fill it with millions of tons of toxic matter. Here, in the country that is so proud of its status in the world technology wise and in every other way, and while taking this insane step, this society is willing to harm its citizens in more ways than one.

1105

This society is about to decide that its people are no longer of equal rights. People living in a large city will now have the right to smother the country folk, whose life is apparently not as important.

1110

One official said, again during this hearing, the engineered landfills were the most economical solution. I ask you: For how long has the economy going to be an excuse for crime? As I see it, harming many or killing many with bad industrial solutions is no less of a crime than killing one with a gun. Because this so-called solution is so economical, it makes it okay to expose Canadian children to mortal danger on its local roads overtaken with highways, if you can even call them highways.

1115

I am disgusted to be part of the human race, this human race of this century. The arrogance of man has no limits. Comparing to the millions of years it took earth to evolve and give us life, we are here for just a fraction of a second. We are born, live our lives, and disappear into dust, and we are willing to leave behind a legacy of garbage, disease, and destruction with consequences and bills for many generations of our children.

1120

What disgusting dirty creatures we have become, not just physically, but morally, so corrupted. We talk about cleaning it up. We talk about Kyoto and reduction of gas emissions,

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while creating mountains of garbage and polluting the air we breath. And to do all that, we are willing to kill, kill the passengers of school buses, cars, trucks. If this sounds sick to you, well, it is.

1130 We won't be here to witness the end of man. Perhaps we won't be here to witness the diseases that our children will suffer, but we are here now, and it is up to us how we shape the future. It is up to us to see that the eight (8) year old boy that spoke here a few days ago will have the owl, and will be able to show it to his children.

1135 We have an opportunity to redefine that which we call human. I wish that the leaders of this province, of this beautiful country, could see and appreciate the collective wisdom of the people of Quebec and choose to respect the call for change before it is too late.

1140 Let me cite another official during this hearing. The man said, "We procrastinated a little". The official procrastinated, and now our livelihoods, our homes, and our dreams are threatened. They procrastinated, and now, five (5) minutes before the deadline, they want a quick solution to save their jobs, to show the Minister that the job has been done, and what a job, indeed.

1145 They failed the Minister. They failed the Canadian people. They went for the solution that happened to walk in their door, the first, the easiest, and the worst, no public tender, no research, just first available random solution. The actions of local council of Allevyn-and-Cawood with the support of MRC Pontiac have caused much damage in the social structure of this community, even before the project has been considered for approval.

1150 As a citizen of this community, I strongly urge the Government of Quebec to stand on guard of democracy. I urge this government to redefine the laws of this land to make sure that no one has the ability to infringe on the rights of Quebecers, while saying I did not break any laws.

1155 I hope that this hearing, of which I think as a safety valve when democracy fails to protect its people from injustice, will cause the government to return the dignity to the people of Danford Lake and the region, return their rights and freedoms that were taken away by the few who lost their way. Thank you.

THE CHAIRWOMAN:

1160 (Translation) It's not a question. I just want an information that I want to pass on to you. There's a convention of ARIS that was signed. It's an agreement, I guess, by fifty (50) countries. These countries are members of the Economic Commission of the European Commission of United Nations, and this agreement is open for signatures of all the countries of the world, but
1165 Canada and the United States are part of the organization.

1170 This agreement puts forwards several elements under different forms to give the rights in terms of information or access to information, and to participate on the part of the public and justice also in relation to the environment.

So, I think it's important that you would learn or get to know it, and so that you can ask your elected members if, some day, will Canada adhere to this principle or agreement. Check it out on the Internet, because we talk a lot about green gases, and there's also a lot of work to be done.

1175 And it's not certain that we will always have a BAPE as it is today. And people tell us often times that, yes, it's great to participate in these public hearings, but we should hear about the people much more before the projects are put forward. And this is the principle that exists in this agreement. So, thank you so much for your testimony.

1180 MR. ZENON CHMIELOWSKI:

Thank you.

1185 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) You can introduce yourself.

MR. ROBERT ROWAN:

1190 (Translation) Mrs. Chair and Mr. Commissioner, I have followed following my brief the model that was suggested on your web site. So, my presentation: I introduce myself in the beginning, and my name is Robert Michael Rowan. I am an example of the duality linguistic and local resident. I am a resident part-time of the municipality of Kazabazua, co-owner of properties situated in numbers 34 and 35 of Chemin-du-lac-Danford-ouest.

1195 I am employed by the National Health Research Centre of Canada and until the 22nd of June, the date of my retirement of the public services. And in the past, I was Director of Human Resources for two (2) federal agencies: the IRSC and the Medical Research Council of Canada, and a sector of the Canadian Heritage that included at that time Parks Canada. My title was
1200 Director of the Human Resources in the Arts and Heritage.

1205 If my interest is - if I'm not mistaken, my properties are situated, as the crow flies, about five (5) kilometres of the site proposed for the TLS at Danford Lake and a kilometre of the River Kazabazua. It's difficult to determine, since a visit to the site was forbidden. And so, I live in that geographical zone that will be directly affected by this project, if it is authorized.

My concern: The decision to allow the establishment of a TLS in the municipality of Alleyn-and-Cawood, village of Danford Lake, will have a negative impact on the development of tourism and of the cottage living in the heart of the Outaouais.

1210

Tourism: Outaouais is a tourism zone in full expansion for development, and the territorial zone known under the name of Outaouais situated in north of Gatineau and of Ottawa has an enormous touristic potential. And this region could also become as popular as the Laurentians near Montreal and Charlevoix near Quebec City.

