PROSPERITY GOLD-COPPER MINE PROJECT CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REGISTRY #09-05-44811 FEDERAL REVIEW PANEL PUBLIC HEARING PURSUANT TO: SECTION 34 OF THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT PROCEEDINGS AT HEARING CLOSING REMARKS May 3, 2010 Volume 35 Pages 7229 to 7476 Held at: Big Mama's Steakhouse Williams Lake, British Columbia

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5	Ms. Nalaine Morin, Panel Member
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INTERESTED PARTIES AND PRESENTERS: (In order of appearance on the record): CLOSING REMARKS BY: The City of Williams Lake: (Mayor Kerry Cook) Mr. and Mrs. Siegfried Reuter Canoe Creek Band: (Dr. Bruce Stadfeld, Chief Marilyn Camille, Councillor Gertrude Harry) Tsilhqot'in National Government: (Chief Marilyn Bapt Mr. Sean Nixon, and Grand Chief Stewart Phillip) Tsilhqot'in National Government Chiefs: (Chief Ivor Myers, Yunesit'in; Chief Francis Laceese, Toosey;

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8 Tsilhqot'in National Government: (Chief Marilyn Baptise, Mr. Sean Nixon, and Grand Chief Stewart Phillip) 9 Tsilhqot'in National Government Chiefs: (Chief Ivor Myers, Yunesit'in; Chief Francis Laceese, Toosey; 10 Chief Percy Guichon, Tsi Del Del (Redstone); Chief 11 Marilyn Baptiste, Xeni Gwet'in; Chief Bernie Elkins (Presented by Chief Marilyn Baptiste); Chief Joe 12 Alphonse, Tl'etingox (Anaham)) 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 COURT REPORTING: 20 Mainland Reporting Services, Inc. Nancy Nielsen, RPR, RCR, CSR(A) 21 Stephen Gill, CCR, CSR(A) 22

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1 OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN: 2 THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning, Ladies and 3 Gentlemen, I just want to make sure you can hear me. 4 Good morning. 5 Given that this is our final day of 6 hearings, we will open with a short drumming ceremony 7 and then close at the end of the day with a drumming 8 ceremony as well in recognition of the fact that we 9 are holding these hearings within the traditional 10 territory of the First Nations. 11 So, with that, I will ask for the 12 drumming ceremony to start and then we'll open the 13 day's proceedings. 14 (DRUMMING CEREMONY) 15 (PRAYER) 16 MR. GRINDER: (Aboriginal Language Spoken). 17 All my relations. THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning. Again, welcome 18 19 Citizens of Williams Lake and the Cariboo-Chilcotin 20 Region, Ladies and Gentlemen, Chiefs, Elders, Members 21 of the Tsilhqot'in First Nation and the Secwepemc 22 First Nation within whose traditional territory we're 23 holding these hearings today, Members of the 24 Secretariat, Taseko Mines Limited. 25 We welcome you to this final day of our

1 session on closing remarks and the final day of these 2 hearings. Before I outline the Procedures we're 3 4 following, I will just take a moment to introduce ourselves. I think most of you know us, but there may 5 6 be some new people in the audience. 7 My name is Bob Connelly. I'm Chair of the 8 Environmental Assessment Panel. 9 On my right is Nalaine Morin. 10 And on my left is Bill Klassen. 11 And I'll turn immediately to Taseko Mines as 12 well to introduce their people before we proceed. 13 MR. BATTISON: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, 14 Panel Members. My name is Brian Battison, 15 Vice-President of Corporate Affairs for Taseko Mines. 16 Good morning to residents of Williams Lake, 17 First Nation Members and First Nation Chiefs. On my left is Sonia Meili, Sonia a 18 19 geoscientist-in-training at the Gibraltar Mine. She's 20 also working on the permitting issues related to 21 Prosperity. 22 Next to me on my left is Mr. Rod Bell-Irving. 23 Rod is Manager of Environmental Assessment for 24 Prosperity and responsible for the Prosperity Project 25 in these hearings.

1 On my right is legal counsel to Taseko, 2 Mr. Keith Clark. 3 THE CHATRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Battison. 4 MR. BATTISON: Mr. Chairman, I unavoidably 5 have to step out for a few minutes just around 25 6 after, or so, of this morning at 9 o'clock. So if 7 anybody is speaking, it's not out of disrespect, it's 8 just unavoidable. I put that on the record. 9 Also we'll be joined later today by Katherine 10 Gizikoff with Taseko, and by Mr. Scott Jones, who 11 missed the flight this morning and is scrambling to 12 get up here. Thank you. 13 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you, 14 Mr. Battison, for providing that further clarification 15 of members of your team as well. 16 Now for just a few opening remarks on the 17 Procedures for this final session. As you know, we've held general sessions, 18 19 we've held community sessions, we've held 20 topic-specific sessions, and this is the final session 21 for concluding remarks held both on Saturday and 22 today. 23 The closing remarks session is designed to 24 provide an opportunity for individuals and 25 representatives of organizations that have previously

1 appeared before the Panel to briefly summarize their 2 position on the Project's effects and to provide a 3 rationale for that position. The hearing record is now closed other than, 4 5 of course, the concluding remarks and supporting 6 information we receive today in support of those 7 concluding statements. We wanted to ensure that we could accommodate 8 9 concluding remarks within the two days that we had 10 established for this purpose, and therefore we did set 11 specific time limits for that purpose. 12 First Nations and other organizations that 13 received participant funding from the Canadian 14 Environmental Assessment Agency to participate in the 15 review have been given a longer time to make closing 16 remarks. 17 And individuals and groups that are not represented by any of those groups are given a maximum 18 19 of about 10 minutes. 20 I thought also I should introduce a new 21 procedural rule here this morning, given that, as I 22 look at the room, there is a disco ball at the back. 23 I wanted to make sure that people realized that 24 dancing was not allowed during these procedures today, 25 so I'm not sure that this is a coincidence that we

1 have the disco ball on the last day of our hearings, 2 but it turned out that way. In terms of our order of proceeding, I'll 3 4 just go through the order. 5 We have first of all Mayor Kerry Cook, who is 6 the first presenter this morning. 7 Then Mr. Siegfried Reuter. Then the Canoe Creek Band, Bruce Stadfeld. 8 9 And Tsilhqot'in National Government, 10 Jay Nelson. 11 We expect that will take us through to about 12 lunch and then, after lunch, we have short 13 presentations by various Tsilhqot'in Chiefs. We will then end with Taseko Mines' response, 14 15 their final concluding remarks, and then close, again 16 with a drumming ceremony in recognition of the fact 17 that we're meeting within the traditional territory of First Nations. 18 19 And I would like, before we proceed, to also 20 thank First Nations for the opening drumming ceremony 21 this morning. 22 So, with that, we will proceed immediately to 23 hear from our first presenter. And I'll ask 24 Mayor Cook to come forward, please. 25 Mayor Cook, we look forward to hearing from

1 you again. We, if I recall, heard from you on the 2 second day of our proceedings here in Williams Lake, 3 it seems like a long time ago, but it's actually not 4 that long ago as it turns out. 5 Please proceed. 6 CLOSING REMARKS BY THE CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE, 7 BY MAYOR KERRY COOK: MAYOR COOK: Thank you, and good morning. 8 9 I just wanted to recognize at this point the Shuswap 10 People for just allowing us to be here today and a 11 special thank you goes out to Cecil Grinder and his 12 drummers and for his prayers this morning. 13 So good morning, Panel, Taseko Mines, 14 representatives, we meet again. 15 As Mayor of The City of Williams Lake, I 16 would like to thank you for this opportunity to offer 17 some closing remarks. In preparing for this morning, I was reminded 18 19 of the fact that there's probably little I could add, 20 as you have probably heard just about everything. 21 Some of the points I would like to highlight, 22 though, are from my first presentation, and these 23 would be how important our past working relationship

Council. We recognize the need to continue to build,

with our First Nations neighbours has been to this

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1 strengthen, educate ourselves and our community around 2 the history and culture that has shaped our past. 3 As Mayor, I'm committed to doing this and want to share that just a few weeks ago I was invited 4 to a Grade 12 classroom and was reminded once again 5 6 about the lack of knowledge around this subject. The 7 good news was that they were open to listening and 8 learning so that they could try to understand. And 9 that is the beginning, that is always the beginning. 10 Just last week I was also encouraged, as I 11 was approached by a First Nations leader who wanted to 12 work together to provide cross-cultural education for 13 both sides. Emotion is running high, and regardless 14 of the outcome of the hearings, this needs to be done. 15 Treating people with disrespect and 16 oppression is never okay and I'm committed to trying 17 to correct this. But we can't go backwards. We need 18 to learn from the past and move forward. 19 In my first presentation, I was surprised to 20 feel the emotions that stirred within me as I gathered 21 the stats that I presented: 22 The job loss; a third of a 23 workforce lost jobs last year 24 which resulted in a loss of a 25 million dollars a week to our

1 local economy. 2 The unemployment rates 3 increasing from 6.5 to 12 percent, almost double the provincial 4 5 average. 6 Consumer bankruptcies 7 increased by 70 percent. 8 Increased vacancy rates up 9 700 percent to 13 percent. 10 And, of course, the 500 to 11 600 percent increase of families 12 accessing our local food bank. 13 Realizing that we have over 750 14 families in need and that we are 15 adding to this number by 30 16 families a month was shocking. 17 That this need represents a cost 18 of over \$30,000 a month, a cost 19 that is not sustainable. 20 We just received the first-quarter crime 21 stats for 2010. And we hit an all-time high, as I 22 mentioned earlier, in 2008 with crime, hit the number 23 one spot nationally, so we were pleased to see in 2009 24 that those numbers were dropping remarkably. Nothing 25 short of a miracle. The good news is that for 2010

1 first quarter, we are continuing to see reductions in 2 most areas, even over our 2009 numbers. 3 The only areas that show an increase are drunk and disorderlies, false alarms, and spousal 4 5 assaults. 6 Spousal assaults saw an increase of 7 20 percent over last year. Addictions and violence increase where there is economic strife. Parents are 8 9 anxious and our children are feeling the nervousness. We are clearly a community in need. We need 10 11 hope and we need new opportunities. 12 It is for all of these reasons that the City 13 has chosen to support the mine. 14 The City has chosen to work with Taseko to 15 ensure that Williams Lake is considered when decisions 16 are made around work shifts and purchasing supplies, 17 and although the details haven't been decided, we will 18 continue to pursue these discussions as they are in 19 the best interests of our community. 20 As a Panel, I don't know how you sift through 21 all of the material that you have heard or how you 22 weigh the arguments for and against. Your job is 23 certainly not easy. 24 How you separate the outstanding historical 25 land issues from the current Project at hand.

1 Sifting through the polarized views from both 2 sides is critical. Finding the common ground and 3 bringing both parties to a point where we can work together to find solutions that are in the best 4 5 interests of everyone is a must. 6 This is the challenge that I am committed to. 7 The people, all of our people, our youth and 8 our grandchildren, we need this, we need this hope. 9 Our future depends on it. 10 Thank you. 11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mayor Cook, for 12 your overview of your previous remarks and also the 13 new emphasis that you have placed on matters since you 14 spoke just before. We appreciate your closing remarks 15 and thank you again for your presentation. We've been 16 warmly received here in Williams Lake and have enjoyed 17 our stay here, I might add, as well. So thank you 18 very much. 19 MAYOR COOK: Thank you. 20 THE CHAIRMAN: Our next speaker is 21 Mr. Siegfried Reuter, please. I should say 22 Mr. and Mrs. Reuter. 23 Good morning, please proceed. 24 CLOSING REMARKS BY MR. AND MRS. SIEGFRIED REUTER: 25 MRS. REUTER: Good morning, Panel,

1 Taseko Mines, community of Williams Lake, I'm glad to 2 be able to be here again. I'm a little bit nervous. 3 I'm not a speaker. Just one second. I'm writing guite personally here, so just 4 I would like to be able to say 5 give me a second here. 6 it, but I'll forget it, so I have to write it. 7 Each morning before we begin school we walk 8 with our children on the hillside and in the valleys 9 along the waterways of the Beece and Taseko. It's our 10 daily exercise and it's just time to experience and 11 enjoy the freshness of a new day in our back yard and 12 appreciate the handiwork of the Creator. But each day 13 we get away from this, we can't get away from this 14 overwhelming feeling of being trapped. We have asked, 15 "Where should we go?" And this, the greatest place on 16 earth. Who can we turn to? 17 The stress and frustration in our home at 18 this time is overwhelming. 19 Sieg and I try to address the business issues 20 of websites, advertising, finishing of woodwork, 21 maintenance, organizing books, making preparations for 22 the upcoming season, and all along we bear the 23 pressure of keeping involved with this mine review 24 process and the torture of not knowing and no one 25 caring.

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1	We have been burdened to the point of
2	physical illness and mental exhaustion. And don't
3	think for a moment this has not impacted the lives of
4	our four children. The older two feel they are
5	helpless, while the younger are only aware that the
6	home is not as happy as it used to be. And they
7	escape to the outdoors.
8	What do you think would happen to us out
9	there?
10	Really, what's the point, if both the B.C.
11	Government and the mining company have made it clear
12	that we are here or how we will experience this
13	impingement.
14	The B.C. Government, by siding with this
15	mine, demonstrate enmity to not only the First Nations
16	Rights, Titles and Peoples, in effect toward all
17	people.
18	And the mining company, acting as a pampered
19	bully sticking their middle finger up in our faces,
20	hiding behind their faulty Environmental Impact
21	Statement and Provincial Certification. Like this is
22	their turf now and so much for environmental
23	sustainability. So much for Prosperity. Welcome to
24	B.C.
25	We are the sacrifice they are willing to make

1 to dig their gold. 2 As I write this, I find myself considering 3 how frank I should be and fear rose up in my throat. 4 Fear of having to find a new home to replace the one that we've loved and we've worked so hard for. 5 6 I cannot live under a mine. 7 I have fear of the personal repercussions of 8 revealing inadequacies and inconsistencies of those in 9 authority, fear of retribution by government that 10 holds our licences and our tenures, and they give me 11 no other option or explanation. 12 There's no one stepping up to address our 13 social or economic concerns. 14 I for one have learned a great deal during 15 this process about the history of government in 16 British Columbia towards First Nations People and of 17 their recurring pattern of neglect and abuses through 18 the posts on the Canadian Environmental Assessment's 19 website, through hearing documents and comments. And 20 it seems to me it is still happening. And now it's 21 not only to Natives, they are levelling their 22 indifference at third party people and we are a prime 23 example of that again, and they refuse to do what is 24 right and responsible. 25 I wonder if there's anyone here who would

1 like to have this mine as their closest neighbour. 2 Anyone in this room who would choose to live under a 3 mine. If we do not speak up for ourselves, we lose. 4 And further we are weakened by silence and fear. 5 I am proud of all the people who have stood up to oppose 6 7 this mine and the courage that they have displayed to explain and reveal the airs and shortcomings of this 8 9 government/big business/industry parity. Good for 10 you. And good for us all. 11 A ray of hope shone on us as I read the 12 presentations by Dr. Kevin Morin, Dr. Ann Maest, and 13 the whole team from Stratus Consulting, Rick Holmes, 14 MiningWatch, Wayne McCrory, Shari Hughes (sic), 15 Federal Fishery. And too many to explain. But I'm 16 reading this from home, I'm not in town every day. 17 The specialists who are beyond the reach of a 18 job or a boss and on principle have stood up here for 19 others who yet can't, I thank you, and you've paved 20 the ways for others to be courageous and I bless you 21 all. 22 Not much of a flicker was coming from B.C. 23 and their Environmental Impact Statement -- or 24 They didn't hear or see very much wrong. process. We 25 should all just accept that.

1 And thank you Taseko Mines and your team for 2 now confirming one of my worst realizations, that 3 there are Canadian mining companies and people as narrow, selfish and calculated who think it is 4 perfectly acceptable to misinform people in government 5 6 in order to have your way, even to the point of 7 purposely putting your stupid millions/billions of 8 dollars first over the lives and safety of our 9 children and everyone else. Very nice. And for your 10 continued look of concern and responsibility for your 11 hugely obvious encroachment on our lives, our home, 12 our business present and planned. 13 In the spirit that Cecil was speaking this 14 morning, I want to stay that way. I don't want to be 15 a warmonger. I don't want to be against my 16 neighbours. 17 But we are asking that Prosperity Mine not be 18 allowed to destroy Fish Lake and this whole mine be 19 rejected. We are pleading that this Panel that has 20 the gifts of listening, and thank you for your 21 patience, that you will notice the gross negligence of both the B.C. Government's Environmental Impact 22 23 process and its certification of Taseko Mines Limited, 24 along with the underhanded treatment of all local

peoples here on the ground by Taseko Mines and the

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1 B.C. Government. 2 Once again, you have not dealt honourably and 3 people need to hear about this and understand, this 4 could happen to them. And further, I would like to ask you if you 5 6 would let the Canadian Federal Government know that we must have an Environmental Assessment Process in order 7 8 to keep both industry and government honest and 9 accountable. 10 Without these opportunities to bring the 11 miners under the scrutiny of other geologists, hydrologists, biologists, environmentalists and the 12 13 public, we are forced by government to just accept 14 things that are not acceptable. 15 In doing away with this process would be 16 going backwards. 17 Maybe the miners, however, should have to pay the bill for all the government hours and the 18 19 technical specialists. 20 If this mine goes ahead, we lose. And I'm 21 speaking for all of us. We lose our clean air, our 22 fresh water, we lose our peaceful surroundings, our 23 home, and sustainable business and security. And not 24 only do we lose our present life but the mine will be allowed to steal our future. 25

1 Canada, this world, cannot afford another 2 paradise lost. 3 Sincerely, I'm signing it for my family, 4 Sieq, Kelly, Justin, Jesse, Kelsey and Kara Reuter. THE CHAIRMAN: 5 Thank you, Mrs. Reuter, for 6 your presentation and for appearing before us 7 previously as well. We appreciate your views and 8 thank you for contributing to the Review Process. 9 Thank you. 10 MRS. REUTER: Don't forget about us here. 11 THE CHAIRMAN: Our next speaker is the Canoe 12 Creek Band and I believe it's Bruce Stadfeld and 13 Chief Camille. 14 Please proceed when you're ready. 15 CLOSING REMARKS BY CANOE CREEK BAND, BY DR. BRUCE STADFELD, CHIEF MARILYN CAMILLE, COUNCILLOR GERTRUDE 16 17 HARRY CHIEF CAMILLE: 18 Good morning. 19 Chief Marilyn Camille, Canoe Creek Indian Band. And 20 I'd like to introduce my Councillor here, Gertrude 21 She's going to sit here with us. As you've Harry. 22 already said, Bruce Stadfeld is our legal counsel. 23 First of all, I want to acknowledge the 24 T'exelcemc People, Williams Lake Indian Band, for whose 25 lands we are meeting on today.

1 I want to acknowledge the prayer and the 2 drumming this morning, that's so important to set 3 things right for today. I thank the Panel once again, as I said when 4 5 you were in Dog Creek, to hear our People's concerns. 6 You've heard our members, you know, the use of the 7 land, their beliefs in the land, and the history of 8 what has happened to them over the years with no say 9 in what happened on their lands. And today they have stood up, or last week 10 11 and spoke for the first time, many of them, on what 12 their thoughts are, and I appreciate you being there 13 to hear what their direct thoughts are. So, with that, I will let Bruce do his 14 15 presentation of all the work we've gathered and 16 hearing from our members last week. 17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chief Camille. Mr. Stadfeld. 18 19 CLOSING REMARKS BY DR. BRUCE STADFELD: 20 DR. STADFELD: Good morning, Chair, Panel, 21 Members. I've handed up, and you should have before 22 you, a copy of an outline of Canoe Creek's 23 presentation for today, as well as a book of 24 authorities, and a book of documents. And I'll be 25 referring to both of those.

1 Now, I'll refer you, first, to my outline of 2 summary today, and you'll see that I have a total of six points that I'll go through. 3 I'll go through first a statement of Canoe 4 Creek's position on the Project. 5 6 Second, I'll move to the Panel's mandate and 7 role. Third, I'll go to an overview of the Canoe 8 9 Creek evidence. 10 Fourth, I'll discuss the Provincial 11 Environmental Assessment Certificate. 12 Fifth, I'll move to Taseko's conduct in 13 pursuing this Project. 14 And sixth, I'll end with our suggested 15 findings and recommendations for the Panel. 16 I'll start with Canoe Creek's position. 17 The Canoe Creek Indian Band opposes the Proposed Prosperity Project due to the significant 18 19 effects of the Project, including the mine and the 20 transmission line on the environment and on Canoe 21 Creek's Aboriginal Title and Rights, which either 22 cannot or have not been accommodated. 23 I'll move now to the Panel's mandate and 24 role. 25 My intention at first was not to get into

1 this in detail, but I have to say, attending the first 2 day of these closing remarks on Saturday, I was a bit 3 taken aback and surprised by the Chair's comments in reply to a submission from my friend Ms. Hunt. And I 4 5 took the Chair at the time to say that, quote: 6 "This is not the process by which the Crown will honour its 7 8 duty to consult and accommodate." 9 End quote. And that, quote: 10 "This is a different issue." Now, I know those were comments in the 11 12 moment, but they did raise concern with Canoe Creek. 13 And I know that you're aware that this has been a 14 concern with Canoe Creek from day one. I appeared 15 before you on the very first day of the hearings 16 expressing our concerns regarding the Panel's 17 understanding of the scope of its mandate and 18 obligations. 19 And so what I want to do now is I want to 20 take you back quickly and outline for you three 21 documents which we say identify the scope of your 22 mandate and your serious obligations in this review. 23 I want to start, first, with what the Supreme 24 Court of Canada had said about the role of a Panel 25 doing a review under the Canadian Environmental

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1	Assessment Act. And you can find this at Tab 1 of my
2	Book of Authorities. I would like to take you to
3	paragraph 95.
4	Now, the Supreme Court has said that (as
5	read):
6	"Environmental Assessment in its
7	simplest form is a planning tool
8	that is now generally regarded as
9	an integral component of sound
10	decision-making."
11	And then it goes on to identify its
12	fundamental purpose. And it identifies it as (as
13	read):
14	"Early identification and
15	evaluation of potential
16	environmental consequences of a
17	proposed undertaking."
18	And I stress here "early identification" and,
19	second, "decision-making role".
20	Then if you go down to the next part of the
21	paragraph, the Supreme Court said (as read):
22	"As a planning tool, it has to be
23	both an information-gathering and
24	a decision-making component which
25	provide the decision-maker with an

1	objective basis for granting or
2	denying approval for a proposed
3	project."
4	Now, the purpose here is that you're playing
5	an integral role in the Minister's decision. There
6	are certain issues which, by your Terms of Reference,
7	are outside of your mandate. And I'll get to those.
8	But that does not mean that you do not have an
9	expansive mandate in playing a role in deciding. The
10	Minister will make the ultimate decision, but he will
11	be relying on you.
12	Now, while we have my Book of Authorities, if
13	we could go to Tab 7. And I know you're familiar with
14	the sections of the Canadian Environmental Assessment
15	Act that you're operating under. But I want to take
16	you back and emphasize certain aspects of the Act.
17	We're at Section 16. This is at Tab 7. And, again,
18	Section 16(1) starts with:
19	"The Panel shall include a
20	consideration of"
21	And then it lists a series of factors:
22	"1. The environmental
23	effects and cumulative
24	environmental effects."
25	Next, this is sub (b):

1 "(b) the significance of 2 the effects; (c) comments from the 3 public; 4 5 (d) ..." 6 This is a very important point: " 7 measures that technically or 8 9 economically feasible, 10 and that would mitigate 11 any significant adverse 12 environmental effects." 13 Now, I'll come back to this again. And 14 fourth -- or fifth, I'm sorry, (e), this is a very 15 important point: 16 "(e) Any other matter 17 relevant ..." 18 And then we turn the page, this is to the 19 Panel: "... regarding the need 20 21 for the project, 22 alternatives to the 23 project, that the 24 Minister, after 25 consulting with the

1 Responsible Authority, 2 may require to be considered." 3 Now, this, of course, is what takes you to 4 5 your Terms of Reference, what did the Minister tell 6 you you must do. 7 Now I want to go down to 16(2) and there's two points here that I want to emphasize. It's (b) 8 and (c). Again: 9 10 "Shall include a consideration of ..." 11 12 Certain factors, and then in (b) we find: 13 "(b) alternative means of 14 carrying out the project that are technically and 15 16 economically feasible and 17 the environmental affects 18 of any such alternative 19 means." 20 And then (c): 21 "(c) The need for and the 22 requirements of any 23 follow-up program in 24 respect of the project." 25 And I'll come back to these two points.