1215

And the tourist potential of Outaouais north of Wakefield is in the midst of coming to reality, and is at risk because of this proposal of putting a LET at Alleyn-and-Cawood, because of that proposal to put a LET at Alleyn-and-Cawood and to not be able to realize its potential.

1220

The proposed site is actually a Crown land. It's magnificent and underdeveloped. It is bordered on the south by the Park of Gatineau, and you have the web site address, and the north by the Forêt de l'Aigle, a management project of the forest in cooperation with the Algonquins of the community of Kitigan Zibi, and in the east by the Linear Park, and on the west by the Picanoc River and territories reserved for trapping, hunting, and fishing.

1225

In fact, one of the four (4) women in Quebec who does trapping, she is a cousin of my mother's. She is seventy-seven (77) years old, and she does it now with her son. Her territory is situated at the west of the Picanoc River.

1230

Another thing is the quality of the water in terms of tourist attraction. The establishment of the TLS a few metres of the Picanoc River and from Kazabazua has the potential to reduce in a significant way the quality of the water in the region.

1235

Included in this zone or on the outskirts is a series of lakes placed in an axis north/south: Shea, Little Danford, McConnell, Grand Danford, McCauley, Lyon, Blue Sea, Profond, Cayamant, etc. So, these lakes, who are also endangered, form a chain of waterways and of surface and underground waters which are, at the present time, of a very great quality.

1240

Kazabazua, in Algonquin language, is translated by land above water. We must protect that water, source of our economic and touristic development. Why put in the middle of such great valuable territory in terms of tourism a landfill site that will risk polluting the water tables and the rivers and the lakes of this region?

1245

A third point is ecological disaster. Do we want to repeat the errors of the past? For example, the ecological disaster of the landfill site of Cantley thirty (30) kilometres south of Kazabazua, the scenario that the population is going through in that municipality of Cantley, even if it's different, is at risk of reproduced at Kazabazua and in Danford.

1250 According to the information in the local medias, we noticed that, because of the landfill site in Cantley, there are health problems in humans and in farm animals, the pollution of water and of the environment, and the reduction - noticeable reduction or decrease of property value, and no development for new touristic infrastructure. Is it our future and this of our children and grandchildren?

1255 And a fourth one, the actual economy on hold: Because of this proposal, several projects of private property development are on hold, and, amongst others, projects for improvement on the summer properties, two (2) of them on my street of a value up to a hundred thousand (\$100,000.00). And these are only three (3) examples and just a very small portion.

1260 The fifth point, suggestions and your comments to improve the project: The economical development of the region should be concentrated towards tourism and not towards the establishment of a landfill site. The Government of Quebec should reconsider its deadline of 2008 for the closure of small municipal landfill sites, study in depth the topic of new technology for eliminating waste, and present a concerted action plan for all of the Quebec - national Quebec territory.

1270 My position in terms of the authorization to this project: I am totally against this project. Why is it that the actual Liberal minority government of Quebec, why would they authorize the development of a TLS by a business involved in the demolition of buildings, but that is from Ontario? It does not make any sense. And the economic benefits for such a project are very minimal in comparison to economic development, creation of jobs that would bring the tourist industry.

1275 The negative consequences for the environment of the TLS are real and documented in similar sites throughout North America. It is regrettable to pursue such a project that goes against the wishes of the local population and would be a repetition of past error. This population has not been able to exercise its democratic rights through a referendum.

1280 And in concluding, the site, is it not in dispute being part of the land claims led by the Algonquin population with the federal government?

1285 I speak in my name and in the name of my ancestors. I speak from my heart; my ancestors, the Rowan's, the Rabi, Mallette, and De Maisonneuve, who have all lived in that area at the early parts of the - in the 1800's.

Frank Rowan, who was a forester, an Irish woodsman who left Ireland to come to Ferme Neuve 1870; Hyacinthe Rabi, a French pioneer, a farmer in Notre Dame de la Salette in the 1838, one of the first pioneers actually. I think the other one was 1870, and Sieur De Maisonneuve, a first doctor in Montreal, 1672, and relation of the founders, he is one of my

1290 ancestors who was married to Mario Rowan. And Pierre Mallette, in 1652, in Montreal, sold his
land to Marguerite Bourgeois to build the Hôtel Dieu of Montreal. So, his descendent, a patriarch,
Louis, who lost his home and his land in St. Benoit d'Oka, the Martyrs' Parish of Oka, came here in
1738 in Notre Dame de la Salette.

1295 In my name and in their name, I would ask you to plead with Mrs. Lynne Beauchamps, the
Minister, to not destroy the land that is so important to us. This land belongs to us, and that will
belong to our descendants tomorrow. I thank you very much. Thank you, Mrs. Journault and
members of the Commission; thank you for letting us express our opinions.

1300 THE CHAIRWOMAN:

(Translation) So, thank you; we are going to take some time to go and eat, and we will
back at two (2:00). There's no correction by anyone? Two o'clock (2:00). On the agenda, it says
two o'clock (2:00), but she is saying thirteen - one thirty (1:30), one thirty (1:30). A correction, you
1305 can do it this afternoon.

1310 I, Annagret Rinaldi, the undersigned, Official Court Reporter, do hereby certify, under my
oath of office, that the foregoing is a true transcription of the above-named speakers at the public
hearings conducted by the BAPE.

AND I HAVE SIGNED:

1315 _____
ANNAGRET RINALDI,
Official Court Reporter.