1 These are very important points: First, that the 2 alternative means must be technically and economically 3 feasible; and second, it's within the scope of your 4 mandate to identify required follow-up programs. We turn the page to go to 16.1, of course, 5 6 and you heard a lot about this: 7 "Include community knowledge and Aboriginal traditional 8 9 knowledge." 10 These may be considered in conducting your 11 assessment. And, of course, you've heard a lot over 12 the last month and you're specifically mandated under 13 the Act to consider it. 14 Last, I'll take you to the next page, which 15 is Section 34, and this is regarding to your report, 16 how you shall set out your report. 17 Now I'll take you to 34(c), and again I emphasized this on the first day. I'll take you back 18 19 again, because we have continuing concerns about this. Your report, you shall include, "... rationale, 20 21 conclusion and recommendations". That's at (c)(i), 22 "... including mitigation measures", and, again, 23 "follow-up programs". 24 Now while I have you here, I want to take you 25 back to Tab 2. With all that in mind, what we just

1 reviewed for Section 16 and 34, at Tab 2, you'll find the Federal Court decision in **Pembina Institute**. 2 And 3 this, again, was to do with an Environmental Review 4 under CEAA. 5 I'll turn you, first, to page 5, which is 6 paragraph 15. I won't take you through this into 7 detail, but this is where the Federal Court refers back to the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in 8 9 Friends of Oldman River, identifies the broad scope of 10 your mandate as an "early planning tool". 11 The important point I want to emphasize from 12 this, there's two. First, I'll take you to 13 paragraph 19, if I could. So that's on the next page. 14 At the bottom of paragraph 19, you'll find a 15 reference to the Terms of Reference there. Now, the 16 Terms of Reference -- this is the very last line, 17 paragraph 19 (as read): "The Terms of Reference shall 18 19 determine the scope of certain 20 factors that may be taken into 21 consideration by a Review Panel in 22 These Terms of its assessment. 23 Reference may significantly 24 increase the obligations incumbent on the Panel." 25

So, of course, you're not just acting 1 2 under 16 (34), you're acting under a Terms of 3 Reference, and we'll go there and we'll see how that's 4 exactly the case, the obligation on you is much broader than a Terms of Reference which was crafted in 5 6 a different way to exclude the issue of Aboriginal 7 Title and Rights. It's not the case here. 8 And the final point that I want to make with 9 this case is at paragraph 25. And I won't take you 10 through it all, but this goes back to the issue in 11 Section 16 about economically and technically feasible 12 mitigation. 13 And the point here comes up at the very end of paragraph 25. And this is in referring to what is 14 15 actually feasible, what's a feasible mitigation? And 16 what the Court says here is that it can't be something 17 vague and general, it can't be a future plan, it has to be something concrete. So this is what the Court 18 19 says (as read): 20 "Since the Minister did not 21 identify any known technologies 22 but only vague hopes for future 23 technology, it is not possible to 24 consider that the recited adverse 25 water quality effects are

1 mitigable." 2 And the Court goes on to say (as read): 3 "Thus, in the context of a 4 panel assessment, the possibilities of future research 5 6 and development do not constitute 7 mitigation measures." 8 And I'll take you back to this as we go 9 through our presentation today, because what you'll 10 find is, we submit, most of the so-called mitigation, 11 accommodation measures, that have been put to you so 12 far by Taseko, fit into this category. They are vague 13 and general. They are not concrete. They do not 14 count as mitigation under the Canadian Act. 15 Now, I've included in my outline the relevant 16 sections again from your Terms of Reference. I won't 17 take you there. I took you there on the very first 18 day. I've put them here just for ease of reference. 19 And, of course, the Terms of Reference do say that you 20 shall fully consider and include in your report 21 information regarding strength of claim of Aboriginal 22 Title and Rights, and adverse effects on Aboriginal 23 Title and Rights. And at the end, when you get to the 24 section of your Terms of Reference which refer to the 25 scope of the report, it sets out that: "The report

1	shall include, but not limited to", and then it
2	goes on, conclusions, recommendations and rationale.
3	Now, the third document that I want to take
4	you to can be found in my Book of Documents at Tab 2.
5	Now, this is a letter. It's on the Registry.
6	It's document 1916. And this was sent on February
7	9th, 2010 from the Federal Government to all the
8	affected First Nations for this Project.
9	And we submit that you have to have a mind
10	for the content of this letter when you're writing
11	your report, because what this shows, and I'll go into
12	it, is that contrary to what I understood the Chair to
13	say on Saturday, in fact, no, you're playing an
14	integral role, at least Canada thinks you are, you're
15	playing an integral role in the fulfillment of the
16	Crown's duty to consult and accommodate First Nations.
17	If what the intent of your comments were was that you
18	weren't going to fulfil them yourselves or make an
19	ultimate decision, of course that's correct. But you
20	are definitely playing an integral role and Canada has
21	told all the affected First Nations exactly that. And
22	they have encouraged the affected First Nations to
23	take part on that basis.
24	So I won't belabour this point. You can go
25	down to the bottom of the first page, halfway down the

1	last paragraph, begins with, "These Terms of
2	Reference", that's referring to the Panel:
3	" require the Panel to consider
4	and include in its report
5	information provided by First
6	Nations regarding the manner in
7	which the Project may adversely
8	affect the potential or
9	established Aboriginal Rights or
10	Title. This information, as well
11	as other relevant information,
12	will be used by the Federal
13	Government to determine the
14	validity of Aboriginal Rights or
15	Title claims in relation to the
16	Project, the scope of the Crown's
17	duty to consult, and whether
18	Canada has met its duty to consult
19	and accommodate."
20	And if you turn to page 2, the second full
21	paragraph, what Canada's done here is they have
22	attached a proposed consultation framework. They
23	refer to that. Again, Canada goes on to say, this
24	framework:
25	"Has been prepared to provide

1 further information on how 2 Aboriginal consultation will be 3 integrated into the review panel and regulatory processes." 4 5 Go down to the next paragraph, the second 6 line, this is Canada speaking to the affected First Nations: 7 "We encourage you to present 8 9 to the Panel information related 10 to the nature and scope of 11 potential or established 12 Aboriginal Rights or Title in the 13 area of the project, as well as 14 information on the potential 15 impacts or potential infringement 16 that the project may have on 17 potential or established Aboriginal Rights or Title." 18 19 Go down to the next paragraph, I won't read 20 this out, but Canada says that the Panel process will 21 provide a fair, efficient and effective means of 22 bringing your concerns forward. 23 And then it goes on and on in this vein. 24 So there's no doubt at all, of course, that 25 Canada is relying on the Panel to, partly, fulfil its

1 obligations to First Nations. 2 So what we want to make clear here is that we 3 see that the Panel has two options: 4 You can either state at the 5 outset of your report that you 6 never considered that part of your 7 mandate was playing an important, 8 significant and central role in 9 the fulfillment of the Crown's 10 duty to consult and accommodate, 11 and that's the Federal Government 12 should not rely on your report for 13 that purpose. That's one option. 14 Or, you can assume that 15 obligation. And when you do, I 16 want to stress how important that 17 obligation is. These First Nations, Canoe Creek and others, 18 19 have spent energy and time, they have poured out their 20 hearts to you, on the assumption, on the understanding 21 that you will be seriously considering their 22 information, their concerns, their position, and that 23 you will be coming to conclusions and recommendations. 24 Now, this is the next section of my summary. 25 We set out what Canoe Creek's position on the Panel's

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1 mandate is. And it is that you must consider and make conclusions and recommendations on all relevant issues 2 3 before you, excepting specific determinations which are excluded by your Panel's mandate. And I want to 4 Those are determinations. 5 stress that. We're not 6 asking you to make determinations that are excluded. 7 You have to fall short of that. 8 But, as the Supreme Court decision in Friends 9 of Oldman show, you're playing an integral role in the 10 Minister's decision-making. And part of that, I want 11 to start with this, is the scope of your 12 considerations, before we get to conclusions and 13 recommendations, and I realize that these are 14 categories that cannot be easily compartmentalized, 15 they flow into each other, but you have to consider 16 what your considerations mean and what the scope are. 17 And so when you turn to a dictionary, what is 18 "consideration"? It means to think deliberately and 19 carefully. It's more than summarizing. And it's a 20 necessary prelude to decision-making. So they are 21 interconnected.

The way the Federal Government is proceeding is that they are making a, the Minister is making a decision, but he's relying on your considerations. And you always have to have that in mind, what

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1 considerations do you have to make in order for him to 2 make an informed decision? He's not here. You are. 3 So in regards to the strength of claim of 4 Aboriginal Rights, Canoe Creek says that the Panel's considerations must include a weighing of the evidence 5 6 in advance of a final determination by the Minister. 7 So it's more than just summarizing it. You 8 have to weigh it. What does it show you? 9 You must include a consideration of the 10 evidence before you of strength of claim of 11 established or unrecognized Aboriginal Title and 12 Rights. 13 Second, in regards to accommodation of those 14 Title and Rights, again, you have to weigh the 15 evidence before you. And this includes considering, 16 assessing, any accommodation or mitigation measures 17 that have been proposed. 18 Now, we get next to the conclusions that you 19 will make. And when we come to the end of my 20 presentation, I'll suggest what they should include, 21 what some of them should be. But I just want to get 22 straight here what Canoe Creek says the scope of your conclusions involve. 23 In that there must be 24 conclusions regarding the significance of the effects 25 of the Project on Aboriginal Title and Rights. You

1 can conclude on that. 2 That's not outside of your mandate. That's 3 specifically within it. And the Minister will rely on 4 that. If not, how is he supposed to fulfil the Crown's duty to consult? He's relying on you. 5 6 Second, it's within the scope of your mandate 7 to make conclusions on whether there are technically 8 and economically feasible measures that would mitigate 9 the effects of the Project on Aboriginal Title and 10 Rights. 11 Again, your obligation is to draw conclusions 12 from what's before you. 13 And third, conclusions on whether there is a 14 need for any follow-up programs. This is why I 15 referred you to that section of the Canadian 16 Environmental Assessment Act, Section 16. 17 What follow-up programs would you conclude 18 are necessary in respect to the potential adverse 19 effects on Aboriginal Title and Rights and what are 20 the specific requirements of those programs? 21 Now, third, recommendations. It's clear it's 22 within your mandate to make an overall recommendation 23 to the Minister on whether or not the Project should 24 be approved. Second, again, there's no solid line 25

1 sometimes between conclusions and recommendations, but 2 recommendations on what technically and economically 3 feasible measures are available to mitigate? And again, I draw you back to Madam Justice 4 5 Lamer Tremblay's comments in **Pembina**. They have to be 6 real. They can't be vague. They can't be best 7 practices in the future, make best efforts. They are 8 not those. Those do not qualify under the Act. 9 And last on this section, I have 10 recommendations for follow-ups. 11 Now, I want to stop here for a moment because 12 what this says is that you are playing, of course, a 13 vital role, and I want to emphasize the obligations 14 that you've taken on here. Because the Minister has 15 to fulfil a constitutional obligation. It's the 16 highest law in the land. He has to fulfil a 17 constitutional obligation to ensure that every affected First Nation is consulted and accommodated. 18 19 If he cannot do that, then he cannot approve the 20 Project. 21 Now, this is, as you've heard for the last 22 month, not just the great issue here in B.C., but one 23 of the great issues, outstanding issues in Canada. 24 You heard from all the First Nations affected here. 25 They have never signed a treaty. The Crown, 150 years

1 ago, unilaterally took control of their lands and they 2 have been acting as de facto owners of those lands for 3 150 years, making decisions about them that are 4 detrimental to the fundamental constitutional rights 5 of First Nations. And that's the great question that 6 you've become involved in here, is that one. 7 So it's not, with all due respect, what the 8 Mayor of Williams Lake was emphasizing to you earlier 9 today, "How do you separate the past from your 10 decision?" That is not the correct way to proceed. 11 The past is the present and the future for these First 12 Nations and it's integral to your decision. 13 Now, with that in mind, what I wanted to do 14 next was go to what's on the record regarding the 15 strength of claim of Canoe Creek's Aboriginal Title 16 and Rights. And we submit that Canoe Creek's 17 Aboriginal Rights, let's start with that, include a 18 recognized right to hunt and a recognized right to 19 fish, and uncontested rights to trap and harvest 20 plants. That's not all of their Rights, but for the 21 purposes of today, these are the ones that we're going 22 to emphasize. 23 And what I want to start with is the right to 24 fish. And this is central that, from Canoe Creek's 25 position, this is not an unproven right. This is a

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1 recognized right. And legally that's important for 2 the Minister to know, because it affects his 3 obligations, his legal obligations to Canoe Creek. So I wanted to start here with my Book of 4 Documents. And this is Tab 3. What I've put in here 5 6 is just a backgrounder from the B.C. Treaty Commission 7 regarding the law of the Aboriginal right to fish. And I think this is helpful for the Panel 8 9 because it sets some context that is the accepted 10 understanding in B.C. And I'll take you to, I believe 11 it's page 3. Page 3, there's a section called Fish 12 and the Law. So that's my Book of Documents, tab 3, 13 page 3. 14 Fish and the Law, in the second paragraph of 15 this document, you'll read, it says: 16 "The Supreme Court of 17 Canada's decision in **Sparrow** was a major turning point for Aboriginal 18 19 Rights and specifically Aboriginal 20 fishing Rights." 21 Now, this dates from 1990. And then we jump 22 down to the next paragraph in this document: 23 "Sparrow defined Aboriginal 24 People's right to fish for food, 25 social, and ceremonial purposes, a

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1	right that takes priority over the
2	uses of the fishery, except
3	conservation."
4	And then the next paragraph:
5	"Responding to Sparrow, the
6	Aboriginal Fishing Strategy was
7	launched in 1992 to recognize the
8	Aboriginal right to fish."
9	This is a policy of the Federal Government.
10	"The strategy applies where
11	the Department of Fisheries and
12	Oceans manages the fishery and
13	where treaties or other agreements
14	are not already in place."
15	So that sets the context for the fact is that
16	there's an accepted right for Aboriginal People in
17	B.C. to fish. It's accepted by the Federal
18	Government. They don't have to go off to court to
19	prove that right. If they want a commercial right to
20	fish, yes, they do. But this is a right to fish for
21	food, social and ceremonial purposes. It's
22	uncontested.
23	And I'll take, just if there's any doubt
24	about that, I'll take you to my Book of Authorities.
25	And this is Tab 3. This is the Supreme Court of

1 Canada decision in Kapp, 2008. And I've not included 2 the entire decision here, but I'll take you to 3 paragraph 4. And the third sentence in paragraph 4, 4 it says: "In the last two decades, 5 6 court decisions have confirmed 7 that the pre-contact fishing 8 practices integral to the culture 9 of Aboriginal People translate 10 into a modern-day right to fish 11 for food, social and ceremonial 12 purposes." 13 And then we turn the page to paragraph 7, and 14 the second sentence in paragraph 7, and here, this is 15 where the Court refers back to the same policy that I 16 took you too in the handout just before. And it says: 17 "Introduced in 1992, the 18 Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy had 19 three stated objectives ensuring 20 the Rights recognized by the 21 Sparrow decision are respected." 22 So we submit, there's no question that 23 there's a recognized right to fish, and it applies to 24 the Canoe Creek Indian Band. 25 Now, second, recognized right to hunt. Same

1 thing here. This is not the case of a prima facie or 2 There's a recognized right to hunt. unproven right. And for this, I'll take you first, if you have my Book 3 of Authorities, this is paragraph, sorry, this is 4 5 This is a decision from the B.C. Court of tab 4. 6 Appeal in 1993. So we're talking 17 years ago. This 7 is the Alphonse decision. And for this, this was a 8 case where there were charges under the Wildlife Act 9 against a Secwepemc man for hunting deer. And you go 10 to paragraph 5, identifies who the person was, 11 William Alphonse. He was a Shuswap and a member of 12 the Williams Lake Band. 13 Then it goes down to paragraph 6, and I think 14 this is important information for the Panel to keep in These are points 1, 2 and 3 in paragraph 6 (as 15 mind. read): 16 17 "The Shuswap have a history of an organized society going back 18 19 long before the coming of the 20 White Man. 21 Hunting deer was an integral 22 part of their life. 23 And, third, deer have both 24 cultural and material importance 25 for the Shuswap."

1 Now I want to turn it over to paragraph, 2 let's go to the end of this, paragraph 85. So that's 3 on page 22. Here's the Court's decision. And the 4 Court decided that: 5 "Mr. Alphonse was exercising his 6 unextinguished Aboriginal Right when he shot a deer." 7 Now, that decision stands. It's never been That's the law. 8 overturned. 9 Now, I want to take you to the point, 10 Alphonse was a member of the Williams Lake Band, but 11 he was a Shuswap, he was a Secwepemc. And as you've 12 heard, I think, you've probably heard a lot in the 13 last month about Justice Vickers' decision in the Xeni Gwet'in case. And Justice Vickers there set out the 14 15 law on who the proper rights holder would be. And he'd said it's not a Band. The rights, Aboriginal 16 17 Rights rest in a Nation. And what that means is this 18 decision confirms the right to hunt for the Secwepemc 19 Nation, not just the Williams Lake Band. 20 And if there's any doubt possible about this, 21 I'll take you to Tab 8 of this same Book of 22 Authorities. What I've included here is the Hunting 23 and Trapping Synopsis 2009/2010 from the Provincial

24 Government.

25

So this sets out the Provincial Government's

1	statement on the Wildlife Act . And if you can turn to
2	the very last page of that tab, on the very last page
3	on the left-hand column, there's a section entitled
4	"Aboriginal Hunting." And the second full sentence of
5	that says:
6	"The Ministry also recognizes
7	that Indian people have Aboriginal
8	Rights to harvest wildlife for
9	sustenance, that's food, social,
10	and ceremonial purposes, in their
11	traditional areas."
12	Now there's no doubt about this. It's a
13	recognized right. It's recognized by the Provincial
14	Government, by the Provincial Crown. Under the law,
15	the Crown is indivisible. If the Provincial Crown
16	recognizes the right, we say it applies the same to
17	the Federal. And vice versa.
18	And this, of course, is not just for the,
19	this goes not just for Canoe, and not just for the
20	Secwepemc, for all First Nations in B.C.
21	Now, my next point here is we've discussed
22	the Aboriginal Rights. Now we're going to discuss
23	Aboriginal Title.
24	And as you heard during the two days in
25	Dog Creek on April 16th and 17th, Canoe Creek is at

1 Stage 4 of the six-stage B.C. Treaty process. They 2 have negotiated a Framework Agreement. And they are 3 currently negotiating an Agreement in Principle. The 4 two remaining stages are finalization and 5 implementation. Canoe Creek submits that that in 6 itself establishes a strong prima facie case for 7 Aboriginal Title. Now, next I want to take you to -- we've put 8 9 to you what our position is on recognized established 10 Rights and on Aboriginal Title. 11 Now I want to move to the second part of 12 this, which is the adverse effects. What you've 13 heard. 14 Now, I won't review all the evidence before 15 I urge on you to closely review: you. The expert reports of Gary 16 17 Runka, who appeared before you, his Assessment of the 18 19 Environmental Impact Statement; 20 The report from Ms. Kooy on 21 the potential for tourism; 22 And the testimony that you 23 heard over two days in Dog Creek. 24 And what I've done with that is I've prepared 25 an excerpts document, because I realize there's

1	several hundred pages of testimony. Now, I urge you,
2	of course, to read it all. It was powerful testimony,
3	it was sincere, and it was from knowledgeable people
4	about how they use the land, why it's important to
5	them, and what the potential effects of the
6	transmission line and mine are on them.
7	Now, as you know, there are certain factors
8	that kept coming up time after time:
9	- There was increased access
10	due to the transmission line. And
11	we say it's clear that this will
12	have a significant adverse effect
13	and interfere with the exercise of
14	Canoe Creek's Aboriginal Rights
15	and Title.
16	- That there are serious
17	concerns about invasive plants.
18	- That there are concerns about
19	water, about possible erosion and
20	contamination.
21	- That there are serious
22	concerns about how the
23	transmission line will devalue and
24	interfere with the potential
25	Aboriginal tourism industry.

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1	- And that there are serious
2	concerns about how it will
3	interfere with their treaty
4	negotiations, including treaty
5	land selections.
6	Now, as I say, I can't recount it all, but I
7	will go through some of the testimony that you heard
8	just to remind you of what you heard and pick up on a
9	few points that I think require further elaboration.
10	And what we began with was the testimony from
11	Gary Runka, and his report. I excerpted some of the
12	relevant parts for the document that you have before
13	you.
14	I want to pick up on one point, though, that
15	came up recurring here. And this was his suggestion
16	that the archaeology for the transmission line should
17	not be confined to the 80-metre corridor. That that
18	simply was wholly insufficient and there should be a
19	proper archaeological study done on the 500-metre
20	width within which the 80-metre right-of-way would be
21	located.
22	And what you heard from Taseko at the time
23	was that, well, that makes, you raise some very
24	important points here, these are valid and specific
25	concerns, but, referring back to look to the Terms of

1 Reference for our Environmental Impact Statement, it 2 says in there that this is what we're supposed to do. 3 And, in fact, the Chair, yourself, you referred to But what I want to take you to is my Book of 4 that. 5 Documents in Tab 10. And my point here is that this 6 concern was raised by Canoe Creek two years ago before 7 the Terms of Reference were finalized. So what you 8 have at Tab 10 and then following at Tab 11 or what 9 were termed at the time, a gap analysis of both the 10 Provincial Terms of Reference, and, this is at Tab 11, 11 the Federal Draft EIS. And the point that I want to 12 make is at Tab 10. If I can turn you to page 6. 13 Gary Runka on behalf of Canoe Creek raised 14 this issue before the Terms of Reference were 15 finalized. This is what you'll find here at paragraph 9. 16 It's not new. It's been an outstanding issue for 17 Canoe Creek all the time. 18 Now, I want to emphasize here the Panel's 19 role in assessing the Project is not limited to the 20 Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact 21 It's no answer to turn to the Impact Statement. 22 Statement, Terms of Reference, and say, well, that's 23 all that Taseko was told they had to do. 24 Your mandate is under the Act and it's under your Terms of Reference. And so it's perfectly within 25

1 your mandate to make recommendations and come to 2 conclusions that this was inadequate, that something 3 else needed to be done. 4 And that's especially the case because, as 5 I've emphasized to this point, you're actually wearing 6 two hats here. You're playing the role of the Panel 7 under the Act, but you're also playing a very important central role in the Minister's decision on 8 9 whether or not the duty to consult has been fulfilled. 10 So this information is integral to the 11 Minister's decision and your consideration of it and 12 any recommendations that you would make. 13 Now, as you see, I'm checking my BlackBerry but it's not for e-mails, it's just to keep track of 14 15 time. 16 I'll go through some of the powerful 17 testimony that was before you on those two days 18 April 16th and 17th in Canoe. 19 You heard from Mildred Kalelest. 20 And she talked how important it was for her 21 to hunt and fish, pick berries, get their medicines, 22 the deer, the moose, the endangered species, including 23 the badger, the importance of the porcupine. 24 You heard from Phil Anderson about what the 25 effects have been for all the increased access into

1 their territory. 2 He told you: 3 "We just don't find very many 4 places anymore that are isolated 5 and where we can teach our youth." 6 You heard from Kelyn Paul. And this was the 7 testimony that came forward about their annual camping 8 trip where adults and Elders in the community take 9 them out for weeks at a time, take children out on to 10 the land and show them the land and teach them their 11 traditions, pass on their culture, and Kelyn testified 12 how important that was. That it was only from going 13 out there that she began to learn about her people, 14 who they are, how important the land is, and it made 15 her want to pass this on herself. She said: 16 17 "We have to have our children 18 learn from this. It's really 19 important that we continue that or 20 else we're not going to have it." 21 And I want to pause here for a second to go 22 back to this. This is a fundamental purpose of 23 Section 35 of the Constitution from which the duty to 24 consult and accommodate comes from. It's not 25 backward-looking. It's forward-looking. The whole

1 purpose is to preserve these distinct cultures, these 2 distinct Nations on the land. To perpetuate them into 3 the future. And that's done through taking the 4 children out and showing them the land and what they 5 do and how important it is. 6 You heard from Councillor Gerald Duncan. You 7 heard a lot about this, how important Little Dog is. 8 That area on the Fraser where the transmission line 9 will go right through, how it's a valuable hunting 10 place. And that he himself had hunted there his 11 entire life. 12 And he also testified about the importance of 13 And, again, where this came up a lot was remoteness. 14 in people talking about why they go to the west side, 15 why they go to the west side of the Fraser. Because there, in comparison to on the east side, they have 16 17 more likelihood to find remote locations. And the 18 line will go right through there. The line will be 19 one more thing that opens it up. 20 Councillor Duncan told you it's very important to go to these remote locations: 21 22 "Because that's where you 23 learn, out there in the remote 24 areas, that's where everything 25 comes together for you."

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1 You heard from Larry Emile. He was the man 2 who organized these trips, takes those children out 3 every year, year after year. That he's been doing it for he thought over 20 years, taking them out. 4 Some of those children now were adults. And he said how 5 6 important it was for him, because this is what he 7 could do, he could do this and he knew that it was 8 important for his community. 9 You heard from Phyllis Jack, a member of the 10 Band and someone who is very involved in trying to 11 develop tourism. And that how the Churn Creek 12 location is referred to as "the Grand Canyon of B.C."

13 It's a spectacular place. You saw that yourself on 14 your site visit.

15 And the important point here is that, and she 16 made this point very well, Aboriginal tourism is not 17 It's a vehicle for cultural simply about economics. 18 learning. It's how they build their own identity and 19 That's all tied up with their hopes to develop pride. 20 a tourism industry. And that they are actively doing 21 They have a business plan. They are working this. 22 It's not some pie-in-the-sky thing they towards it. 23 just came up with.

24And you heard from Rick Phillip. And Rick25made a point of saying that this was difficult for him

1 to get up here and, get up there and testify, but one 2 of the things that he wanted to really emphasize for 3 you was that how fragile the soil is there. When it's moved, when it gets wet, in his words, it just goes, 4 it just washes all over. And that what he said was, 5 the idea that you could simply put in the poles from a 6 7 helicopter was simply just unreasonable. You were 8 going to have people on the land affecting the soil. 9 And on this point, you don't have to go here, but I wanted to take you to this, because this was a 10 11 recurring theme in what we heard from Taseko on this 12 point and I think that it sums up the way that they've 13 conceptualized their responsibilities when it comes to 14 the transmission line. And that is we'll really give 15 a lot of thought to exactly where we place the poles. 16 It's about placing poles and you'll find this, just 17 for the record, it's at page --THE CHAIRMAN: 18 Excuse me, if I could 19 interrupt for a moment, Dr. Stadfeld, apparently we've 20 lost power on this side of the room and that means our 21 court reporting has shut down. I don't think this has 22 anything to do with your presentation, I might add. 23 (BRIEF BREAK DUE TO POWER LOSS). 24 THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen, I think 25 we are ready to resume again. If you wouldn't mind

1 taking your seats and we'll start the hearing process 2 again. 3 Thank you. We are ready to resume again. 4 Hopefully the electrical problem has been corrected. 5 And apologies to you, Mr. Stadfeld, for the 6 interruption. Hopefully it didn't affect the flow of 7 your presentation. And I'll let you resume, then, 8 from the point where we were cut off. 9 DR. STADFELD: Thank you. And based on my 10 calculations, I believe I still have a half an hour 11 with that delay. 12 THE CHAIRMAN: That conforms with my watch 13 as well, so I think we're, I think you're on track by 14 the sound of it. So thank you for checking on that as 15 well. 16 DR. STADFELD: Thank you. 17 So the point that I was making was, step back 18 for a second, conceptualize what you heard from Taseko 19 about how they have approached the effects of the 20 transmission line. And I think what you can find is 21 it's fair to say that it can be summed up in the words 22 of Mr. Bell-Irving, which you can find, and I won't 23 take you there, but this is at page 4,080 of the 24 transcript. And he said: "And our disturbance of the 25

1	lands will be limited to the
2	footprints of the poles that we
3	will be digging and placing in the
4	ground."
5	And that's largely how they have approached
6	this. It's about where do we put the poles. Do we
7	put it here or do we shift the pole five feet this way
8	or ten feet that way to avoid an Arc site or to avoid
9	an important cultural tree.
10	Well, that's not the way that mitigation and
11	accommodation is supposed to occur. And I'll go back
12	to that. But this, I think, underlines the wholly
13	deficient process that Taseko has been going through
14	to date.
15	Now I'll go back a bit to the testimony that
16	you heard, because it was so powerful, and I think
17	it's important to remind you, and I really do urge you
18	to read through carefully these extracts that I've put
19	before you. You heard from Elder Dave Archie and he
20	told you that fantastic story about being a child and
21	the first time that he caught a fish. And he told you
22	what his concern was. He's worried about his
23	grandson, a boy in the future won't be able to have
24	that experience that he had.
25	And that sums up the concerns about what the

1 future might hold for Canoe Creek. So much might be 2 lost. Not just for the people that are there today, but for their children and their children's children. 3 You heard a lot of really important testimony 4 5 from Clara Camille, who spoke to you about the use of 6 plants. And importantly she spoke to you also about 7 what their experience have been with the existing 8 transmission line, about what the effects have been, 9 and how they now have to travel so much farther to find a lot of the berries and plants that they used to 10 11 be able to gather within their territory. 12 She told you about wanting her grandson to 13 come out and testify. But, like a lot of the people 14 at Canoe, he was just too shy to come up there and 15 talk to you. But she wanted to tell you what he said. 16 And he wanted to tell you, just tell them that it's my 17 favourite hunting ground. And he was talking to you 18 about Little Dog and where the transmission line will 19 qo. 20 You heard powerful testimony from Racelle Kooy. And I'll urge on you to go back -- I 21 22 see -- do we have a technical? 23 THE CHAIRMAN: I think we're okay. It's 24 just the phone went dead so I just looked around in a 25 bit of a panic to see if we still had power. But I

1 think we're okay. Go ahead and continue, please. 2 DR. STADFELD: I urge you to go ahead and 3 review the testimony of Racelle Kooy and her report. 4 She gave you powerful testimony of not just the potential for Aboriginal tourism, but the importance 5 6 of it, that it's through it, Aboriginal People can 7 preserve their voice, preserve their lands, and 8 celebrate their culture. And, as I said, that is a 9 central aspect of Section 35 and a central aspect of 10 the duty to consult. 11 And that these were impeccable views you 12 can't find anywhere else. And that a power line was 13 completely the antithesis of this. That's not what 14 people would be paying to come up to see. 15 You heard from Louise Harry. And she summed 16 up for you what it means to her to be able to go out 17 on to the land. She said: "It has sustained our family. 18 19 Without the land, we wouldn't have 20 accomplished what we have. It's 21 not only for food, but it's for 22 mind, body, and spirit." 23 And then she read you a poem that she had 24 written about the Prosperity Mine and what it would 25 mean.

1 You heard from Larry Harry, and he was one of 2 many people who appeared before you and emphasized 3 what the effects currently of increased access to 4 their territory has meant. The ATVs, the 4x4s, 5 hunters, how it's dangerous at times to go out in the 6 fall. And you heard that over and over again. 7 You heard from Sandra Archie. And she got up 8 and she gave you an impassioned plea. And I can't 9 summarize it all, but I want to go to one point that 10 she made. And that was about she was talking about 11 how there was a child protection agency that they 12 wanted to open up in Williams Lake. And people nearby 13 didn't want it. They thought it was going to devalue 14 their property. 15 And I want to stop here and emphasize this 16 point. Well, that transmission line, it will devalue

point. Well, that transmission line, it will devalue the Aboriginal Title of Canoe Creek. There is an economic component to their Title and their Rights, and the line will devalue it. And that is significant.

You heard from Charlie Louis and his 7-year-old daughter, Charlize. She told you about fishing and how she fed the fish to her cats. But the important point there was how important it is as a family for them to go out on the land. They go to

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1 Brigham Lake and they fish, they camp out, they hunt. 2 That's where they learn about the land and who they 3 are. You heard from Harold Harry, Councillor 4 5 Harold Harry. And he emphasized to you how important 6 it is to save the land, to save the people that they 7 have buried there, to save the archaeological sites. He talked about for himself and for his 8 9 family about going out and having time alone. You go 10 out on the land and that's where you have peace. He 11 said, "I find peace out there." 12 And this is something you heard over and 13 All this is in the context of people who were over. raised in Residential Schools, who were deprived of 14 15 the ability of the comfort to learn from their 16 families, from their mothers and fathers for ten 17 months of the year. You heard that over and over 18 And that's why this is even more important. again. 19 They are struggling, they are hanging on to 20 regain that connection with the land and with their 21 culture. And the presence of more people in their 22 territories and 4x4s and ATVs bombing down a power 23 line undermines that. 24 You heard from Councillor Patrick Harry about 25 the archaeological work and about how he showed you a

1 map, all the sites along the Fraser, there were very 2 few sites exactly where the line is going through or 3 is intended to go through, and his testimony was that 4 that's because they simply haven't done the work. 5 And I want to take you to this. I won't take 6 you there, but, for the record, this is Appendix 7-2-A sub 1. And this is the 1993 Archaeological Survey 7 8 that Taseko has been relying on for 17 years. Thev 9 keep referring back to this. We've done this. We've 10 done this work. 11 When you have time, take a look at what this 12 says about the work they did on the line. 13 It was an aerial overview of the line. 14 That's how they began the work. They flew over it. 15 And they spent a total of 10 days in 16 September of 1993, on the entire line. 17 There's nothing in here about working with Canoe Creek or any of the First Nations to identify 18 19 the important archaeological sites. 20 And it's that kind of overview, we'll fly by, 21 that's the approach that Taseko has taken. 22 Mr. Bell-Irving told you that he's been 23 involved in this Project for years and years. I think 24 17 years. I stand to be corrected on that. When you 25 went for the site visit to Little Dog on April 16th,

1	2010, that was the first time he'd actually been
2	there. He'd flown over it numerous times. That was
3	the first time that he was actually there.
4	And you heard from Chief Camille, and she
5	emphasized how important this was for her community,
6	both to be involved in and have real input on what the
7	effects of the line would be. And that how they have
8	lacked the capacity to date to meaningfully engage on
9	that.
10	So I urge you again to go back and reread the
11	testimony.
12	Right now, what I want to do now is I want to
13	turn to this issue of the Provincial Environmental
14	Assessment Certificate. Because you've heard over and
15	over from Taseko that, don't worry, you can take
16	comfort in the fact, we've gone through the Provincial
17	review, we have a list of commitments, legal
18	obligations in our Certificate as long as your arm.
19	Well, we're here to say, those mean next to nothing.
20	You cannot rely on those and Canada cannot rely on
21	those, because it was a deeply flawed process.
22	And I won't take you to this right now, but I
23	draw your attention to Tab 8 of my Book of Documents.
24	And this was a document that Chief Camille handed up
25	to you at the hearing at Dog Creek. And this is the

1 Environmental Assessment and First Nations in B.C. 2 It's a critique by the First Nations Energy and Mining Council of the Provincial Environmental Assessment 3 4 process, and it dates from last August 2009. 5 And I urge you to look closely at Part 3. 6 Pages 19 to 49. Because it does a good job at setting 7 out the fundamental flaws with the Provincial process. One of the things that it sets out is that 8 9 there's really no meaningful engagement here for First 10 They don't have input on how they will be Nations. consulted with. And there's a perfect example of that 11 12 in this case. And, again, I won't take you right now, 13 but you can find this at Tab 12 of our Book of 14 Documents. 15 Canoe Creek went to the time and expended the 16 resources to make up their own proposed consultation 17 process for the Provincial Review. And they tabled this with the Environmental Assessment Office. 18 It was 19 rejected. And Canoe Creek was told, "We won't enter 20 into any kind of consultation process with you." 21 Period. "We will not do that. We have complete 22 confidence in our own." 23 Well, it comes as no surprise to you, First 24 Nations in B.C. do not have that confidence. And it's 25 important for you to report back to the Minister why

1 that is. 2 One of the things is that B.C. continues to 3 claim this is a process that was reviewed and approved 4 by the Supreme Court of Canada in 2004 in the Taku 5 decision. The fact is, that is not correct. The Act, 6 the Environmental Assessment Act that was reviewed 7 then is not the one that operates now in B.C. 8 In fact, it wasn't even operating in B.C. at 9 the time of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision. 10 And the Act now has been wholly gutted of the 11 potential that was in the previous Act to properly 12 deal with First Nation concerns. And you can find 13 this, you can find this critique of the Act, the 14 current day Act, in my Book of Authorities, and it is 15 at Tab 5. This is the *Kwikwetlem* decision from the B.C. 16 17 Court of Appeal in 2009. So it was only last year. 18 And I urge you to review paragraphs 51 and 19 54. This is where the Court goes through and says, 20 well, you know what, that Act that the Supreme Court 21 of Canada reviewed in Taku, that's not the one in 22 place now. And then the Court goes through at 51 to 23 54 and outlines how the important parts that did have 24 a possibility to deal with First Nation concerns had been taken out of the Act. They are not there. 25

1 And I draw your attention to paragraph 54 2 Because the Court at that time said, well, the here. Supreme Court of Canada said there's also this 3 4 Provincial policy for consultation with First Nations. We don't have information about that here before us. 5 But perhaps that's a possibility that they can rely on 6 7 that and that helps to inform and ensure that there is meaningful consultation. 8 9 I take you to Tab 12 of my Book of Documents. 10 No, Tab 9. Sorry. And Canoe Creek had the same 11 question. And this is e-mail correspondence between 12 myself and the Provincial Attorney-General's Office 13 inquiring, in fact, into whether that Provincial policy referred to in **Taku** is still active. And the 14 15 reply that I received back was, "No, it's no longer current and has been withdrawn." 16 17 So that's not there to direct the Provincial 18 Environmental Assessment Agency. 19 Now, my last point on this is that you've 20 heard so much from Taseko about these commitments in 21 the Provincial EA Certificate. And I'll take you to 22 some of those. But what I want to say first is that 23 they are exactly the kind of thing that Madam Justice 24 Tremblay-Lamer said do not qualify as mitigation under 25 the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. They are

1 They are forward pie-in-the-sky good-feeling vaque. 2 best-efforts type of language. And I won't take you through them all, but 3 you can find these at Tab 17 of my Book of Documents. 4 5 I think a perfect example here, this is in Schedule B, 6 it is not numbered, the pages, but it's where their 7 commitments begin in Schedule B. And I'm looking at 2.0, Consultation with First Nations. 8 9 And this is indicative of the type of 10 language you find in these things. 11 At 2.2: 12 "Recognize and take into 13 consideration the value and 14 significance of First Nations 15 places." 16 Second, 2.3: 17 "Promote the development of mutually beneficial partnerships." 18 19 Well, that's not a concrete, solid commitment. 20 2.5: "Provide opportunities." They go on and on in 21 this vein. At 2.8, this is one that, this is the only 22 one that's in here that I think actually refers to the 23 transmission line. And here we go to the end of this, 24 and this is: "Taseko will make reasonable 25

1 efforts to avoid or mitigate 2 impacts." That's it; "reasonable efforts". 3 4 6.0, this is regarding the environmental 5 management system. And my point here is that they 6 emphasize that: 7 "There are important 8 environmental management plans, 9 but these will be further 10 developed and finalized prior to 11 construction." 12 They don't have them now. That's not 13 accommodation, when you've promised to do something 14 vague in the future. 15 And now in contrast to this, I want to take 16 you to just a couple of examples of what the 17 commitments used to be like under the old Act, under 18 the Act that the Supreme Court of Canada reviewed in 19 Taku. 20 And I have two examples of them in my Book of 21 Documents. Tab 14 is the Environmental Assessment 22 Certificate from the **Taku** Project. And I urge you to 23 look at that and compare it to the commitments that 24 Taseko has made under the current Act. 25 I take you to Tab 15, because I think this

1 one is very telling. This is the Environmental 2 Assessment Certificate for the Melvyn Creek Cayoosh 3 Mountain Resort. This dates from the year 2000. This, again, is under the old Act. I won't take you 4 5 through it in detail, but I urge you to read it 6 through and compare it to the Taseko commitments. 7 These, to a large extent, are detailed, concrete, 8 specific commitments that go to issues of access, 9 hunting, and economic development. They are specific. In fact, when you get to Section 27 of this 10 11 Certificate, they outline accommodation effects, which 12 is not a section you find in the Taseko Project. And 13 it goes through and it lists specific programs to deal with the affected First Nations. 14 15 So to sum up our point here is, there's no 16 confidence that either the Panel or Canada can take in 17 the fact that Taseko has gone through the Provincial 18 Environmental Assessment Certificate or process. Ιt 19 does not result in meaningful consultation and 20 accommodation. 21 One last point to make on here, and this is a 22 really important one. It goes back to the point of 23 what you have to consult about and what you have to 24 accommodate for. What I've done at Tab 13 of my Book 25 of Documents, I've included correspondence back and

1 forth between myself on behalf of Canoe Creek, and the 2 Attorney General's Office of B.C. regarding the 3 central issue of: Does the Environmental Assessment office have the capacity, mandate, and intent, to 4 5 accommodate for the economic component of Aboriginal 6 Title and Rights. 7 And if you review this correspondence, you'll 8 see that the answer we received was: No, we don't do 9 that and we don't intend to do that. Now, before I get to our suggested findings 10 and recommendations, I want to make a few points about 11 12 Taseko's conduct in pursuing this Project, because I 13 think it's very important that the Panel consider this 14 and report back to the Minister. 15 And from Canoe Creek's position, Canoe Creek 16 has no confidence that Taseko is willing to engage in 17 sincere and meaningful discussions to identify, 18 mitigate, or accommodate the impacts of the 19 transmission line. And this is based not on what face 20 they have shown to you during the last 30 days, but on 21 their conduct for the last 16 years. And this is on 22 the record. And as an example of this, I refer you to 23 Appendix 8-2-1, which is what's termed a Consultation 24 This is Taseko's, this is part of Taseko's Log. 25 Application where they set out their engagement with

1 First Nations. 2 And I read, the very first entry, this is 3 July 29th, 1992, and this is in regards to the 4 Northern Secwepemc, they are told that there were concerns about increased access to hunting and 5 6 trapping territories, that there are important fishing 7 sites near the proposed transmission line. In June 1996, there are concerns about the 8 9 needs for additional archeology and that the Band does 10 not feel comfortable with the work done to date and 11 that there has to be something detailed about where 12 the line will be. 13 December 1998, there's an entry here for a 14 meeting with Canoe Creek. What are the concerns 15 raised then? If you go through, there are concerns 16 about what will the impact be on their treaty 17 negotiations. The same thing you heard now in 2010. 18 Again there are concerns about the need for 19 archaeological work. 20 There are specific concerns about where the 21 power line will cross the Fraser. That this was an 22 important site and that there are important 23 archaeological sites there. 24 There were concerns about what the effects 25 will be on Brigham Lake. This is 1998. This isn't

1 new. 2 And there are concerns about increased 3 access. 4 That was 12 years ago. What have they done 5 since? They still rely on the same report from 1993, 6 the overview. 7 I want to take you to Tab 16 of my Book of This is 2008. And I've included documents 8 Documents. 9 here that I think reflect the mentality of Taseko 10 towards First Nations. And you should have this in 11 mind. 12 The first is a March 2, 2008 letter that 13 Taseko sent to all the affected First Nations. And 14 this was an issue about funding. And I won't get into 15 the details about how much is enough. But I want to 16 take you to the last paragraph of this on page 2. 17 After they say all they are willing to contribute is 75,000 and the First Nations can decide 18 19 amongst themselves as to how to divide that up, they 20 say in the last paragraph: 21 "Our hope is that, once 22 allocated, these funds do not end 23 up being consumed by lawyers and 24 consultants in efforts to merely 25 oppose and duplicate the work

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1 already being undertaken by 2 government regulators. Otherwise, the funds will provide no benefit 3 to either First Nations or to the 4 5 Prosperity Project." 6 And we say that this is indicative of the 7 mentality. This is the type of thing you would have 8 9 expected to see in the 1950s when Indians were denied 10 the right to even hire a lawyer. When they didn't 11 even have the right to vote. This isn't the type of 12 thing you expect from a corporation in 2010. 13 And then I take you to the next page. This 14 is May 2008. This was Taseko's reply to the 15 possibility that, in fact, there would be a Joint Review, the Provincial and Federal Review would be a 16 17 Joint Review. And they outline their reasons why they 18 are opposed to this. 19 And I take you to the first one, the last 20 line, and the first one they say: "Elected officials should be 21 22 able to make an unfettered final 23 decision on whether or not the 24 Project proceeds." 25 That's what they want. And then the third

1 reason they give here is: 2 "The proposed process places 3 an excessive emphasis on consideration of established or 4 asserted Aboriginal Rights or 5 6 Title." 7 And they say that these should be dealt with 8 elsewhere, outside of the Environmental Assessment. 9 They don't want to have to get into this. They don't 10 want to deal with this. 11 And just so that you're aware, the next 12 document is a letter that Chief Camille sent to the 13 Provincial EA on September 16th, 2008, raising these 14 very concerns that Taseko does not appear to be 15 sincere and committed to working with Canoe Creek and, 16 therefore, the Provincial Environmental Assessment 17 Agency should not delegate any consultation procedures 18 to Taseko because they are not sincere about 19 fulfilling them. 20 I have a couple more points on this. One is 21 something that came up when we were at the hearing in 22 Dog Creek. Taseko referred you to their schedule. 23 And this you can find at IR 6.2. I don't have it 24 there, but you've seen it. And so they put up showing 25 you where they are on the transmission line. And it

1 indicates that, even before your report is written, 2 they will have completed the preliminary design and 3 started the final design. They are not waiting for your report. They are going ahead based solely on the 4 And after they refused, they said they 5 Provincial EA. 6 didn't want a Joint Review process. 7 And this is the same thing with the issue of the centre line. You've heard about this the last 8 9 two, April 16th and 17th, where the centre line will 10 be located for the transmission line. 11 And Taseko has said they are going out and 12 they are in fact identifying it right now. For the 13 record, I refer you to page 4095 of the transcript. 14 And they said: 15 "We're currently engaged in various activities related to 16 17 finalizing the centre line." They are showing complete disregard for this 18 19 process. It is high-handed of them to proceed on the 20 basis that your report will not have any significant 21 affect on where that line will go. 22 And for the record on this point, I also 23 refer you to pages 4163 here in the transcript. Thev 24 told you that they are in fact right now out there 25 speaking to landowners about where the centre line

1 should go. They are not speaking to Canoe Creek. 2 And the last point on this is they said, 3 well, we really can't move that line outside of the 4 corridor established under the Provincial EAC, because 5 if we did, we'd have to go back again and revisit that 6 EAC. And that's found at page 4164. Well, that is no 7 They took the risk of proceeding with the answer. Provincial EA before the Federal Review. 8 That was 9 their choice. If there is a need to change the 10 location of the line, that's the recommendation that 11 should be there. There's no answer to say "we're 12 confined by the Provincial EA and that we're locked 13 in". 14 So I know my time is short. I'll sum up on 15 what our recommendations are and they are in detail in 16 the summary that I've put before you. 17 And we're not saying that these are all the recommendations and conclusions that the Panel should 18 19 make, but they should include these. And you should 20 conclude that: 21 Canoe Creek has proven or 22 acknowledged Aboriginal Rights to 23 hunt and fish and a strong case 24 for Aboriginal Title; 25 That there are significant

1	adverse effects on Canoe Creek
2	Title and Rights;
3	- That neither Taseko or B.C.
4	has committed to the necessary
5	significant and concrete
6	mitigation accommodation measures
7	required;
8	- And, finally, that Taseko has
9	not made a meaningful good-faith
10	effort to mitigate or accommodate
11	Canoe Creek's legitimate and
12	serious concerns.
13	Now, regarding recommendations:
14	- We recommend that you
15	recommend to the Minister that the
16	Project not proceed, that it not
17	be approved, because the possible
18	economic and social benefits are
19	outweighed by the significant
20	adverse environmental, social, and
21	cultural effects and the serious
22	adverse effects on Aboriginal
23	Title and Rights;
24	- You should go on to recommend
25	that if the Minister does decide

1 that it might be possible to 2 accommodate Canoe Creek Aboriginal Title and Rights, then the 3 following things should be done 4 5 first, and this is important, 6 these things have to be done 7 before there's any final decision by the Minister: 8 9 there should be an 10 archaeological assessment of the 500-metre-wide corridor that has 11 the involvement of affected First 12 13 Nations; 14 there should be a 15 cost-benefit analysis of the 16 possibility of burying the line 17 through the Dog Creek Fraser River 18 crossing. We don't know if that's 19 economically or technologically 20 feasible, but there should be a 21 review. Because then that will 22 put a cost on what the savings is 23 to Taseko to not do that; 24 there should be an Access 25 Management Plan developed with the

1 participation of the affected 2 First Nation; there should be specific 3 studies done of the affects of the 4 5 line on both the Brigham Creek 6 watershed and Little Dog. Those 7 came up as serious concerns over 8 and over again; 9 there should be a study 10 done on the affects of invasive 11 plants; 12 there should be a proper 13 cumulative affects analysis done 14 first; 15 And finally on this 16 point, there should be a plan 17 developed with First Nation 18 participation for monitoring the 19 transmission corridor if it does 20 go through. 21 Now, I want to conclude to emphasize again 22 the important role you're playing here. You're 23 playing an important role in the assurance of 24 recognition for Aboriginal Title and Rights. The 25 Courts, the Supreme Court of Canada, has emphasized

1 over and over again reconciliation is necessary. And 2 you're playing a role in that. And it's a very 3 serious one. We've heard from Taseko over and over again 4 5 about how they have this economic or jobs proposal 6 called Mining Your Future. Well, Canoe Creek is here 7 to say, in fact, that's exactly what Taseko is 8 proposing to do, they are proposing to mine the future 9 of every First Nation affected by the mine and the transmission line. That's what you heard from those 10 11 people in Dog Creek day after day; what about the 12 future of our children? And that they are not opposed 13 to Prosperity. Prosperity's a good concept. They would like some of it. But it's a two-way street. 14 15 And what you've seen is that, right now, this Project is a one-way prosperity for Taseko. There is little 16 17 to nothing flowing to Canoe Creek and other First 18 Nations. 19 Subject to your questions, those are 20 Canoe Creek's submissions. 21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chief Camille, and 22 Mr. Stadfeld for your presentation. 23 I don't think we have any questions. But I 24 did want to refer to a couple things. 25 First of all your reference to our Terms of

1 Reference in particular on Aboriginal Title. 2 Appreciate your provision of your views and the 3 arguments in this regard. I think that's important 4 and that's the purpose of this particular concluding 5 session. 6 I'd note also that we did provide some 7 further elaboration to you in our letter to you of 8 March 28th on this very matter. 9 You've also reminded us of who and what we 10 heard in the community of Dog Creek when we were 11 there. And we very much appreciated hearing from the 12 people there directly. And thank you for reminding us 13 of the various views that we heard while we were 14 there. 15 You've also summarized the position of Canoe 16 Creek, I think quite clearly, and also have given us 17 your views on what we should include in the report and what our recommendations should be. And we fully 18 19 understand that and assure you that we will look 20 carefully at those matters as we will with other 21 presentations we're receiving. 22 So I thank you very much for the concluding 23 remarks. 24 And I note, in part because of the break we 25 had with the power, that we did get somewhat behind in

1 And I think I may have given you a little our time. 2 bit more time as a consequence, but that was quite 3 understandable and not a problem from our regard. But I think right now, if this is not a 4 problem for the Tsilhqot'in National Government 5 6 presentation, which we had originally scheduled for 7 this morning, if you're okay to have a break for lunch 8 and come back to do it then? Is that something that 9 is acceptable? I think it's Mr. Nixon that might be 10 involved in that, is that okay with you? I would be 11 prepared to go right through if that's important. You 12 have that flexibility. 13 MR. NIXON: Yes, thank you. 14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for clarifying 15 that. In which case we'll break and begin at 16 1 o'clock to begin the Tsilhqot'in National Government 17 presentation. Thank you, and have a good lunch. 18 (NOON BREAK) 19 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 11:50 A.M.) 20 (PROCEEDINGS RECONVENED AT 1:00 P.M.) 21 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon, Ladies and 22 Gentlemen, I'd ask you to take your seats, please, and 23 we'll get started again, shortly. 24 I'll just welcome everybody again to the 25 continuation of the closing remarks session today.

1 Very quickly I'll introduce ourselves once 2 again in case there are new people in the room. My 3 name is Bob Connelly, Chair of the Environmental Assessment Panel, on my right Nalaine Morin, on my 4 5 left, Bill Klassen. 6 And Taseko's table has expanded somewhat too, so I'll ask Taseko to introduce their People as well, 7 8 please. 9 MR. BATTISON: Thanks Mr. Chairman. On my 10 right, Keith Clark, legal counsel to Taseko. Myself, 11 Brian Battison, Vice-President Corporate Affairs for 12 Taseko. On my left, Rod Bell-Irving, Manager of 13 Environmental Assessment. Next to him, Katherine 14 Gizikoff, Manager of Government and Environmental 15 Affairs, and next to Katherine, Russell Hallbauer, President and Chief Executive Officer of Taseko Mines. 16 17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Battison. 18 Then we'll proceed in a moment with the Procedures. 19 Just by way of schedule, we did have a bit of a power 20 problem this morning which in part caused us to have a 21 bit of a delay and an extended lunch. I hope we've 22 got that all fixed. It seems to be functioning well 23 afterwards. 24 So we're actually starting with the 25 Tsilhqot'in National Government presentation and that

1 is scheduled for 90 minutes. After that we will 2 proceed to the final speakers, which are the Chiefs 3 from the Tsilhqot'in First Nation, and they have been 4 allocated ten minutes apiece. Followed by that, we'll 5 have Taseko's closing remarks. 6 So, as I mentioned earlier, this is the 7 opportunity for final closing remarks at these 8 hearings and it is the intention to see summaries, 9 overviews, a summary of the position of the groups, 10 the arguments that they wish to make in terms of how 11 we ought to be considering our conclusions and 12 recommendations as we come to the completion of these 13 hearings. 14 So, with that, I'll turn to the Tsilhqot'in 15 National Government presentation, and I think, 16 Chief Baptiste, you are going to introduce the people 17 who will be speaking on behalf of the TNG. 18 Please proceed. 19 CLOSING REMARKS BY TSILHOOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, BY 20 CHIEF MARILYN BAPTISE, MR. SEAN NIXON, AND GRAND CHIEF 21 STEWART PHILLIP 22 CHIEF BAPTISTE: Good afternoon. And I 23 would just like to welcome everybody here. Of course, 24 I'm Marilyn Baptiste, Chief Xeni Gwet'in. And I was 25 thinking that perhaps you were all safe enough from

1 Ts'yl-os but, as you've seen the snow, you're not 2 quite that far away. 3 And on my left, of course, is Sean Nixon from Woodward & Company. And on my right is Grand Chief 4 Stewart Phillip from the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. 5 6 And they will be covering our 90 minutes. 7 And after they are done with their 8 presentations, we will go through the Tsilhgot'in 9 Nation Chiefs. Chief Ivor Myers from Yunesit'in, and 10 Francis Laceese, Chief of Tl'esqox, Toosey, 11 Percy Guichon, Chief Tsi Del Del, Redstone, or Alexis Creek Indian Band, and myself, Chief Xeni Gwet'in, and 12 13 then on behalf of Chief Esdilagh, Bernie Elkins, I 14 will be presenting for him, and then Chief Joe 15 Alphonse, Chief Tl'etingox from Anaham. THE CHAIRMAN: 16 That sounds fine. We might 17 take a break so that you can re-establish the table 18 afterwards. And, by the way, I did learn when I was 19 in Xeni Gwet'in not to point at Ts'yl-os, so it's not 20 me that caused the snow today. 21 With that then, please proceed. 22 CLOSING REMARKS BY MR. SEAN NIXON: 23 MR. NIXON: Good afternoon, Mr. Panel 24 Chair, other Panel Members, Taseko Mines Limited, Members of the audience. 25

1	I'm going to present some final submissions
2	on behalf of the Tsilhqot'in National Government.
3	We've presented a more lengthy written submission that
4	gets into significant detail. It's not as bad as it
5	looks. It's a 60-page document, but it's all
6	information the Panel has seen before, and what we've
7	tried to do is just extensively reference through
8	footnotes back to transcripts and documents that are
9	on the Panel's record already.
10	And I guess the primary purpose of that is
11	just so that the Panel, in making its final
12	determinations, has a helpful, hopefully, compilation
13	of the various submissions that Tsilhqot'in National
14	Government has made and of how those relate
15	specifically to the record before you.
16	Now, I plan to go through four major areas
17	today.
18	First I'll talk a bit about the mandate of
19	the Panel.
20	Second about the cultural and ecological
21	effects of the mine Project.
22	Third about the Justification Test that the
23	Panel's required to look at if there are significant
24	environmental effects of this mine Project.
25	And fourth, Tsilhqot'in Aboriginal Rights and

1 Title. 2 And before I get into the mandate, I'll 3 perhaps give just an introduction and an outline of the overall submission. I'll come back at the end and 4 5 wrap up some of the major themes as well. 6 Now, as you know, I gave submissions at the 7 Xeni Gwet'in community sessions and we've outlined several of TNG's primary positions already at those 8 9 hearings. And one of the points that I was making at 10 11 that hearing is that in TNG's submission, in spite of 12 all the complexities of this Panel process, in spite 13 of the complex technical issues that are before the 14 Panel, in a way, the Panel's mandate or primary 15 mandate is very simple. It's just to consider and provide conclusions about whether the Prosperity Mine 16 17 Project will have significant environmental effects. 18 And, of course, the Panel's required to assess the 19 significance of residual environmental effects, what's 20 left over at the end of the day after technically and 21 economically feasible mitigation measures have been 22 implemented. 23 And TNG's central position has been from the 24 outset and remains that the permanent destruction of 25 Teztan Biny, of Little Fish Lake, of Nabas, and of

1	other areas in the Fish Creek drainage, would be a
2	significant cultural loss for the Tsilhqot'in.
3	The TNG submits it would also be a
4	significant ecological loss and that neither that
5	cultural nor ecological loss can be adequately
6	mitigated by replacing Teztan Biny with an artificial
7	fish reservoir.
8	I'll be speaking in more detail about the
9	Tsilhqot'in Aboriginal Rights and Title, but I think
10	as an important framing comment, one of the most
11	important and one of the most unique things about this
12	particular mine proposal and about this process is
13	that the Tsilhqot'in Nation actually has a proven
14	Aboriginal Right to hunt and trap birds and animals
15	throughout the claim area that was claimed in the
16	Tsilhqot'in Nation case. And that includes the area
17	of the proposed mine Project.
18	Now, Justice Vickers of the B.C. Supreme
19	Court also expressed the opinion that the Tsilhqot'in
20	Nation has Aboriginal Title to the Brittany Triangle
21	which borders the Taseko River downstream of the
22	proposed mine Project.
23	The Tsilhqot'in Nation also asserts
24	Aboriginal Rights to fish in the very lake that would
25	be destroyed by this mine proposal, in Teztan Biny, to

1 gather plants in the area around Fish Lake and Nabas, 2 and to conduct spiritual and cultural ceremonies at 3 Teztan Biny. Now, these proven and asserted Rights stand 4 5 to be impacted negatively and infringed in a variety 6 of ways, including through impacts on the population 7 and the habitat of birds, wildlife, fish, and plants, 8 that support the exercise of Tsilhqot'in Rights, the 9 decades long displacement of Tsilhqot'in People from 10 the area around Fish Lake, Little Fish Lake, and 11 Nabas, that would be during mine construction and 12 operation, and permanent displacement from some of 13 these same areas because of the loss of Fish Lake and Little Fish Lake itself, at least permanent 14 15 displacement in the sense that they won't be able to 16 use it in the way that they did before. 17 We've also heard throughout the community 18 hearings about the likely Tsilhqot'in avoidance of 19 areas that are potentially impacted by the mine 20 Project due to serious concerns about ongoing 21 contamination. 22 And in TNG's submission, that's not merely a 23 perception. As you've heard in this last week of 24 technical hearings, there's at least reasonable 25 scientific basis for thinking that there may be

1 contamination issues in the long-term. 2 The TNG's also concerned about the 3 Proponent's general failure to identify feasible 4 mitigation measures that would address impacts on 5 Aboriginal Rights and Title and on Tsilhqot'in current 6 use and cultural heritage in the mine area. And as I 7 go through the Panel's mandate today, I thought I'd 8 focus in particular on the Panel's duties to identify 9 feasible mitigation. 10 So, as I said, the first major area I'll take 11 you through is the Panel's mandate. I won't repeat 12 submissions that I've already presented to the Panel 13 at the Xeni Gwet'in community sessions, other than to provide some further details and clarification on a 14 15 couple of issues that have come up in the course of 16 this hearing process. 17 So I guess taking the 50,000-foot overview of 18 the purposes and general principles of Environmental 19 Assessment, the key purpose of Environmental 20 Assessment is to look before you leap, to carefully 21 consider a project's potential environmental 22 consequences before you decide whether to go ahead 23 with it. 24 And this idea of doing Environmental 25 Assessments probably extends back to the 1960s, the

1 1970s, at least as Environmental Assessment is 2 currently set out in Federal legislation in Canada and 3 the U.S. and in various provinces. But the idea is that the economic benefits of 4 proceeding with development Projects are usually very 5 6 obvious. All of them will at least offer some 7 short-term employment, some short-term cash flows. 8 Environmental Assessment is meant to give us 9 the other side of that picture, to tell us what costs 10 we're likely to pay, what environmental costs, what 11 socioeconomic costs, what cultural costs, we're likely 12 to pay. 13 And we've quoted a decision of the 14 Newfoundland and Labrador Court of Appeal that just 15 commented about some of these basic purposes of 16 environmental assessment. It was a case of 1997, the 17 Labrador Inuit Association. 18 And I'll just take you to a sentence in the 19 middle of the first paragraph that we've quoted there 20 (as read): 21 "If the rights of future 22 generations to the protection of 23 the present integrity of the 24 natural world are to be taken 25 seriously and not to be regarded

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1	as mere empty rhetoric, then care
2	must be taken in the
3	interpretation and application of
4	the legislation. Environmental
5	laws must be construed against
6	their commitment to future
7	generations and against the
8	recognition that in addressing
9	environmental issues we often have
10	imperfect knowledge as to the
11	potential impact of activities on
12	the environment.
13	One also must be alert to the
14	fact that governments themselves,
15	even strongly pro-environment
16	ones, are subject to many
17	counterveiling social and economic
18	forces, sometimes legitimate and
19	sometimes not. Their agendas are
20	often influenced by
21	non-environmental considerations.
22	The legislation, if it is to
23	do its job, must therefore be
24	applied in a manner that will
25	counteract the ability of

1	immediate collective, economic and
2	social forces to set their own
3	environmental agendas."
4	We've set out the initial letter from the
5	Federal Fisheries Minister that requested this review
6	panel. I've reviewed this before, but the only thing
7	I'll point out here is that there are essentially
8	three areas that triggered this Federal Assessment:
9	One was proposed approvals under the
10	Navigable Waters Protection Act.
11	And the second was various approvals
12	contemplated under the Federal Fisheries Act.
13	Now, I'll come back to that when I talk about
14	feasible mitigation when I talk in more detail about
15	some of what happened in the technical hearings this
16	week. But I think, given that navigation has been an
17	issue from the outset, and impacts to fish and fish
18	habitat have been an issue from the outset, it's the
19	very reason that this Panel process first began, that
20	puts additional pressure on this assessment process to
21	assess effects on those things and to ensure that
22	feasible mitigation measures are in place to address
23	impacts to navigation, to address impacts to fish and
24	fish habitat.
25	We've also set out some of the key terms that

1 are used in the Panel's mandate and in the Federal 2 Environmental Assessment Act. I've gone through 3 current use before. I won't go through it again. We also went through the definition of 4 5 cultural heritage. And, of course, as the Panel 6 knows, the definition of environmental effect under 7 the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act includes impacts on traditional, on the current use of lands 8 9 for traditional purposes by Aboriginal People and it includes impacts on cultural heritage. And the only 10 11 thing I'll say about cultural heritage is that, based 12 on what the Panel has heard, the TNG submits that 13 cultural heritage has to at least include the cabins 14 at Nabas, at Little Fish Lake. It has to include the 15 cremation sites, even if they have left no discernible 16 physical traces. That would be an example of 17 intangible cultural heritage. It has to include 18 burial sites, archaeological sites, and the island in 19 Fish Lake.

The loss of these cultural heritage sites and the places around them that are imbued with cultural and spiritual meaning for the Tsilhqot'in, would represent a significant irreversible and permanent environmental effect of the mine project that, in the TNG's submission, can't be mitigated.

1 Now, in a way, that would take us immediately 2 to the Justification Test. If the cultural impact by 3 itself is a significant environmental impact, as 4 defined under the Act, then, in a way, the Panel can jump forward and, in TNG's submission, and start 5 6 considering directly whether this Project is justified in the circumstances. 7 8 But I will take you through some of the 9 technical and environmental issues that we say are in 10 addition to significant environmental effects as that 11 term is used in the Federal Environmental Assessment 12 Act. 13 I've also included here a section on 14 precautions. This is at page 11 of our submissions. 15 We've set out in detail there, but I think the 16 important thing for the Panel is that their Terms of 17 Reference set out that the Panel's required to 18 consider the extent of the application of the 19 precautionary principle to the Project, and 20 precautionary principle is actually a defined term in 21 the Terms of Reference, meaning: 22 "The application of prudent 23 foresight, the recognition of 24 uncertainty, and, when decisions 25 must be taken, to err on the side

1 of caution." 2 And as I'll discuss in more detail, TNG 3 submits that the Panel should do just that, should err on the side of caution, particularly when making its 4 key determinations about the feasibility of mitigation 5 6 and the significance of relevant environmental 7 effects. I'll talk as well here about mitigation 8 9 follow-up and adaptive management. And I've gone into 10 some detail about this in our written submissions. 11 Because the TNG submits that here, particularly the 12 feasibility of mitigation, and what adaptive 13 management means to the feasibility of mitigation or how it interrelates with feasibility of mitigation, 14 are key issues before this Panel. 15 The Panel's Terms of Reference set out a 16 17 total of 18 factors that the Panel's meant to 18 consider. I've pulled out the ones that relate 19 directly to environmental effects and how they are 20 mitigated. 21 The first factor, the Panel is to consider 22 the environmental effects of the Project. 23 The second is the significance of those 24 effects. 25 The fourth, the Panel is to consider measures

1 that are technically and economically feasible and 2 that would mitigate any significant adverse 3 environmental effects of the Project. 4 We submit to you that word "would" is 5 important by itself. These are measures that "would" 6 mitigate, not "could" or "might" or "may". There 7 needs to be some concreteness to the proposed 8 mitigation measures. 9 We've also talked a bit about follow-up 10 programs, because I think it's important to recognize 11 the distinction between mitigation and follow-up 12 measures. And the Act is clear, in our submission, 13 that a follow-up program for a project is not a 14 substitute for considering and identifying feasible 15 mitigation measures at the Environmental Assessment 16 stage. 17 We've set out some of the case law in Canada that discusses mitigation and, in particular, Panels 18 19 duties for how they are to assess the feasibility of 20 mitigation. 21 I've started with the 1999 Cheviot case, 22 Alberta Wilderness Association, a decision of Justice 23 Campbell of the Federal Court. Justice Campbell 24 described a Review Panel's duty to consider 25 technically and economically feasible mitigation

1 measures in the following way, he said: "If a defined and described 2 environmental affect is considered 3 4 adverse and significant, that is substantial, then mitigation of 5 6 this effect by practical means is 7 important to consider." I've also quoted the 1996 Express Pipelines 8 9 case of the Federal Court of Appeal. In that case, 10 the language of the Court of Appeal about the required 11 certainty for relying on mitigation measures was as follows, they said, you can certainly rely on 12 13 mitigation measures, quote: 14 "When it is known and 15 proposed that such effects can and 16 will be mitigated by appropriate 17 measures." And I believe my friend, Mr. Stadfeld, this 18 19 morning went through Pembina Institute for Appropriate 20 Development, a decision of March 2008. And Justice 21 Tremblay Lamer in that case referred to some of the 22 case law under the predecessor to CEAA, the EARPGO, 23 E-A-R-P-G-O. 24 And in particular she referred to a decision 25 of Justice Muldoon, Canadian Wildlife Federation. And

1	said that the language from these cases that refers to
2	EARPGO is still useful in discussing a panel's duties
3	under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.
4	Justice Muldoon in the Canadian Wildlife
5	Federation case said that:
6	"Vague hopes for future
7	technology cannot constitute
8	mitigation."
9	And that was quoted with approval by Justice
10	Tremblay Lamer in the Pembina Institute case.
11	Justice Muldoon also said that:
12	"Monitoring plans for the
13	future cannot constitute
14	mitigation."
15	So as a matter of law, we have this series of
16	statements from the Courts saying that feasible
17	mitigation measures have to be practical means, that's
18	the <i>Cheviot</i> case, they have to be measures that are
19	known and proposed and that can and will mitigate
20	environmental effects, that's the Express Pipeline
21	case, and we have some idea from Canadian Wildlife and
22	Pembina of what mitigations measures are not, they are
23	not vague hopes for future technology, they are not
24	monitoring plans for the future.
25	We've also outlined there's a Federal Policy

1 Statement on Adaptive Management that came out in 2009 a little bit after the **Pembina Institute** case. 2 3 And it's an Operational Policy Statement on 4 Adaptive Measures under the Canadian Environmental 5 Assessment Act. Justice Tremblay-Lamer made some 6 comments in the **Pembina Institute** case about adaptive 7 management and where it is and is not appropriate. And TNG submits that this is in part the Federal 8 9 Government's response. 10 Now, there's a helpful section, in our 11 submission, of that policy statement that outlines 12 when it might not be appropriate, when it might not be 13 appropriate, to be clear, to incorporate adaptive 14 environmental management into Environmental 15 Assessment. And TNG submits that there's two of those 16 17 factors that are highly relevant to the present 18 assessment. One is where mitigation is not 19 identified. 20 I'm quoting right from the Operational Policy 21 Statement here: 22 "Commitment to adaptive 23 management is not a substitute for 24 committing to specific mitigation 25 measures in the Environmental

1	Assessment prior to the course of
2	action decision."
3	The next factor that we've set out in this
4	Operational Policy Statement where it would not be
5	appropriate to use adaptive management is where there
6	is uncertainty about significant adverse environmental
7	effects. And here, again, I'm quoting from the
8	policy:
9	"If taking into account the
10	implementation of mitigation
11	measures there's uncertainty about
12	whether the project is likely to
13	cause significant adverse
14	environmental effects, a
15	commitment to monitor project
16	effects and to manage adaptively
17	is not sufficient."
18	Now, TNG submits that the feasibility of
19	proposed mitigation is a key issue before this Panel.
20	And, in particular, TNG submits that there has to be
21	enough information before the Panel prior to the time
22	that it closes its record so that the Panel can
23	consider and determine whether proposed mitigation
24	measures are technically and economically feasible
25	and, because of that, whether residual Project effects

1 are significant. 2 In TNG's submission, the Canadian 3 Environmental Assessment Act is clear, the mandate of this Panel is clear, that if you're weighing 4 environmental effects, if the scale gets pushed down 5 6 by a significant environmental effect, it can only be 7 balanced out by a feasible mitigation measure on the other side. 8 9 So if you're presented with a significant 10 environmental affect and there's some discussion of 11 potential measures but they aren't feasible, they 12 aren't known technologies, they aren't economically 13 feasible, they cannot be applied to rebalance the scale. You're left with a significant environmental 14 15 affect. 16 And in TNG's submission, that's an 17 intentional purpose of Parliament in the way that they 18 set out the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 19 because if we do want to go forward with a project 20 that has significant environmental impacts, the point 21 of Environmental Assessment is to do so with our eyes 22 So there needs to be a strong statement from a open. 23 Panel in the event that significant environmental 24 effects remain, there needs to be a strong statement 25 so that the subsequent public discussion, the

subsequent decision by Cabinet, the subsequent 1 2 regulatory processes, are all fully informed about the 3 state of the project as it's currently proposed. 4 Otherwise, in TNG's submission, there's 5 really very little purpose in Environmental Assessment 6 Processes. If these issues get repeatedly deferred to 7 the regulatory process, they are going to go through 8 the regulatory process anyway. So if that ball gets 9 passed off without some kind of declaration from a 10 panel about where things are right now, without some 11 kind of determination about whether you have feasible 12 mitigation measures as the project is currently proposed, then that's a problem that needs to be 13 identified in Environmental Assessment. 14 15 As I say, that's the primary purpose of a Review Panel under the Federal Act. 16 17 I think it's important to say here that the 18 panel's determination that a mine project has 19 significant environmental effects does not stop a 20 project. It doesn't by itself keep the project from going forward. 21 It just ensures that that future 22 discussion is informed discussion and ensures that the 23 future decision about whether you go ahead or not, 24 based on the project as proposed, is informed by a 25 full understanding of the likely environmental

1 consequences of the project as proposed at the time of 2 the Environmental Assessment. 3 Now, I know there's been some discussion on 4 the record that this is a grey area. The Panel 5 certainly doesn't need to see the absolute final 6 product of various mitigation measures that have been 7 proposed. They can certainly be, in TNG's submission, 8 tweaked after the Panel has seen them, but it has to 9 at least have some conceptual idea of how they might 10 work, it has to have some idea of how the various 11 elements of mitigation might work together to create a 12 feasible mitigation measure. 13 And again, in TNG's submission, if that's 14 deferred to the regulatory process, then the 15 Environmental Assessment isn't that useful in and of 16 itself. 17 Crudely speaking here, we have a proposal to 18 eliminate a lake. It's a mine project that will 19 result in the elimination of a lake. The primary 20 mitigation measure proposed for that primary 21 environmental effect, the primary mitigation measure 22 proposed is the fish compensation measure. 23 So if that's the primary environmental 24 effect, that's the primary proposed mitigation, then 25 it's incumbent on the Panel to look very, very

1 carefully at whether there actually is a feasible 2 measure in place, because the scale's been weighed 3 down very heavily by that effect, in cultural terms and ecological terms, and if you don't have something 4 feasible to counterbalance it, then you're passing a 5 6 problem on to the regulators. And it's not even a 7 problem you're passing on to the regulators, I think 8 the Panel's duty is just to point out that the scale is currently tipped this way. 9 10 The third major area I was going to discuss 11 is the cultural and ecological effects of the mine 12 Project. 13 As I said at the outset, TNG's primary 14 position is that the permanent destruction of Teztan 15 Biny and area is a significant cultural loss by 16 itself. It's a significant cultural loss and then by 17 itself it's a significant environmental effect because 18 of the profound cultural loss that it represents for 19 Tsilhqot'in People. 20 Now, the Panel has heard evidence over the 21 last several weeks of the cultural and spiritual 22 importance of these areas to the Tsilhqot'in Nation. 23 They have heard about the deep ancestral connection 24 that people feel to Nabas, to the Little Fish Lake 25 area, and to Fish Lake itself.

1 As I referenced when discussing cultural 2 heritage, among the significant cultural heritage sites that stands to be affected is the island in 3 Teztan Biny. That, to the Tsilhqot'in Nation, is a 4 5 site of spiritual power where present-day and previous 6 generations of Tsilhgot'in People have conducted 7 ceremonies to receive their spiritual powers. 8 During the socio-economic session this past 9 week in Williams Lake, Ms. Patt Larcombe presented on 10 behalf of the TNG and she presented in significant 11 detail about the cultural impacts on the Project. And 12 I won't repeat that there. I'd just say that TNG 13 adopts those as part of its final submissions. We 14 hope that that's the same kind of helpful review of 15 parts of the transcript that will help the Panel over the next couple of months. 16 17 We'll just add a few things here as part of these final submissions. 18 19 The first point I'll make is that the importance of the eastern trap line territory that 20 21 includes the mine Project, the importance of that area 22 to the Tsilhqot'in is demonstrated by the explicit 23 reference to the mouth of the Taseko Lake, which the 24 Tsilhqot'in know as Nadilin Yex. I hope I haven't 25 mangled that pronunciation, Chief Marilyn. She's

smiling which might mean, she's being polite. 1 2 But that place, Nadilin Yex is found in the 3 foundational Tsilhqot'in legend. And this is a hard 4 word for a non-Tsilhqot'in speaker to say, but the name of the legend is Lhin Desch'osh. I'm getting 5 6 nods of approval, but the spellings is L-H-I-N, new 7 word, D-E-S-C-H'O-S-H. Now, that legend is the Tsilhqot'in creation 8 9 It describes their origins as a people and the storv. 10 formation of their homeland. 11 And as set out in the Tsilhqot'in Nation 12 decision, we've referenced the specific paragraphs. 13 There's a helpful summary by the judge at paragraphs 14 654 to 657 and 655 to 666. 15 As described by Justice Vickers: 16 "Key events occur in this 17 legend occur at Nadilin Yex and 18 along the Taseko River." 19 I'll also point out that the Department of 20 Fisheries and Oceans stated that they understand Fish 21 Lake to be an important alternate source of fish for 22 the Tsilhqot'in in times of shortage. 23 They have said that, we've quoted this at 24 page 19 of our written submissions: "DFO has learned that the TNG 25

1 view Fish Lake as a reserve food 2 supply in the event of poor salmon 3 runs. The TNG can net large numbers of fish from the lake on 4 an annual basis." 5 6 I'm skipping a bit here. "At this time, DFO is unable 7 8 to determine if the proposed 9 Compensation Plan would provide a 10 sufficient fishery for the TNG." 11 And we've given the reference in our written 12 submissions there to CEAA document number 1769. 13 I'll also give a brief summary here of some of the environmental and ecological impacts. 14 This 15 starts at page 22 of our written submission. 16 The TNG's position is that the permanent 17 destruction of Teztan Biny and the area around Teztan Biny and Nabas must also be considered a significant 18 19 environmental effect purely based on the scale of 20 ecological disruption that's involved. 21 And that's because there'll be the 22 irreversible loss of fisheries and ecological systems 23 that have been in place since the time of the last 24 Ice Age. 25 In TNG's submission, Taseko has drastically

1 understated the potential magnitude and reach of the 2 proposed mine's environmental effects. And we've set out various summaries of what 3 4 the TNG takes to be the key issues coming out of this last week of technical hearings. The first is acid 5 6 rock drainage and metal leaching. The second is that 7 water quality concerns will require perpetual 8 treatment, maintenance and funding. 9 The third is that the Project poses 10 unacceptable risks to the Taseko River salmon run. 11 And as I'll get into more detail further on, 12 when I talk about the significant environmental 13 effects after mitigation, TNG has huge unresolved 14 concerns about the proposed Fish Habitat Compensation 15 Plan and its feasibility. 16 So I'm wary of the time here. I'll just 17 briefly cover some of these technical issues. I'm 18 probably the wrong person to be talking to you about 19 If you have any questions about them, I'll just them. 20 give you a blank look and refer to our consultants, 21 but they have said they are available if you have 22 specific questions about any of the positions that TNG 23 takes, they can come up to the microphone at the front 24 here. 25 But the first is as acid rock drainage and

1 metal leaching and TNG presented two experts on this, 2 Dr. Kevin Morin and Dr. Ann Maest, M-A-E-S-T. 3 And the primary conclusion of both Dr. Morin and Dr. Maest was that acid rock drainage and metal 4 5 leaching will be a problem at the Prosperity Mine 6 site. In their view, potentially acid-generating rock 7 was not correctly characterized. And there will be a 8 greater quantity of waste rock, low-grade ore and 9 overburden than Taseko has predicted. 10 TNG's consultants also felt that water 11 treatment of mine-site waters is a very real 12 possibility and that perpetual treatment will cost 13 millions of dollars annually and will need to continue 14 in perpetuity, that is forever. 15 TNG has strong concerns about the responsibility for and the liability of maintaining 16 17 the water treatment system after the life of the mine. 18 TNG also has strong concerns about 19 contaminants that may travel off the mine site through 20 surface and ground water and affect the Big Onion 21 drainage, Beece Creek and the Taseko River. 22 As I said, TNG's second major technical 23 concern related to water quality concerns and 24 perpetual treatment. This came primarily from Dr. Ann 25 Maest. She is an internationally renowned expert and

1 is presently the main geochemist consultant to the 2 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She based her 3 analysis on the data that Taseko had provided in its 4 Environmental Impact Study. Dr. Maest is one of the principal authors of 5 6 a report that compared versus actual predicted mine 7 water quality impacts and found that, pretty much 8 across the board, mine companies and Environmental 9 Assessments of mining projects do a pretty bad job of 10 predicting impacts and particularly of predicting 11 acid-rock drainage issues. 12 Dr. Maest and Stratus concluded that there 13 were some fundamental issues with the modelling of 14 environmental effects. I'll just take you to a couple 15 of them. 16 Dr. Maest and Stratus concluded that 17 downstream and down-gradient contamination 18 concentrations will be up to ten times higher than 19 predicted and that water treatment will be necessary. 20 They also found that uncertainty remains 21 about the site water balance and about Taseko's 22 ability to ensure that submerged tailings in the 23 tailings storage facility had sufficient water cover. 24 They also had concerns about seepage from the 25 Tailings Storage Facility towards the Big Onion

1 drainage. 2 Now, during the hearings, the Proponent was 3 continually relying upon their commitments from the B.C. Environmental Assessment Process. 4 But in TNG's submission, they failed to provide the Panel with a 5 6 technically and economically feasible plan to ensure 7 that the mine operations will not lead to substantial 8 water quality and environmental contamination 9 concerns. 10 Overall, Stratus concluded that the pit 11 water, the Tailings Storage Facility, and seepage, has 12 been improperly characterized and that there will be a 13 need for perpetual treatment. 14 The next major issue, major technical issue, 15 in TNG's submission, is that the Project poses 16 unacceptable risks to the Taseko River salmon. 17 And those risks come from mine site seepage and from the possibility of accidents or malfunctions, 18 19 equipment malfunction or the possibility that the 20 Tailings Storage Facility dam would fail at some time 21 in the future. Those pose perpetual risks to the 22 livelihood, health and culture of the Tsilhqot'in 23 People. 24 Now, the Tsilhqot'in very clearly have the 25 right to fish in the Taseko River. And that's in part

1 because Justice Vickers of the B.C. Supreme Court was 2 very clearly of the opinion that the Tsilhqot'in have 3 Aboriginal Title to the Brittany Triangle along the western bank of the Taseko River downstream of the 4 5 proposed mine Project. 6 We know from **Delgamuukw** that Aboriginal Title 7 includes the right to use and occupy lands for a 8 variety of purposes and in TNG's submission that has 9 to include the right to fish in adjacent waters like 10 the Taseko River. 11 We also know that the Taseko River is 12 currently in stress. The 2009 sockeye escapement into 13 the Fraser River was about 10 percent of predicted 14 levels. 2009 sockeye counts in the Taseko River only 15 totalled 40 salmon, while historically runs have 16 numbered up to 30,000. 17 TNG's fish toxicologist Dr. Jeff Morris 18 talked during the technical hearings about fish 19 toxicology, of course. And, in his view, there's 20 little margin for error, and thresholds for 21 toxicological effects on organisms like fish are close 22 to being reached. 23 Dr. Morris and Federal Government agencies 24 also expressed concern about other potential 25 contaminants such as selenium.

1 Taseko asserted in response that it's 2 possible that new technologies may be developed in the 3 future to treat selenium contamination. And TNG submits both this exposes the Tsilhqot'in to an 4 5 unaccessible risk, and is precisely the kind of thing 6 the Court said is not a mitigation measure. That's a 7 vague hope for future technology. It's not a 8 feasibility mitigation measure. 9 TNG would add that in light of the recent 10 declines in the Fraser River salmon or Fraser River 11 salmon fishery or the Fraser River Basin salmon 12 fishery, which includes the Taseko River, there'll be 13 additional pressures on lake fisheries such as the one 14 at Teztan Biny. 15 All of these risks are further amplified by Taseko's stated intention to proceed with an expanded 16 17 mine Project that would dig deeper, would extract more 18 ore, it would operate for 13 additional years. 19 And in TNG's view, Taseko has generally 20 declined to assess the implications of an expanded 21 Project for hydrology and water balance issues at the 22 mine site. And that's a significant ongoing concern. 23 TNG would point out that, while the Proponent 24 has insisted that this is an Environmental Assessment

for a 20-year Project, in a way their alternatives

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1 assessment only makes sense if you think of this as a 2 33-year Project. TNG also submits that there will be 3 4 significant environmental effects after mitigation and that neither of the cultural or ecological impacts can 5 6 be mitigated by replacing Fish Lake with a fish 7 compensation reservoir or through any of the other 8 mitigation measures proposed by the Proponent. 9 Taseko has conceded in its own reports that 10 trapping and fishing have a deep spiritual 11 significance to individuals that use the mine 12 development area. 13 They have also conceded that Tsilhqot'in 14 members have continued spiritual and emotional ties to 15 Little Fish Lake and to the entire study area. 16 The loss of that connection to places that 17 are of spiritual and historical significance can't be 18 fully mitigated. It's hard to think of how you would 19 mitigate the loss of that connection to a place where 20 your ancestors lived, to a place where your ancestors 21 did the same kinds of activities that you're doing, to 22 the kinds of places that you hope where your 23 grandchildren will continue the tradition of what 24 you're doing now and of what your grandparents before 25 you and their grandparents before them have done.

1 It's just impossible to imagine how you might mitigate 2 for the loss of that connection. 3 The loss of the island in Teztan Biny, in 4 particular, would represent a loss of cultural 5 heritage that's almost impossible to fathom. 6 The English-Ehrhardt Study that was included 7 as Volume -- I think it's Appendix 8-2-B of the 8 Proponent's Environmental Impact Study, talked in some 9 detail about the loss of the cabins in the areas of 10 historical settlement near Little Fish Lake. 11 Ms. English-Ehrhardt described Little Fish 12 Lake and the surrounding area as "symbols of 13 Tsilhqot'in culture". She said they represent part of 14 what Natives speak about when they say "their land is 15 their culture". 16 And Ms. English-Ehrhardt in the report that 17 was attached to the Proponent's Environmental Impact 18 Study, she concluded that loss of the Little Fish Lake 19 area, that's what has been described as the Nabas area 20 or Nabas Central by Ms. Larcombe will significantly 21 impact the Xeni Gwet'in. 22 The proposed mine site area is rich in 23 archaeological sites, includes pit houses, cultural 24 depressions, burial and cremation sites. And again, 25 TNG submits that loss of these archaeological sites,

1 notwithstanding the mitigation measures that have been 2 proposed by the Proponent, would significantly impact 3 the intangible but powerful connections that 4 Tsilhgot'in People have to that area. 5 And, of course, it's not just the connection 6 of the Xeni Gwet'in People. The Xeni Gwet'in People 7 was the focus of Ms. English-Ehrhardt's study, but 8 you've heard the connections that people from 9 Yunesit'in in particular also have to the Nabas area, 10 to the Fish Lake area, by virtue of their own family 11 ancestral connections to the area. 12 Here I'm speaking primarily the Xeni Gwet'in 13 because I'm summarizing Ms. English-Ehrhardt's study, but the Panel has heard evidence from other 14 15 communities of the importance that it has to them as 16 well. 17 As I flagged at the outset, one of TNG's 18 biggest concerns about this Project is the proposed 19 Fish Habitat Compensation Plan and that it's not a 20 feasible mitigation measure. 21 We heard this past week in some detail about 22 the fish compensation measure. And what we've tried 23 to do, starting at page 28, is to summarize at least 24 TNG's views of where we're left at the end of the 25 discussion of the fish compensation measure.

1 Now, in deciding how to compensate the loss 2 of Fish Lake and that area, I guess it's important to 3 understand what the components are of the area that you're going to be losing. And there are four of them 4 5 essentially, two fish-bearing lakes that are of high 6 productivity, interconnecting streams and tributaries 7 that are of high value fish habitat, and the riparian 8 zones, the zones next to the streams and lakes, and 9 wetlands that are connected with lakes and streams, 10 they produce source waters, they produce nutrients, 11 they produce seasonal habitat or contain seasonal 12 habitat for fish, as well as important habitat for 13 migratory birds.

DFO has told the Panel about their views that 14 15 it is an important fishery, a rich fishery. From the 16 Tsilhqot'in perspective, the Fish Lake area is an 17 important component of Tsilhqot'in land use and 18 cultural identity. When you talk about losing Fish 19 Lake, you're not talking about losing just a First 20 Nation fishery, you're talking about the permanent 21 loss, permanent material loss, permanent spiritual 22 loss of a richly productive part of the Tsilhqot'in 23 land based economy. 24 Its value to the Tsilhqot'in can't be

quantified and its loss cannot be mitigated or

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1 compensated for. 2 Now, the Proponent has taken a habitat 3 compensatory approach to offsetting this impact. And TNG submits that the key question for the Panel is, is 4 this proposed Fish Compensation Plan an economically 5 6 and technically feasible means of offsetting the loss 7 of Fish Lake and the Fish Creek aquatic ecosystem. And Little Fish Lake as well. 8 9 The answer to that question, in TNG's 10 submission, is clearly, no, you don't have a 11 technically and economically feasible mitigation 12 measure before you. 13 All the expert reviewers, Dr. Hartman, 14 Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Dr. Levy, 15 agree on this. There's no credible technical or economic 16 17 analysis for the Fish Compensation Plan. The TNG submits that there's nothing before 18 19 you that can demonstrate the compensation (sic) 20 Project's viability. 21 It's important to note as well that if we're 22 looking at the feasibility of the Fish Compensation 23 Plan, the values being proposed by Taseko Mines 24 Limited to be compensated include only the physical loss of the lake and stream fish habitat. 25 There's no

1 compensation measures proposed by the Proponent for 2 any other values that are lost. For example, wetland 3 and migratory bird habitat. The cultural landscape 4 that's important to the Tsilhqot'in. And some of the 5 wilderness recreation values that are important both 6 to the Tsilhqot'in and to non-Aboriginal people in the 7 area. These will be lost forever in that particular 8 9 part of the Tsilhqot'in territory. 10 Now, the Proponent admitted in this past week 11 of technical sessions that reconstructing the lost 12 ecosystem is not possible. So its approach to 13 compensation is reduced to attempting to construct a 14 few specific components of an engineered fish support 15 system that the Proponent believes are technically and 16 economically achievable and that will or would have to 17 function as an enduring rainbow trout population. 18 The Proponent, however, has not produced any 19 evidence to show that the works will perform as 20 intended. 21 Now, the Panel heard from Dr. Hartman. 22 Dr. Hartman's primary conclusion was that the problem 23 with the Fish Habitat Compensation Plan wasn't just 24 one of feasibility. It was in part that there were 25 major conceptual problems with the Fish Compensation

1 Plan. We aren't even in the zone of feasibility. 2 We're at the point of basic foundational difficulties 3 with the Fish Compensation Plan. 4 Because the Fish Compensation Plan is comprised of several different component parts that 5 6 are all interrelated with one another and all depend 7 on one another, it's very important that each of those 8 components work, because failure of any one of them 9 can lead to a failure of the entire system. 10 Dr. Hartman raised a number of concerns about 11 the technical feasibility of each one of those four 12 The headwater collection system, the components. 13 headwater retention pond, the spawning channels, and 14 Prosperity Lake itself. 15 Dr. Hartman was not convinced that any of these components on their own would function reliably 16 17 for very long. 18 Now, trying to view those components together 19 as an integrated sustainable trout ecosystem was even 20 more problematic in Dr. Hartman's view. He submitted 21 that the likelihood of constructing a multicomponent 22 integrated and durable fish sustaining aquatic system 23 of this scale and complexity is extremely remote if 24 not impossible. 25 His evidence was consistent with the expert

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1	reports submitted by Department of Fisheries and
2	Oceans and MiningWatch Canada.
3	Now, these foundational difficulties with the
4	Fish Compensation Plan are not new. They extend back
5	to 1999 to some of the early Department of Fisheries
6	and Oceans review of this mine proposal.
7	And Department of Fisheries and Oceans set
8	out, for example, as early as 1999 that a risk
9	analysis should be done for the proposed works. Risk
10	analysis is critical to understand how the
11	Compensation Plan might fail and what the consequences
12	might be.
13	The outlook for success is even more
14	worrisome when the complexity of the compensation
15	works is examined.
16	And the evidence from both Dr. Hartman and
17	MiningWatch showed clearly, that with increasing
18	levels of complexity, uncertainty and risk are
19	compounded compared to complexity, uncertainty and
20	risk in simpler systems.
21	In TNG's view, there's no information in
22	front of the Panel about the costs of the compensation
23	project or of its overall economic feasibility,
24	regardless of the technical issues. As you know,
25	there are two parts to the feasibility test and the

1 TNG submits that it fails both of them independently. 2 There's no explanation or assessment in 3 addition of how the expanded 33-year Mine Plan would 4 affect the Fish Habitat Compensation Plan, 5 particularly Prosperity Lake. 6 Now, the Panel has indicated that the 7 extended mine life would be viewed as a reasonably 8 foreseeable new project and would be included in the 9 Panel's assessment of the cumulative effects of the 10 Project. 11 In TNG's submission, there should be doubt 12 that the 33-year Project is the one that the proponent 13 was contemplating from the start. 14 We agree entirely with the Panel that the 15 expanded 33-year Project needs to be included in the 16 assessment in some meaningful way. 17 Taseko Mines Limited has also presented no 18 evidence pertaining to the sustainability of the Fish 19 Habitat Compensation Plan. 20 The Proponent's stated views that it will be 21 responsible only for ensuring that the Provincial 22 objectives and the constructed compensation works are 23 achieved and maintained for what they call the "life 24 of mine". By the end of the hearings, life of mine 25 was confirmed by the company to represent the point at

1 which commercial production stops. It does not 2 include the following decades of pit flooding and 3 other reclamation activities required for closure or the post-closure future. The Proponent could not tell 4 5 the Panel, could not assure the TNG, who would assume 6 responsibility for the works and bear the costs of 7 doing so. 8 Whatever adjectives you might use to 9 characterize the proposed fish compensation measure, "sustainable" is not one of them. 10 11 In the end, the Panel does not have in front 12 of it anything remotely representing a demonstrably 13 viable and sustainable Fish Habitat Compensation Plan. 14 In Dr. Hartman's words, it only has a concoction of 15 ideas. And it's for that reason the TNG urges the 16 Panel to reject the Fish Habitat Compensation Proposal 17 in its entirety and for all the reasons set out above. 18 And because of that, in the TNG's view, you're very 19 clearly left with a significant effect on fish and 20 fish habitat. 21 And while TNG certainly does not adopt or 22 endorse any of the conclusions of the BC Environmental 23 Assessment Office, it's interesting to note that that 24 was their final conclusion as well that there would be 25 a significant impact on fish and fish habitat in the

1 Fish Lake area. 2 Now, we also heard from Transport Canada in 3 this past week of technical sessions. 4 Transport Canada set out its conclusion for 5 the Panel that the mine Project as proposed will have 6 a significant residual impact on navigation. And they 7 spoke specifically of the loss of Fish Lake, which is 8 used by the Tsilhqot'in to move from the lake shore by 9 boat to the island in the centre that has high 10 cultural and spiritual significance. 11 Transport Canada also talked about the 12 possibility of continued navigation in the newly 13 proposed Prosperity Lake. In TNG's view, it's not 14 realistic to believe that the Tsilhqot'in People ever 15 used this waterbody. TNG members, for a variety of 16 reasons, have stated that they will not use Prosperity 17 Lake. 18 So if we're to re-establish a navigation 19 benefit here, it would be completely meaningless to 20 the Tsilhqot'in and it certainly can't be used to 21 navigate to the now non-existent island in the lake 22 that's been permanently destroyed. 23 As I said when I was discussing the key 24 triggering events for this Panel, there were, I mean, 25 in a sense, three major areas of Federal jurisdiction

1 that first triggered this Panel review: Effects on 2 fisheries, effects on navigation, and the NRCan 3 permit. Here it's really the first two that we're 4 5 concerned about. 6 TNG's submission is that the Proponent's 7 failure to identify any mitigation at all, let alone 8 feasible mitigation for impacts and navigation, means 9 that it's failed to address impacts related to one of 10 those the key Federal regulatory approval processes 11 that first triggered the assessment under CEAA, and, 12 in a way, it's symptomatic of the more general failure 13 to identify feasible mitigation in relation to the other major CEAA trigger, that is the contemplation of 14 15 approvals under the Fisheries Act and under the Metal 16 Mining Effluent Regulations. 17 In summary on this issue, TNG says that the 18 Proponent has failed to identify feasible mitigation 19 measures, and further, that from the Tsilhqot'in 20 perspective, the loss of Fish Lake would at any rate 21 be immeasurable and cannot be mitigated. 22 Now, the fourth main issue that I said I 23 would speak about -- sorry, the third main issue is 24 justification. 25 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nixon, just to note,

1 we're at about an hour now just in terms of gauging 2 your time. 3 MR. NIXON: Thank you. I understand I'll 4 be speaking for about another 15 minutes and then 5 Grand Chief Stewart Phillip will be speaking for the 6 final 15 minutes. 7 Thank you, I am coming to the end. I'm the 8 warm-up show for Grand Chief Stewart Phillip. 9 THE CHAIRMAN: There's pressure now, Grand 10 Chief Phillip. 11 MR. NIXON: As the Panel knows, if it 12 finds that the mine Project would result in 13 significant residual environmental effects, it has a mandate to collect information relevant to the 14 15 Justification Test under Section 37 of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. 16 17 The TNG has already presented some of its views during the Xeni Gwet'in community session. I'll 18 19 just add a few others here. But we know that the 20 Proponent's main position is that justification flows 21 from the mine Project's potential contribution to 22 government revenues, to jobs and to the local economy. 23 We've set out some additional factors that 24 TNG says are relevant to the Justification Test. The 25 first being that TNG has made it clear since the start

1 that the Tsilhqot'in People and communities are not 2 necessarily opposed to mining activities. What they 3 are opposed to is the Prosperity Project so long as it requires the destruction of Teztan Biny and the 4 5 surrounding lands and waters. 6 TNG reiterates that it's very important for the Panel to consider who will share in the benefits 7 8 that will flow from the mine Project and who will bear 9 the costs. 10 Both Native and non-Native people who live 11 closest to the mine Project in and around the Nemiah 12 Valley overwhelmingly oppose it. 13 And there's no reason to conclude, in TNG's view, that the economic benefits of the mine Project 14 15 will reach the Xeni Gwet'in, will reach the 16 Yunesit'in, will reach the Tsilhqot'in Nation, in any 17 real way, and certainly not on a scale that could 18 compensate for the loss. 19 Taseko Mines Limited, in its opening 20 presentation in Williams Lake, spoke of the fact that 21 they'd had 17 years to get it right. And TNG just 22 points out that after 17 years of having the 23 opportunity to develop policies and programs to 24 enhance First Nations' share of the benefits of the 25 proposed mine, Taseko has offered little more than

1 vague assertions that First Nations will benefit 2 economically. It could not point to any concrete 3 programs or policies specific to the proposed 4 Prosperity Mine that it would implement to monitor and 5 enhance Aboriginal employment. 6 In addition, despite years of operating the 7 Gibraltar Mine, the Proponent has no agreements in place that they bring First Nations to share in its 8 9 economic benefits. 10 The Proponent has also brought up this notion of Provincial revenue sharing. In the TNG's 11 12 submission, that cannot be considered a mitigating 13 factor because the Panel has absolutely no details 14 before it. It's hopelessly vague. It's a vague 15 Provincial policy that does not provide any details. 16 Does not provide any firm commitments. No one from 17 B.C. showed up to talk to this Panel about what this 18 policy meant or provided any direction to the Panel 19 about how it might be implemented. 20 The Proponent, of course, presented a slide 21 show of B.C. materials. That slide show showed that 22 not a single agreement has been reached yet with a 23 First Nation in British Columbia despite the fact the 24 policy was announced in 2007. 25 Further, Taseko has made no commitment to

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1	enter into a benefit and impact agreement with any of
2	the Tsilhqot'in communities.
3	The Tsilhqot'in have their own vision for
4	sustainable economic development. They have talked to
5	you at various times about that. They want economic
6	development in their territory. They're not opposed
7	to it. They want economic development that is
8	consistent with their culture and with their core
9	values.
10	And finally, I spoke about this in the
11	community hearings as well. The TNG submits that the
12	notion of reconciliation, the notion that the Federal
13	Government, the Provincial Government, have to come to
14	terms with the fact of First Nations Rights, the fact
15	of First Nations Title, the fact of prior occupation,
16	that's an important factor that needs to feed into the
17	Panel's role in setting out its report and in setting
18	out advice to the Federal Government, to the relevant
19	Ministries, and to the public at large.
20	The fourth major area that I was going to
21	talk about briefly is the potential and established
22	Aboriginal Rights of the Tsilhqot'in Nation. I've
23	gone through this at the community session, so I'll
24	just skip ahead and say that at least under proven
25	Aboriginal hunting and trapping rights, the Panel has

1 heard specific evidence about impacts on wildlife 2 populations that support Tsilhqot'in hunting and 3 trapping, including impacts on wild horses, deer, moose, grizzly bears, and migratory birds. And we've 4 set out the conclusions of Dr. McCrory and of 5 6 Environment Canada at pages 33, and 44. The Panel also heard about the critical deer 7 8 migration route across the Taseko that runs into the 9 It does not appear to have been Fish Lake area. 10 mitigated in any way. 11 The failure to date to identify feasible 12 mitigation measures to address impacts on wildlife and 13 wildlife habitat is a major concern for the 14 Tsilhqot'in National Government. 15 The Proponent has merely referenced a vague 16 BC Environmental Assessment Office commitment to, 17 quote: "Develop and implement a plan 18 19 for achieving compensation for 20 adverse effects to wetlands 21 habitat, recreation values, 22 wildlife, wildlife habitat, and 23 the critical habitat of species at 24 risk." 25 As already noted in the community sessions,

1 in TNG's view, this is not a feasible mitigation 2 measure, that is just a plan to come up with a plan. 3 It's a plan to, at some in the future, sit down and 4 develop something that may or may not mitigate the 5 adverse impacts on the various species that are relied 6 on by the Tsilhqot'in for the exercise of their 7 rights. 8 But again going back to this idea of 9 balancing. If there's a significant effect on 10 wildlife, there's nothing to balance it other than a 11 vague BC EAO commitment that has no teeth to it 12 whatsoever. 13 Now, the Tsilhqot'in also has noted, asserted 14 Aboriginal fishing rights to Fish Lake itself. 15 Just prior to the close of the record, we 16 submitted an additional document, the plaintiff's 17 reply to the defendant's statement of defence in that 18 action. It's CEAR, CEAA Registry number 2323. 19 I won't take you through this in any detail 20 other than to -- Mr. Stadfeld covered much of this 21 this morning, but this is a summary of the 22 Tsilhqot'in's views about the B.C. Environmental 23 Assessment Process and whether it is an adequate 24 vehicle for addressing some of their major concerns 25 about the mine Project. And that's set out in some

1	detail starting at paragraph 5 of that document.
2	I'm running a bit short on time, so I'll skip
3	ahead a bit here.
4	We've set out in the written document the
5	asserted Aboriginal Gathering Rights, asserted
6	Aboriginal Ceremonial Rights. We've talked about
7	Aboriginal Title.
8	There's an additional section we've put in
9	starting at section, sorry, at page 50, these are our
10	comments on the need for Tsilhqot'in "approval," quote
11	unquote, of the mine Project.
12	Taseko has stated throughout this
13	Environmental Assessment process and prior to it that
14	the Tsilhqot'in People do not have a veto in respect
15	of this proposed Project.
16	It's not the Panel's mandate, of course, to
17	determine the scope of the Crown's duty to consult
18	First Nations or whether Canada has met its duty to
19	consult with and accommodate First Nations. But we've
20	set out some points here to give the other side of
21	that picture. In particular, that in some
22	circumstances the full consent of First Nations is
23	actually required, particularly for Provincial
24	infringements of Aboriginal Title.
25	The Proponent had quoted some cases to

1 Delgamuukw and Haida Nation. There are other parts to 2 those judgments that we've brought to your attention 3 that do not, in TNG's submission, support the statements that the Proponent was trying to make on 4 the basis of them. 5 6 In particular, I'll just draw your attention 7 to one of the unusual circumstances here. And that's 8 that essentially from the start, the Tsilhqot'in have 9 been presented with one option. Presented with a fait 10 accompli. Given that we were meeting on top of a 11 restaurant today, I thought it might be appropriate to 12 give a restaurant analogy. In a way, from the start, 13 the Tsilhqot'in have been given a menu that has just 14 one item on it. Usually the process of consultation 15 and accommodation has a period of reasonable back and forth where different options are considered, 16 17 different plans for the mine, different strategies for 18 how to deal with wastes. From the start, the 19 Tsilhqot'in Nation has been presented with a single 20 option, which is the permanent destruction of the 21 lake. 22 If there was, as the company claims, some 23 consultation about the alternatives assessment, in the 24 Tsilhqot'in Nation's view, that consultation was 25 grossly inadequate, and happened, at any rate, before

1 some of the Supreme Court of Canada cases that 2 clarified the extent of the Crown's duty to consult 3 and accommodate First Nations, including the Haida Nation case, including the Mikisew Cree case. There's 4 been a whole host of cases since that time that have 5 further amplified and developed the Crown's duty to 6 7 consult. In TNG's view, it's the Proponent and not the 8 9 Tsilhqot'in that have created a situation with no room 10 for compromise or accommodation and give-and-take. 11 The Proponent has essentially said that you can have 12 the mine or Teztan Biny, but not both. This was the 13 range of options that were presented to the 14 Tsilhqot'in People. 15 I'll just conclude here briefly before I pass 16 you over to the more exciting part of the show. 17 THE CHAIRMAN: You must be paying his 18 salary, that's all I can conclude. 19 MR. NIXON: As I said at the outset, TNG 20 submits that in a way this Environmental Assessment is 21 There's a significant cultural effect that simple: 22 can't be mitigated. That by itself is enough to get 23 us into the discussion of the Justification Test. 24 There's a significant ecological effect that can't be 25 mitigated with feasible mitigation measures. Aqain,

1 that by itself is enough to get us into the 2 Justification Test. TNG submits, if we're into the Justification 3 Test, that this mine Project cannot be justified in 4 5 the circumstances, it comes at the wrong time, while 6 the land question and the eastern trap line territory 7 is still unresolved, it uses the wrong technique, the 8 sole alternative offered by the end of the process was 9 the permanent destruction of two lakes that have 10 important ecological, cultural and spiritual values, 11 and, with respect, it's proposed by a company that has 12 nothing but a steadily deteriorating relationship with 13 the Tsilhqot'in Nation to show after 17 years of 14 mine planning. 15 I don't mean this at all as a personal 16 attack, but mine projects can go ahead with a 17 respectful relationship between First Nations and the 18 mine company. It's not required to take an 19 adversarial stance at every step along the way. And 20 TNG respectfully submits that mine companies would do 21 better if they showed respect from the outset for the 22 First Nations that they are dealing with. And that 23 that's part of what's led us to the present impasse. 24 Further, in TNG's view, the vague possibility 25 of Provincial revenue sharing can't fix the impacts of

1 the mine Project, can't fix the impacts it would have 2 on the Tsilhqot'in People. You've heard from various 3 witnesses that no amount of money can compensate for the loss of the culturally and spiritually important 4 5 areas around Teztan Biny and Nabas. 6 Now, the Panel has been to Teztan Biny. The 7 Panel has been to the Nemiah Valley. The Panel has 8 been throughout this part of the Chilcotin. And I 9 submit to you that the situation here is unique. 10 We're talking about a unique area. We're talking 11 about a fairly unique circumstance of a healthy and 12 intact Nation that could serve as a model for other 13 First Nations in Canada. The Tsilhqot'in Nation has 14 proven Aboriginal Rights to hunt and trap in the area. 15 They have Aboriginal Title in the B.C. Supreme Court's 16 opinion to land and waters immediately downstream. 17 The Tsilhqot'in claim the right to fish in the very 18 lake that will be permanently destroyed by the mine. 19 And Fish Lake and Nabas are of deep cultural and 20 spiritual importance to the Tsilhqot'in people. 21 TNG submits that in this unique situation, if 22 the Prosperity Mine Project can be justified in the 23 circumstances because of its purported short-term 24 economic benefits, then it would seem that the impacts

of virtually any Project anywhere in Canada under any

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1 circumstances could be justified in the circumstances. 2 And if that's the case, then in TNG's submission, 3 there's no possibility of a long-term reconciliation between Canada's First Nations and the settler 4 5 culture. 6 The Tsilhqot'in Nation needs to see respect 7 for the hopes and dreams they have for their culture 8 and for their traditional lands. They respectfully 9 ask this Panel to help effect an honourable 10 reconciliation for the Tsilhqot'in People by writing a 11 strong report that draws the Federal Government's 12 attention to the significant environmental effects of 13 this Project. TNG submits this Project is unfixable. 14 Ιt 15 cannot be fixed. It's flawed. Deeply flawed. It's 16 like dropping a bomb on a cathedral and then proposing 17 to replace it with a cathedral-shaped shopping mall. 18 That perhaps is a blunt way to end, but the 19 Tsilhqot'in National Government, the Tsilhqot'in 20 People feel that this mine is ripping the heart out of 21 their territory, out of their culture, and that cannot 22 be mitigated. I'm trying to give some kind of analogy 23 that makes sense to the settler culture. 24 I close by giving my thanks to the Panel for 25 your patience through this process, for your

1 independence, and my thanks to the Panel Secretariat 2 for their courtesy and professionalism throughout. 3 Thank you. 4 That takes you to the more interesting part 5 of the presentation. 6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Nixon. I'll 7 hold my remarks until after we've heard from 8 Grand Chief Phillips. Please proceed, sir. 9 CLOSING REMARKS BY GRAND CHIEF PHILLIPS: 10 GRAND CHIEF PHILLIPS: (Aboriginal Language 11 Spoken). 12 Respected Elders, traditional, spiritual and 13 Hereditary leaders, Chiefs, Members of Council, brothers and sisters, Members of Panel, Taseko Mining 14 15 officials, municipal officials, and People of Williams Lake. 16 I would just like to say that the Union of

17 18 B.C. Indian Chiefs in general and myself in particular 19 are greatly honoured to be back in Williams Lake to 20 have the opportunity to participate in this incredibly 21 important and significant dialogue that has taken 22 place not only here but throughout the Indigenous 23 communities of the Tsilhqot'in People and the 24 Secwepemc People of Esketemc and Canoe Creek for the 25 last several weeks.

1 I would just like to offer a brief 2 observation that, regardless of the outcome of this 3 particular exercise, I can't help but think that all 4 of our lives will be changed as a result of being 5 exposed to the dialogue and what we have come to learn 6 about each other in terms of our interests, our hopes, our aspirations, and our fears and concerns. 7 8 We know and understand that the Tsilhqot'in 9 People and the Secwepemc People have lived within 10 their territories for thousands upon thousands of 11 years. And we know that they are people of the land. 12 That has been their history. That is reflected in 13 their present lifestyle. And that is the future. And that's what's been referenced time and time again 14 15 throughout this very emotional discussion and 16 dialoque.

17 The Indigenous land rights commonly referred 18 to as Aboriginal Title and Rights of the Tsilhqot'in 19 and the Secwepemc People is well-known and understand 20 as unextinguished. Both groups have chosen different 21 paths to reconcile their Indigenous land rights with 22 the existing rights and interests of, flowing from the 23 Crown. 24 The Tsilhqot'in People have chosen a path

24The Tsilhqot'in People have chosen a path25through the courts. And the Secwepemc People have

1 looked toward the B.C. Treaty process to resolve the 2 outstanding issues that arise as the result of quite 3 often, if not most often, conflicting interests as it 4 relates to the unresolved land question in the 5 Province of British Columbia, which I maintain is the 6 elephant in the room. 7 Our Rights, our Indigenous Rights, our Human 8 Rights, and our land Rights, are recognized at the 9 international level through the UN Declaration on the 10 Rights of Indigenous Peoples. That was a 20-year 11 battle. And I just want to read Article 32 (as read): 12 "1. Indigenous Peoples have the 13 right to determine and develop 14 priorities and strategies for the 15 development or use of their lands or territories and other 16 17 resources. 18 States shall consult and 2. 19 cooperate in good faith with the 20 Indigenous Peoples concerned 21 through their own representative 22 institutions in order to obtain 23 their free and informed consent 24 prior to the approval of any 25 project affecting their lands or

territories and other resources,
particularly in connection with
the development, utilization, or
exploitation of mineral, water, or
other resources."
And finally:
"3: State shall provide effective
mechanisms for just and fair
redress for any such activities
and appropriate measures shall be
taken to mitigate adverse
environmental, economic, social,
cultural or spiritual impact."
I would like to offer a quick word about the
so-called B.C. Environmental Assessment Process. I
would like to know I would like the Panel to know
and understand that this process is widely rejected by
the First Nations of British Columbia given the fact
that it's not recognized or does not take into
consideration our Aboriginal Title and Rights
interests. Rather, it is a process and a mechanism
designed for stakeholders to give expression to their
various views relative to proposals being brought
forward by Proponents with respect to land and
resource developments.

1 The B.C. Environmental Assessment process has 2 found its way into the courtrooms throughout British 3 Columbia on many, many occasions because of the fact that it's a fatally flawed process. 4 5 Similarly, the Canadian Environmental 6 Assessment Act and process does not recognize 7 Aboriginal Title or Rights. And we've heard that 8 conversation in this room time and time again. 9 The process has inherent inequities. And 10 unfortunately, by its very nature and dynamics it's 11 divisive and pits one group against another with 12 respect to the issues at hand. 13 And since my time in Williams Lake, I 14 couldn't help but notice the inequities of the 15 Tsilhqot'in People and the Secwepemc People struggling 16 to find resources to bring in desperately needed 17 expertise to be able to convey and give expression to 18 the very deep concerns that they have with respect to 19 this proposed Prosperity Mine Project being advanced 20 by Taseko. 21 So there's no proper resourcing to have a 22 fair and level playing field. 23 I would like to talk briefly about the 24 so-called "New Relationship" that was heralded by 25 Premier Campbell as a means to address and reconcile

1 Aboriginal Title and Crown interests of British 2 Columbia. The hallmark of the so-called "New 3 Relationship" was empty promises and empty 4 5 announcements. 6 And that pertains to this notion that I've 7 heard from time to time centring on so-called revenue 8 sharing. It's something that the Provincial 9 Government has paid lip service to on many occasions 10 when it's politically convenient, but there is no 11 legislative mechanism in place and there is no policy. 12 It remains to be one of the things that the government 13 likes to trot out from time to time when it's 14 convenient. 15 In terms of the revenue sharing aspect from 16 the corporate side, the time that I've been here, I 17 haven't heard any significant offerings in that regard. And I believe I referenced this point the 18 19 last time I was here that, to my knowledge, I know 20 that there has been instances, proposals about an 21 equity share in the company itself, profit sharing, 22 training, and a whole package of those types of 23 business and economic benefits, and I didn't hear 24 that. 25 What I did hear was the vagueness of Mining

1 our Future. And I think there was adequate commentary 2 to that this morning. 3 But I didn't hear anything of any substance 4 other than, if you want any benefits, step up to the plate, pilgrim, and I'm only going to tell you the 5 6 But there was nothing substantive offered from once. 7 Taseko in that regard. 8 One of my major concerns that I have about what I've heard throughout this hearing process is the 9 10 power line. We are aware that there are many, many 11 similar projects that are being formulated on the 12 corporate drawing boards with similar mining proposals 13 in the area of Taseko. I've heard that Taseko is 14 connected to some of these conglomeration of 15 companies. And, in our view, the pipeline in many 16 ways is the umbilical cord to Howe Street and Bay 17 Street and Wall Street, to the stockmarkets, to 18 generate capital, to not only bring forward this 19 particular proposal but many more to follow. 20 And we are gravely concerned about that, that consideration. 21 22 I was absolutely astonished at the mitigative 23 measures being offered by Taseko with respect to the 24 destruction of the lake. And, in my view, the offer 25 represents a corporate-branded outdoor aquarium that

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1 has been shown to be incredibly difficult, if not 2 impossible, to sustain and maintain. And I don't consider, nor, I surmise, would 3 any reasonable person consider that to be an 4 5 appropriate mitigative measure. 6 When I consider the essence of what's 7 happening with respect to the Taseko Mine proposal, 8 and the power line, and the potential that that 9 represents for further large-scale industrial 10 development in Tsilhqot'in territory, I can't help but 11 wonder what the proposal of mitigation will be in the 12 future in terms of mitigating the cultural and 13 spiritual losses, the loss of habitat, the loss of 14 lifestyle. And I must say, the only thing that I can 15 envisage as part of that corporate dream is an area 16 out in the Tsilhqot'in akin to a theme park similar to 17 Barkerville which would be known as Prosperityville, 18 and that's where the general public could go and the 19 Tsilhqot'in and the Secwepemc People could go to see 20 the remnants of a once proud culture and heritage. 21 And I think we have to consider what we're dealing 22 with here within the scope of this hearing process. 23 The last thing that I want to talk about is 24 the fundamental truth that we're all here to stay. And that's inescapable. That's the reality. 25 And

1 we've heard that countless times about the 17-year 2 history of this Project. And I offered the view when 3 I first sat before you that, in my mind, this was, this process was 17 years too late. 4 5 And I heard the Mayor talk about the want and 6 the need to establish a cultural awareness 7 reconciliation process. And I can't help but think if there were 8 9 different paths taken 17 years ago that we wouldn't be 10 in this spot that we are here today. But 11 unfortunately, those opportunities were lost 12 opportunities, and we find ourselves in the position 13 where we have a room full of people that half of the 14 room supports the Project for the reasons that we've 15 heard, and the other half is absolutely opposed to 16 this Project for all of the reasons that have been 17 brought forward to the Panel. 18 And it's a very, very -- not a good place to 19 I think we can do better than this. I certainly be. 20 think our children deserve better than this. 21 And those are some of the things that need to 22 be considered when the Panel makes its decision. 23 I know that this fight will not end here. Ι 24 know that this is merely a skirmish, that this will go 25 to the Minister's office, it will go to Cabinet, and

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1 our alliances will continue to build on both sides. 2 And at some point in time we need to know and 3 understand the need to ensure governments bring 4 forward processes that are not fatally flawed and deficient, such as the B.C. Environmental Assessment 5 6 Process and the CEAA, and develop something that lends 7 itself to reconciliation. Because that's the only path that's going to get us out of these conundrums 8 9 that we find ourselves in. 10 I've seen this movie many times where a group 11 of investors come into a community and offer a 12 wonderful vision and dream and divides the 13 communities. Sometimes the projects proceed. 14 Sometimes they don't get off the ground. And this 15 group of investors leaves and we're left to pick up 16 the pieces. And I think we have to learn from that 17 experience also. So there's a tremendous amount of 18 19 responsibility here, undeniable liability, and the 20 decisions that come out of this are going to affect 21 and impact the lives of many, many people. 22 So I'm just hoping that we can learn, we can 23 learn from these deficiencies, and look toward 24 developing processes that are more just, that are 25 fair, that are equitable, and allow ourselves to, if

1 at all possible, undertake these in a joint fashion as 2 opposed to the division of camps that we have here 3 today. So with that, I would just like to say it's 4 an honour to be here. Like last time, I will drive 5 6 back to the Okanagan with a great deal of anxiety and 7 concern, worrying about the outcome of this process. 8 The last thing I want to say is, one of my 9 nieces, when she was a young girl, many years ago 10 wrote a simple poem about our People, and it goes: 11 "We're tired of being gawked 12 at but never seen. 13 We're tired of being listened 14 to, but never heard." 15 So with that, I thank you for this 16 opportunity. (Aboriginal Language Spoken). 17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Grand Chief Phillip, Chief Baptiste and Mr. Nixon. 18 19 We will, as I'll note in my closing remarks, 20 will certainly be considering all of these issues 21 carefully, of course, as we move through to our 22 deliberations. 23 But I wanted to thank you for your concluding 24 remarks. 25 Mr. Nixon, your presentation, of course, is

1 more detailed obviously than you were able to 2 completely read into the record, but I can assure you 3 that we will be looking carefully at it as well as the 4 remarks you made in the transcripts. 5 Appreciate, obviously, your summary of the 6 issues that the TNG consider important, your 7 arguments, your characterization of it from your 8 perspective to our Terms of Reference, and the 9 arguments you've used or the rationale behind them to 10 outline the position of the TNG, and the specific 11 recommendations you've included in there, which, of 12 course, we will consider as we will consider all of 13 the other submissions that are before us. So we have certainly at this point a lot of 14 15 information that has been drawn to our attention. 16 So with that, I thank you again. 17 And I think this is an appropriate time to take a short break and we'll reconfigure the table to 18 19 allow the TNG Chiefs to make a brief presentation to 20 us, thank you. 21 (BRIEF BREAK) 22 THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen, I'd 23 like to start again, so I'd ask if you could take your 24 seats to the extent you can. I recognize we're short 25 of a few chairs. We'll see if we can get ready to get

1 started again, please. 2 Thank you, everybody. I recognize, as I said 3 a moment ago, we seem to be short of a few chairs. 4 Apologies for that. More people than we had expected this afternoon. 5 6 In any case, we are getting ready to proceed 7 again with a short overview from the Tsilhqot'in National Government Chiefs and -- or Tsilhqot'in 8 9 Chiefs, I should say. And I'll call I think on Chief 10 Baptiste, initially, to perhaps start things off when 11 she's ready. She had the honour, I think, of trying 12 to assemble all of you here, so we'll wait until she's 13 ready. I was just talking about you, Chief Baptiste. 14 15 Just waiting until you get here to perhaps start this 16 presentation, so please proceed. 17 CHIEF BAPTISTE: Chief Yunesit'in will be first. 18 Ivor. 19 CLOSING REMARKS BY THE TSILHOOT'IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT 20 CHIEFS: CHIEF IVOR MYERS, YUNESIT'IN; CHIEF FRANCIS 21 LACEESE, TOOSEY; CHIEF PERCY GUICHON, TSI DEL DEL 22 (REDSTONE); CHIEF MARILYN BAPTISTE, XENI GWET'IN; 23 CHIEF BERNIE ELKINS (PRESENTED BY CHIEF MARILYN 24 BAPTISTE); CHIEF JOE ALPHONSE, TL'ETINQOX 25 (ANAHAM)

1 CLOSING REMARKS BY CHIEF IVOR DENEWAY MYERS, YUNESIT'IN 2 CHIEF: 3 CHIEF MYERS: Good evening. It's a wonderful evening. My name is Ivor Deneway Myers, 4 Yunesit'in Chief. 5 6 I'm happy to be here to express the final 7 closing remarks. I got some copies here for you, 8 Panel hearing members. 9 I just want to let you know that I'm a 10 descendant from one of the Tsilhqot'in War Chiefs 11 Lhats'as?in. What he did in the past was not meant to 12 be, but it was. He wanted to correct a wrong. So he 13 did what he can in order to protect his people. 14 So the closing remarks is: 15 It was shared that Taseko River crossing and 16 Teztan are within the migration corridor for deer and 17 moose. Duane Hink said that Teztan is the last 18 19 habitat for moose within the Yunesit'in's Caretaking 20 Area. 21 It has been shared by a number of speakers 22 that there are already numerous graves within the mine 23 footprint. We really do not know how many graves 24 exist within our territory. Some of them are no 25 longer visible. The archaeological studies are not

1 complete yet for the proposed transmission corridor, 2 the headwater pond, and Fish Creek. 3 I just wanted to add another paragraph. 4 Teztan is a key cultural area. It is a givex; fish 5 Spelt Q-I-Y-E-X. Qiyex are places where camp. 6 Tsilhqot'in live for a time to fish, hunt, trap, and 7 to gather plants. 8 It was mentioned at Stone that logging has 9 destroyed the community's Labrador tea harvesting 10 This community will rely on Teztan for this area. 11 traditional resource. 12 You have heard that Teztan provides us with 13 the most powerful medicines and has the most sacred 14 places for ceremonies and Rights. 15 It is our spiritual nature which needs to 16 survive on rainbow trout, salmon, deer, moose, roots 17 and berries. We need these for food and for ceremonial uses. We cannot live without these basic 18 19 resources. 20 Prosperity Mines Limited will destroy all 21 this. 22 Who's to say that all people will not be 23 dependent on traditional resources again? The 24 prophesies speak to this. The adverse effects of the proposed mine have 25

1 already gone across the land. The ancestors feel it. 2 The land, Teztan Biny, and the rainbow trout feel it. 3 The salmon, the deer, the grizzlies, the plants, and 4 the people feel it. To us, water is like a human being. 5 It is 6 alive. It is vital. Just as we cannot abuse our own 7 bodies by polluting them with chemicals and not suffer 8 devastating effects on our health, so we cannot 9 pollute our lakes, rivers and watersheds without 10 destroying the whole environment. 11 If Prosperity Mine goes ahead, it would take 12 only one accidental spillage to pollute all the fish 13 and the other species clear to Vancouver. 14 We have been shown no respect by Prosperity 15 Mine. In the early stages, they came into our country 16 by stealth, sneak, sneak around digging holes without 17 informing us about what they were doing. Taking out claims. And then after the fact, 17 years later, we 18 19 finally received mine environmental impact submission 20 binders. 21 Even last year we had to drive out an 22 exploration team from Tsintsans, Newton Mountain. 23 I have no faith in their promises. They have 24 shown us nothing except for contempt for our rights 25 and disrespect for our culture.

1 What is also particularly disturbing to me is 2 that the Provincial Environmental Assessment places no 3 significance upon the flooding of burial sites, 4 ceremony sites, ceremonial sites, and spiritual 5 places. 6 If this happens, we are destroyed culturally. 7 Tsilhqot'in will be diminished and denied their right 8 to be who they are as intended by the Creator. 9 We agree to this mine, we are committing 10 cultural suicide. 11 The Tsilhqot'in are in a fragile state. The 12 world is on the brink of destruction. Our land, our 13 traditional resources, our language, our culture have 14 already been devastated. 15 Our language is close to extinction. We need 16 this language to become whole, to fully understand our 17 culture, to communicate with the species, to enjoy the benefits of good health. 18 19 These things should be seriously considered. 20 Too much will be lost. 21 Tsilhqot'in spiritual laws are being 22 infringed. Such laws were created to ensure that 23 human generations would continue to exist. It is our 24 sacred duty to uphold such laws. It is our ancient 25 duty to ensure the survival of the future's 7th

1 generation. 2 It is the Tsilhqot'in's oldest instinct to 3 protect the land and its species; to cherish the Creator spirit in all things, to protect life. 4 First Nations welcome the first newcomers. 5 6 And these late arrivals have brought tragedy to our 7 generations of People, to the land, to the water, to 8 the species. 9 First Nations welcome them because it was 10 their belief that people share one's spirit, that we 11 are all related. We know that if we hurt even one of the 12 13 smallest of the species, that this will have a 14 negative effect on all. 15 All along it has been the intention of 16 outside governments that First Nations did not have a 17 It was their intention that we didn't succeed voice. 18 so as not to compete with the newcomers. 19 The governments did not want us to oppose progress. We have not been given the essential tools, 20 21 the resources, or the capacity to protect our sacred 22 rights. 23 We were denied the right to have legal 24 assistance. Can you believe that, by law, we were not 25 allowed to hire a lawyer in 1927 or to raise funds to

1 pursue Aboriginal Title in the courts. 2 Adverse changes have been imposed upon us, to 3 our culture, to our rights to exist as we wish, to the 4 right to honour our ancient ways. Tsilhqot'in, young and old, have shared what 5 6 is in their hearts. You have seen tears and anger. 7 You have heard many speakers who represent the 7th generation. Seven generations since contact. 8 9 This is significant. The Tsilhqot'in Warriors died 10 for our generations and this 7th generation completes 11 that period. We are in this intermission of time and 12 13 future circumstances wait for our decisions, our 14 actions, our willingness to support the future 15 generation. 16 Our present generations feel threatened by 17 the proposed mine. They are willing to put their own 18 lives in danger to protect what we have left rather 19 than subject future generations to the devastating 20 effect of an open pit mine. 21 The Tsilhqot'in choose to protect their 22 And we hope the Panel will do the same. future. 23 I would like to thank each and every one of 24 you for your patience. And I hope that the members of 25 the Panel hearing will make a fair, honest and

1 truthful decision. 2 Thank you. 3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chief Myers. I believe Chief Laceese is next in the order. 4 CLOSING REMARKS BY CHIEF FRANCIS LACEESE, TOOSEY INDIAN 5 6 BAND: 7 CHIEF LACEESE: (Aboriginal Language Spoken). 8 With that, I just repeat just my name is Francis 9 Laceese, Chief at the Toosey Indian Band. I'm also an 10 executive, I sit on the Executive with Chilcotin 11 National Congress. 12 I was just saying that water is our life, 13 Tsilhqot'in is who we are, and that we don't want our 14 waters poisoned. And everything that's out there will 15 get poisoned and that's not what we -- that's our 16 life. And that's -- I guess back then it was, you 17 know, when they did genocide amongst us with the, you 18 know, the measles and the smallpox, now it's the 19 threat of poisoning our very existence, you know. 20 We are strong a strong Nation, Tsilhgot'in. I could make reference to the power line. Both to the 21 22 power line and to the proposed mine in Fish Lake, I 23 oppose as a leader and as a Chief, as an executive 24 from the CNC. I believe the power line will bring in 25 not just the power to the proposed mine at Fish Lake

1	but other mines in that area that are proposed mines
2	in our territories and other major development.
3	Like our People say, we're not against
4	companies that come into our territory, it's the we
5	don't want the environmental damage that to damage
6	our lands and our waters because that's how we
7	survive.
8	And I also, also like to thank everyone that
9	made submission on our behalf, on behalf of the
10	Tsilhqot'ins, the Shuswap Nation that and all the
11	rest of the Nations that are supporting the
12	Tsilhqot'in, and all the people that helped us in
13	every way that they did. And I think there's more
14	support that's not just in B.C., I think it's right
15	across Canada. And I think there's a lot of people
16	out there who are just as concerned, maybe more
17	concerned than we are because I think the governments
18	have to, you know, they have to deal with us. And our
19	land. Because they have been living a lie too long,
20	you know, that's I think it's gone on long enough;
21	the B.C. Governments and the Federal Governments, they
22	have to deal with those land Rights and Title because
23	we're not going to go nowhere. This is where we live.
24	And our futures are going to be living there also.
25	So I'd like to stress to the Panel that they,

1 you know, the Ministers, Federal, whoever it is that 2 makes those decisions, that they say no to this 3 proposed Project. And to the other proposed mining 4 activity in our territory, we don't want the -- if 5 it's going to damage our water, we don't want it. I'd just like to thank everyone. 6 7 Sechanalyagh. Thank you, Chief Laceese. 8 THE CHAIRMAN: 9 Chief Guichon, please. 10 CLOSING REMARKS BY CHIEF PERCY GUICHON, TSI DEL DEL 11 (REDSTONE): 12 CHIEF GUICHON: Good afternoon, everyone. 13 My name is Percy Guichon, newly elected Chief of Tsi 14 Del Del, also known as Redstone. I have to ask my 15 peers how long I have to use the word "newly elected." 16 I just want to recap my presentation in my 17 community a couple weeks ago. And, specifically, I 18 gave a real example of the social and economic 19 impacts, negative impacts that we had to endure from 20 the forest industry and how it impacted the lives of 21 the people of Tsi Del Del. 22 I spoke about the people of the Tsi Del Del 23 who worked in the local mill in our area back in the 24 1960s and '70s. And the people worked there until the 25 mill burnt down.

1 Many of the Tsi Del Del community members 2 moved from the northern Reserves to the current 3 Reserve now known as Redstone, IR No. 1. And it was a result of the members chasing long-term jobs, and many 4 gave up their ranching lifestyle for the much easier 5 6 way to make a living, which was to collect a regular 7 pay cheque every two weeks, and this resulted -- this 8 had a very negative result to the family units of 9 these members. 10 And some of these negative impacts included, 11 of course, the increase in the use of alcohol and also 12 greatly increased alcohol-related deaths, and the 13 neglect of our children, and the decrease in the practice of our cultural tradition, and the loss of 14 15 pride, and many other negative issues that seemed to follow the abuse of alcohol. 16 The Tsi Del Del people then moved to the main 17 18 Reserve which only increased the social problems that 19 are still evident today. 20 The Tsilhqot'in People have never really 21 truly benefitted from all the trees that were removed 22 from our territory. 23 I mentioned in my presentation in my 24 community that, when I first came home, that I saw 25 some new outhouses that were built along Highway 20.

1 Is that all we get; some new outhouses that don't 2 flush? 3 As usual, all the benefits from these industries such as forestry and the potential mine 4 5 that's being proposed in our territory, we never see 6 the benefits. The benefits go to Williams Lake. The 7 benefits go to the Federal and Provincial governments. 8 And that also brings me to the topic of the 9 New Relationship that the Provincial Government is 10 proposing and Grand Chief Stewart spoke about it. 11 The New Relationship Agreement proposes that 12 First Nations get a share of the mining revenues. And 13 I'm not sure how it works, but I believe it's in the form of a tax. And it seems to me that if Taseko was 14 15 serious about working with First Nations, they would have offered First Nations an equal partnership in 16 17 some form within this Project. But that has not 18 happened. And I don't see it happening. 19 Taseko does not want to share any revenue but 20 will pass the buck to the B.C. Government which will 21 offer First Nations peanuts. 22 Taseko's gambling. And gambling big. Taseko 23 wants to use the process we are in now in hopes of not 24 having to deal with First Nations directly. And get 25 Williams Lake residents on side by promising jobs and

1 spin-offs. 2 It's a fairly easy call that Williams Lake residents will climb on board in the current state of 3 the economy. Taseko is playing on people's fears and 4 The people of Williams Lake must realize that 5 hopes. 6 we, the people of the Cariboo-Chilcotin, are much more 7 resilient, innovative, and also proud of how we take care of ourselves. Surely we can find other 8 9 industries in order to create jobs by not having to 10 resort to destroying sacred lakes and creating 11 potential disasters to the environment. 12 We must give ourselves credit and not to 13 depend on companies coming in and destroying the 14 environment forever and promising us unsustainable 15 jobs. 16 Just a quick note, and I want to pass along 17 because I said I would say so, I met a non-First Nation person outside there at coffee break this 18 19 morning, and he just wanted me to pass along that he 20 went and applied for a job at Gibraltar Mine and was 21 turned down because he didn't have Grade 12 education. 22 And that he was frustrated with that. And he had over 23 15 years of experience in operating a piece of 24 equipment but they wouldn't look at him because he had -- he didn't have his Grade 12. 25

1 So it just goes to show you, I guess, any 2 company can come in and promise us jobs, but I see 3 that a lot of these jobs will be offered to the people 4 from outside the community. 5 I just want to talk a bit about Aboriginal 6 Title and Rights. 7 I don't know how much clearer it can get. 8 The Xeni Gwet'in has proven Rights and Title. This 9 gives the Tsilhqot'in People the jurisdiction to make 10 decisions on how the land will be used. Both levels 11 of governments and Taseko seem to have their heads 12 buried in the sand and do not want to accept this. 13 Tsilhqot'in People do have jurisdiction. And 14 we will continue to have jurisdiction. You need our 15 permission in order to build a mine in our territory. 16 And a couple comments about Teztan Biny where 17 the proposed mine development will take place. 18 Does everyone here know that Taseko is 19 proposing to dig the second biggest hole in Canada? 20 Just think about that for a moment. The second 21 biggest hole in Canada. 22 Along with this is the potential of leaching 23 of harmful metals and acid rock drainage into a major 24 river that provides a food fishery for not only the 25 Tsilhqot'in First Nations, but other First Nations

1 downstream. And even sustains fishing lodges on the 2 West Coast of B.C. 3 And to top it off, this lake is a sacred lake 4 that has spiritual and cultural connection for the 5 Tsilhqot'in People which has been developed over 6 thousands of years. Teztan Biny was a place of refuge 7 when Tsilhqot'in People were in a time of war or 8 uncertainty. It was a place to regroup and a place to 9 be safe from a foreign society. And it continues to 10 be a safe place where Tsilhqot'in People can gather and practice their traditional activities. 11 12 In conclusion, I must echo the people of 13 Tsi Del Del who gave emotional presentations. A lot of them have never spoken in public and had the 14 15 courage to speak to the Panel in front of large 16 groups. And for that, I commend them. 17 I must also echo the Tsilhqot'in People with 18 their presentations throughout other Tsilhqot'in 19 communities, and all the supporters, including the 20 Shuswap communities and other groups that have stood 21 behind us. 22 And the Panel must make a recommendation that 23 the Prosperity Mine must not go ahead. The mine must 24 not go ahead because the mine will cause environmental 25 negative impacts and the Tsilhqot'in People's

1 spiritual and cultural connection to the area will be 2 lost forever. 3 We are making this decision not only on behalf of today's Tsilhqot'in membership, but also the 4 5 unborn who have the right to use this area in the 6 future. And we're also making this decision to say no 7 to Prosperity Mine in respect to our ancestors who have died protecting Tsilhqot'in territory. 8 9 Thank you. 10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chief Guichon. 11 And I'll turn next to Chief Baptiste. Ι 12 think you indicated at the beginning that you had a 13 presentation on behalf of the Xeni Gwet'in but also one for Chief Elkins, so please proceed. 14 15 CLOSING REMARKS BY CHIEF MARILYN BAPTISTE, XENI GWET'IN: 16 CHIEF BAPTISTE: Sechanalyagh. 17 Before I get started here, I'd like to call 18 up my council, Former Chief Roger William, our 19 Councillor, Councillor Chris William and Councillor 20 Lois William. Just either come up and sit behind us 21 here or stand and fill up the room. And also I would 22 like to ask former Councillor David Setah to come 23 forward if he would like to. I know he's here. 24 Thank you, everyone, and, of course, thank 25 you very much to the Panel for your stamina through

1	this all. And to the Secretariat. As well as Taseko
2	Mines Limited. And all of the people who have been
3	here throughout the hearings.
4	I would like to say, first of all, how
5	convenient; we started out with this process on
6	March 22nd here in Williams Lake at the Gibraltar
7	Room, World Water Day. And we end here this week, as
8	I note in the newspaper, is Drinking Water Week here
9	in B.C.
10	So this is just it speaks a lot to me.
11	And that is tremendous. I think that shows a
12	responsibility for everyone, not just us as Aboriginal
13	People, to protect and take care of our waters.
14	And in addition to that, we have also the
15	April edition of the National Geographic, a special
16	issue on "Water, Our Thirsty World." It is entirely
17	on water. And not just here in B.C.
18	So those are some important notes to take;
19	that the world is waking up and realizing that we
20	don't have as much fresh water left in Canada, never
21	mind just Canada but the world.
22	And I will not be speaking just as a leader
23	for Xeni Gwet'in. I am speaking from the heart. I am
24	speaking from the heart of our youth, of our Elders,
25	of all of our People, of our land and our ancestors,

1 our water, our fish, our plants, and our future 2 generations. For us, Aboriginal Title and Rights is 3 4 something we're born into. We have never given up our 5 Title and our Rights. 6 Our Title and Rights have been recognized 7 through not only the Tsilhqot'in case, it has been 8 recognized through many cases in B.C., such as the 9 Delgamuukw. 10 And for us as well, not setting aside our 11 Tsilhqot'in case, but our Title and Rights go beyond 12 that court case area. And I want to make that clear, 13 because sometimes I feel that companies, and as many questions had arose from Taseko Mines Limited with 14 15 respect to the court case area, the decision area, the proven Title area, and the Rights area, we have never 16 17 given up our Rights and our Title. Therefore, our 18 Title and Rights are throughout the entire Tsilhqot'in 19 territory. 20 And that has been proven time and time again 21 in the Tsilhqot'in War of 1864. Our war leaders stood 22 up for our land, our Title and our Rights, protected 23 our People, our waters and our fish, our future 24 generations. And we are those future generations for 25 them.

1 And we carry on that duty and that 2 responsibility. And we do not take it lightly. 3 We also have the appeal in the Tsilhqot'in 4 William case, which is moving forward as you're all 5 well aware, going through the Supreme Court of B.C. 6 And, of course, we all expect that that will carry on to the Supreme Court of Canada. 7 So we have to wonder, our Elders have asked, 8 9 our People have asked continuously, our People have 10 testified, have given affidavits, interviews time and 11 time again to protect, to stand up our land, stand up 12 who we are and how we're connected to our lands. And 13 yet we sit here in this process once again. 14 This process, not being adequate, not enough 15 time, and this is only a very small piece of 16 information. Only a small number of the Tsilhqot'in 17 have been able to actually give their voice to this 18 process. 19 It's not a fair process. 20 But I am very honoured and I'm very proud of 21 every single one of our members who stood up and who 22 put their voice forward. Their emotions. Their 23 And their frustrations. anger. 24 And, of course, as Sean also mentioned, yet 25 another case filed in the B.C. Supreme Court will be

1 the Aboriginal right to fish. 2 And even though this process, the European 3 process we are before here, as well as the Title case, 4 goes through the process to recognize and assert our 5 Title, our Rights. 6 We as Tsilhqot'in People have always agreed, 7 we still agree, we move forward in every inch of our 8 being, that we have never ceded nor surrendered our 9 Title nor our Rights. We have never given up our 10 Title or our Right to fish, so why do we have to go 11 through court yet again? 12 And, of course, you've heard all of those, 13 those words, in every fashion you could imagine. But if we had another six weeks, I'm sure you would hear 14 15 several different -- much more testimony to exactly 16 that. And how we never gave up our land. We never 17 sold our land. And we do not intend to. 18 In our Nemiah Aboriginal Wilderness Preserve, 19 in 1989, our People stood together in the fight 20 against the destruction of our lands in clearcut 21 logging. 22 And our People set forth the direction for 23 our leadership. And that's what we have been 24 following for many years, even before that Declaration. 25

1 And that is to protect our waters, our land, 2 our fish, our future generations. 3 We will do what we have to to protect our 4 land and our future generations. 5 And also our People have, in the courts, in 6 the Title and Rights, and other testimony, and 7 interviews, we have not set out a lot of information 8 on our sacred and spiritual ways and a lot to do with 9 our medicines, because that is a part of our way as 10 Tsilhqot'in People, to protect those things. They are 11 not for us to share with just anyone. They are a part 12 of how we protect our People and our future 13 generations. 14 As I had noted in my presentation in Xeni 15 Gwet'in, there is a medicine that I found on the 16 island at Teztan that I am not willing to share with 17 you, the company, for the sake that, I mean, I know 18 that's your full intent to destroy. And that's just 19 simply a part of our way. And that medicine is not 20 found just anywhere. And, unfortunately, I can't tell 21 you what it's called because I'm not sure. My sister 22 did not tell me what it was called. 23 Our People, the Tsilhqot'in, the First 24 Nations, quite frankly, everywhere in the world have 25 come forward a long way with working with government

1 and industry. 2 An example in the Tsilhqot'in territory is 3 the Tsilhqot'in Framework Agreement which Margaret Lulua had referred to in her presentation in Xeni. 4 5 And that process is working with the governments. And 6 exploration Amark is one of the first projects. That 7 is a project owned by Hunter Dickinson. That will be, 8 I guess, our test to see if governments are honestly 9 and honourably wanting to work with the Tsilhqot'in. 10 And I haven't heard too much for honest 11 working relationships. I hope to get a positive 12 update on that. 13 And the other thing with regards to this 14 process that we agreed to work forward, again with the 15 governments, now we are being invaded by such projects 16 on the major fish-bearing waterways in our territory, 17 in the Tsilhqot'in territory. Of course, the first 18 being Fish Lake, Little Fish Lake, Fish Creek, Taseko, 19 the Chilko, Chilcotin. And, of course, all of -- we 20 have to also respect all of the people down river on 21 the Fraser, the Secwepemc and the Stl'atl'imc and on 22 down. 23 With the Environment Canada's responsibility 24 in the terrestrial or wildlife habitat, you have heard 25 very good information set forth by Wayne McCrory; that

1 is prime grizzly territory up in that area of Taseko. 2 The grizzly's habitat in the entire Chilcotin is 3 threatened and that is from clearcut logging and all of the roads that have impacted their habitat. Except 4 in the Xeni Gwet'in's Caretaker Area. 5 Because, of 6 course, going back again, our Title case had protected 7 our territory as well as our animals and our waters 8 from destruction and impacts.

9 And with DFO and their responsibility for the 10 fish habitat, the new lake, our People, our youth, our 11 Elders all cannot imagine -- they do not accept that 12 as a possible mitigation. They can't imagine how our 13 wild trout that have sustained themselves for many 14 hundreds of years will be able to survive in a new 15 location.

16 And one concern that I would definitely have 17 to bring to light again here is the talk about the 18 85,000 trout in Fish Lake, there's no mention of 19 saving any of the fish in Little Fish Lake, unless I 20 missed that, but the mention of the 20,000 trout will 21 be maintained and used to maintain that genetic 22 85,000 compared to 20,000. And what was the species. 23 comment? A rude comment, I must say that I heard 24 somewhere through these processes from Taseko Mines, 25 and a barbecue. I can't imagine what our Elders would

1 feel if they heard that. 2 That is a part of who we are. That is our 3 life. That is what feeds our People. 4 You may -- many people, including the 5 company, may think that the trout being small is not 6 important. Very untrue. It's food. It's life. 7 And I also have to refer back to Norman 8 George Setah in Yunesit'in and his statement regarding 9 some of the smaller impacts. This was in regards to 10 something that's helping trying to save wetlands, with 11 the Ducks Unlimited, ponds and dams. That has been a 12 big concern to him. You might not think it important 13 in this process. It's very important. Our Elders 14 don't look at only the huge impacts; they look at all 15 of the small impacts that create a very substantial 16 loss. That has created loss for him and people that 17 he knows that utilize that fishery. 18 NRCan and the water quality and quantity, I 19 want you to know not just because -- not just 20 recently, but always, our People, as well as 21 Yunesit'in, and many of our People who live in 22 Williams Lake and other areas, draw on those waters 23 from Taseko as drinking waters. That's our running 24 water; from Taseko River. 25 And the Xeni Gwet'in has given several

1 presentations in regards to a lot of the work that we 2 have been doing, planning, and management projects for 3 the Xeni Gwet'in's Caretaker Area, such as the water quality projects that we've done in the past. And, of 4 course, there is the cultural tourism. There's the 5 6 Ecosystem Based Planning. Unfortunately, the 7 Ecosystem Based Planning submission did not get into 8 your records, and I will refer to that shortly. 9 But there are several other workings that the 10 Xeni Gwet'in have been doing for several, several 11 years, along the same lines as Canoe has put forth as 12 well with regards to tourism. 13 And with Xeni Gwet'in, over many, many years, 14 we have been piece-mealing these projects in 15 development together, because we live under the Indian 16 Act, and that is something that is not as easy as you 17 think to get off under. 18 And, of course, with our limited resources, 19 it's not always easy to have successful applications 20 piece-mealing all these projects together. But I say 21 we have done an excellent job. And that has been 22 carrying on through leadership throughout several 23 years with Xeni Gwet'in. 24 And you've heard some of those with the 25 Visitor Info Centre that will be doing a grand opening

1 for the summer. 2 We've had the traditional village site down 3 on Chilko Lake which had the grand opening in 2008. 4 And plans for the Destination Lodge is being 5 completed, the design. 6 And, of course, there is a lot of other 7 things that our community is working towards such as 8 value-added project to more respectfully manage the 9 forests in our territory. With Transport Canada, and navigable waters, 10 11 that one is very interesting to me because I just 12 automatically assumed that Transport would be also 13 responsible for roads. But that is not so. 14 However, Transport Canada, as stated in their 15 presentations this past week, have noted that this is 16 a very unusual project. It's not something that they 17 have dealt with in the past. And, of course, again, part of that is due to 18 19 the fact that the island at Fish Lake has the pit 20 house. Not just a cache pit. I need to repeat that. 21 A pit house. Not just a cache pit. I've seen with my 22 own eyes. As well the medicines and the Indian tea 23 and the medicine that I noted. As well as other 24 medicines. 25 And I have to mention again, from my

1 presentation in Xeni Gwet'in, the huge ant piles. 2 They are just very intriguing to me. Because you 3 don't see them anywhere else. If you do, I'd like to 4 know where. And to me, that's not just small. Some 5 people also talked about the ants. People think that 6 they are insignificant. But they are not to our 7 They tell you a lot. People. 8 THE CHAIRMAN: Chief Baptiste, just a 9 reminder, in terms of time, that this is supposed to 10 be an overview of all of the various views that we've 11 received. I wonder if you might be able to summarize, 12 please. 13 CHIEF BAPTISTE: And I have to note that Yes. 14 the, not only the Tsilhqot'in, but I've been advised 15 that also the Okanagan Indian Band have also had huge 16 concerns with the archaeological work with the IR 17 Wilson. That has been noted in this past week. So, 18 for the record, again, the archeology consultants, IR 19 Wilson, is not acceptable to the Tsilhqot'in Nation. 20 The Tsilhqot'in territory is our home. And 21 Teztan is a part of it. Teztan is a village of 22 cathedral and fish camp, a sanctuary, a place of 23 safety, and a place to retreat when the final 24 prophesies take place, as Ivor has mentioned. 25 I have also given you a brief overview that I

1 had hoped to go into more detail on for the Ecosystem 2 Based Plan; that planning that did not get into the 3 submissions. But, of course, I take you back to the David Setah, former Councillor's submission in Xeni 4 5 Gwet'in, and he did cover some of the Ecosystem Based 6 Planning. 7 And two of the books that were referenced in 8 that review, "Seeing the Forest Among the Trees; a 9 Case of Holistic Forest Use, 1991." And also "Maintaining Whole Systems on Earth's Crown: 10 11 Ecosystem-Based Conservation Planning for the Boreal 12 Forest 2009, Silva Forest Foundation." 13 And I also had submitted information to you, 14 or a copy to you regarding the road, Taseko Lake Road, 15 as the Ministry of Transport refers to it. That is a 16 very big concern to our health and safety for our 17 And George Colgate had raised that concern. People. 18 As well, Wayne William did a written submission and 19 has raised that concern as well. And our Elders still 20 drive that road. I can't imagine the simple thought 21 of having to compete on that road with these big 22 mining trucks and their health with that. 23 And I have to also very quickly reflect on 24 the Health Canada, the Country Foods Study that Taseko 25 has committed to undertaking. And, of course, I guess

1	
1	a part of that would be the Human Health Risk
2	Assessment factors. I'm not sure.
3	And just a small message from my mom from all
4	mothers is:
5	"Save the water.
6	Be careful how you use the
7	water.
8	That is what is told to us
9	poor folks.
10	But what the large companies
11	and governments are doing is
12	destroying our major waterways."
13	And also I have to submit, and I have to
14	voice on behalf of a youth that presented in Alkali
15	had asked me to simply put to you today on behalf of
16	Dina Johnson:
17	"On April 21st, while the
18	Panel hearings took place in
19	Alkali Lake, our community felt
20	disrespected by Taseko Mine's
21	closing response, which was pretty
22	much telling our Elders, our
23	community, and community members
24	to read what was recorded at
25	previous Panel hearings.

1 Taseko Mines has answered a lot of 2 the same questions, so they should 3 have the answers engraved in their minds. If they agree with the 4 5 mining. But they chose to be disrespectful saying, 'Read what 6 was recorded.' Because our 7 8 community members freely expressed 9 how they felt about the 10 transmission line." And to end my little piece, and, of course, I 11 12 must mention I was not able to cover a lot, as all of 13 us are not able to cover a lot, but I'm ending with a 14 poem from my nephew, 11 years old, who is living in 15 Chilliwack. And he did a poem: "Canada Poem. 16 17 I saw an angel on a mountain in Nemiah. 18 It reminds me of Fish Lake. 19 Fish Lake needs a guardian. 20 They want to drain it. 21 They want to mine it for gold. They want the gold 'cause gold's money. 22 23 But we want Fish Lake. 24 Because it's my future. 25 And part of my Nation.

1 And my Canada." 2 (Ryland Connerly Baptiste) (phonetic). 3 And again, I have to state, on behalf of the 4 Xeni Gwet'in and Tsilhqot'in, we do not and will not 5 agree to destroy the headwaters and major fish-bearing 6 waters, waterways which includes Fish Lake, Little 7 Fish Lake, and Fish Creek. 8 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you, Chief 9 Baptiste. Now, you said you had a written 10 presentation by Chief Elkins. I'm wondering if that 11 can just be tabled as part of the record? 12 CHIEF BAPTISTE: Actually, it is not very 13 long. And I know that we are -- I don't know what the 14 time is exactly, but I would prefer to present it. I 15 asked Bernie to do this. He's not able to be here. 16 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay, go ahead, then, please. 17 CLOSING REMARKS BY CHIEF BERNIE ELKINS (PRESENTED BY CHIEF 18 MARILYN BAPTISTE): 19 CHIEF BAPTISTE: Thank you. 20 "On behalf of Chief Bernie, please give this 21 short statement on ?Esdilagh behalf. I, Chief Bernie 22 Elkins, am at the First Nation Interior Health 23 Governance meeting in Kelowna today. The Tsilhqot'in 24 health is at the bottom of any scale or indicators and 25 I need to be heard.

1 Historically, ?Esdilagh has not received much 2 benefit from Gibraltar Mine. The Prosperity Federal 3 Panel must consider whether the mine will seriously 4 impact the surrounding Teztan Biny and power line 5 environments and consequence to our surrounding First 6 Nations. 7 Remember from the Tsilhqot'in court case, 8 Teztan Biny has the potential to be encumbered by 9 Tsilhqot'in Title and proven Rights. The judge said 10 Title could be proven both in and outside of the 11 Nemiah Valley Title area. 12 I have included a map of Mountain Pine Beetle 13 to demonstrate the cumulative impacts to be included for Panel consideration on water, erosion, loss of 14 15 habitat, both wildlife and fish, and Tsilhgot'in 16 dependence on local environment if Chilko salmon stock 17 declines like the Fraser River stock. 18 I have also included a map of Gibraltar and 19 ?Esdilagh's Reserves. 20 I have met with some success with Taseko to 21 secure funds from Health Canada or any other source to determine metal content in ourselves as ?Esdilagh 22 23 members and local wildlife plants we consume. 24 I encourage both the Panel and Federal 25 Ministers to consider the potential economic value,

tonnage, and grade and to justify further work at 1 2 Prosperity. Any mining related permit or tenure must 3 include conditions to limit further work if there are 4 5 negative impacts to the Project area. 6 Written into the Federal Environmental 7 Assessment Certificate is the guarantee of long-term production of use of Teztan for the Tsilhqot'in and 8 9 Secwepemc along the power line. 10 Conversely, Taseko should guarantee use of 11 modern and leading edge environmental technology, thus 12 limit liability for shareholders as well as 13 governments when Taseko moves on to another project or 14 if a disaster happens. 15 Some leading mining companies who seek a 16 social contract with neighbouring First Nations are: 17 18 1. The EBA (Economic Benefit 19 Agreement) provides Blueberry 20 River First Nations with a share 21 of economic benefits from oil and 22 gas development within their 23 traditional territory and a solid 24 foundation for increased 25 participation in the regional

1 economy. 2 The Mining and Minerals 3 2. Protocol Agreement with the Upper 4 5 Similkameen Indian Band established an effective means for 6 7 communication and information-sharing between the 8 9 Province and the Band. The 10 agreement also ensures that mining 11 development will be done in an 12 environmentally and culturally 13 sustainable manner. 14 15 3. Located near Port McNeill, 16 B.C., on Vancouver Island's 17 northern coast, the Orca Quarry is 18 jointly owned by Polaris Minerals 19 Corporation (88 percent) and the 20 'Namgis First Nation (12 percent). 21 Orca started commercial production 22 in early 2007 and is expected to 23 become Canada's largest sand and

gravel quarry by the time it

reaches full production.

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1 2 'A Toyota prius contains 30 more Note: 3 pounds of copper than a regular car, ' McPhie said. There are 9,000 pounds of copper in an electric bus. 4 Prosperity is a low-grade deposit, right? 5 The 6 Tsilhqot'in feel the current Prosperity decision is in 7 a boom period. Taseko has benefitted from the B.C. 8 Mining Flow-Through Share Tax Credit and likely other 9 initiatives. 10 The Cariboo Regional District receives a 11 benefit from putting waste at Gibraltar. 12 My community cannot even afford more than 13 \$1,000 per month to pay me as Chief, yet there is no 14 revenue-sharing agreement between us and the Taseko at 15 Gibraltar Mine. 16 I am trying to be reasonable when meeting 17 with Taseko representatives, but this is my reality. As ?Esdilagh Chief, I believe Taseko and the 18 19 subsidiaries should share revenues out of their 20 pockets with local First Nations. B.C. has given 21 Taseko their Environmental Certificate before current 22 Aboriginal victories in courts in protecting Rights 23 and Title. I believe the public wants Taseko to set a 24 higher standard here in the Cariboo-Chilcotin with 25 Tsilhqot'in, Shuswap, and the Southern Carrier First

1 Nations. 2 The BC Mineral Tax revenue is not enough for 3 local First Nations. Impact Benefit Agreement, 4 Consultation Agreement, Participation Agreement, 5 Shared Decision Agreement, and Revenue Sharing based 6 on tonnage of ore leaving our area should be 7 considered. Gibraltar has been here for 20 years and will be for another 20. I have heard Taseko officials 8 9 state using state-of-the-art technology, but in terms 10 of revenue sharing, or ?Esdilagh have a Gibraltar 11 service contract, it's the ice ages. 12 I noted under the Prosperity's EIS Statement, 13 they wish to offer jobs and some service agreements --Taseko shareholders have no social contracts with 14 15 Tsilhqot'in. 16 Taseko officials state destroying Teztan is 17 the only option, at the price they are willing to pay. 18 If the grade was better, or their stocks went up, then 19 would they consider the alternatives? 20 Has there been enough time allotted on this 21 Project for innovation for any alternatives? 22 Thank you. Chief ?Esdilagh, Bernie Elkins, 23 Acting Tsilhqot'in Tribal Chair." 24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chief Baptiste, 25 for presenting Chief Elkins' views.

1	And I guess the last speaker, the last Chief
2	is Chief Alphonse, please.
3	CLOSING REMARKS BY CHIEF JOE ALPHONSE:
4	CHIEF ALPHONSE: (Aboriginal Language Spoken).
5	Good afternoon. I would like to acknowledge
6	first and foremost the fact that we're here today on
7	Shuswap land.
8	We thank that they allow us to come here and
9	speak and help with this process to move forward.
10	I'm Chief Joe Alphonse, Tl'etinqox, the
11	Tl'etinqox Government office, and Anaham Indian
12	Reserve. Tlinqox, the meadow people by the river,
13	from our community. I'm from the Chief Anaham line,
14	fifth generation leadership in my community. Chief
15	Anahim being the Grand Chief of the Tsilhqot'in
16	Nation, 1800s, during the time of the Tsilhqot'in War.
17	I think there's been a lot said here today
18	and there's no real need to rehash a lot of what's
19	already been said. However, I just want to recapture
20	some issues I think only, only because I feel that,
21	regardless of this issue of Taseko Mine, Prosperity
22	Project, as First Nations People, we're not going
23	anywhere, we're going to remain here.
24	And it's important as first, as People in
25	this area that we look at issues and we look at issues

The underlying issue here, I think this has 1 together. 2 gone from an issue looking at a business issue and 3 looking at environment to a rights issue. And that's not something that I feel entirely comfortable with. 4 5 As a First Nation Person, maybe my process is 6 not the best process in the world, but I quarantee 7 you, you as within your European process, you don't 8 have all the answers. 9 When we look at issues, all issues, if we can 10 get as many different sides to look at that issue and 11 work together, we're going to come out with a better 12 resolution. When you don't -- when you -- there was a 13 time as First Nation People we didn't have a say. And 14 that isn't the case today. We know this is our land. 15 And we will -- and we will do what we have to to look 16 after the best interests of our People. 17 If I don't bring this voice forward, my 18 community will simply elect somebody else to come 19 forward and bring that message. And I want -- so I 20 want to make that clear. 21 But as the leader within my community, I want 22 to state this; that through this process, we have been 23 led that, as leaders, we're speaking at individuals. 24 I want to remind the Panel here that I think what 25 we've gone through, the exercise we've been through, I

1 think it's been very clear that that is not the case. 2 That as First Nation people, as Tsilhqot'in People, as 3 Shuswap People, that we've all stated the same thing over and over again. And I want to make that point 4 that, when we spoke, as leaders were -- didn't speak 5 6 as individuals, we spoke as Nations, as united 7 Nations, First Nation People. 8 I think I want to make that very clear. I'm 9 disheartened that we are where we're at today. Ι remind Taseko right from -- right from day one, we've 10 11 made it very clear; we're willing to sit down, we're 12 willing to talk, but if your plan is going to call for 13 the destruction of Fish Lake, we cannot support your 14 proposal. And that hasn't changed today. 15 People may think and believe that this is the 16 only proposal we have in the Tsilhqot'in. 17 Amark. Amark has two proposals. One on the 18 Newton property. It's come late. The other on Puntzi 19 Creek (phonetic). 20 We have another mining company, Altoll 21 (phonetic), that has just recently bought property in 22 the Chilcotin as well. 23 This Project, Taseko group, is not the only 24 mining company coming into our territory. And I think 25 the impression is that that is the case.

1 The impression is that Taseko is going to 2 save the economy. We have some very real concerns in 3 Williams Lake. The forest sector has taken a big hit. 4 We feel it. As First Nation People, Sigurdson Brothers shut down in Hanceville, 65 of our members 5 6 walked away, no jobs, 60 families. 7 We feel we're going to have a future and the 8 economy is going to turn around regardless of whatever 9 happens with Taseko. I want to make sure. Some of 10 our families are three, four generation loggers. And 11 that is the area where we're, where the economy's 12 going to turn. 13 I think the Tsilhqot'in, we have a lot to 14 offer, the Tsilhqot'in country. Fish Lake, top 10 15 fishing lake in B.C. I want to remind you guys of 16 that. The Chilko Lake run, the largest most 17 consistent sockeye run left in B.C. We have the farthest steelhead run, the Chilko Lake steelhead, in 18 19 North America. 20 We have a very large healthy population of 21 woodland caribou. 22 We have very healthy bear and wolf 23 populations. I believe the Tsilhqot'in is the best 24 kept secret in B.C. 25 If you want to manage wildlife, you manage

1	
1	people. You manage people and you will meet your
2	management goals.
3	We've never been supporters of fish
4	hatcheries. We have played a vital part in the
5	management of a lot of the fish stocks in the
6	Tsilhqot'in. We promote the management of wild stock.
7	I think you know as a young child on Lava
8	Canyon fishing hole called quiggly holes, it's on the
9	White Mile, very narrow part of the Chilko River.
10	Chilko, you can see right through that river. You can
11	see the rocks on the bottom. During salmon, the
12	salmon run, the water is so, flows so fast, shoots
13	right through there. So the salmon shoot from back
14	eddie to the next back eddie, just jumping, jumping.
15	And as a 12-year-old boy, me and my cousin
16	Paul Grinder, a fishery worker, we would go upstream
17	and we would stick our finger in the water and we
18	would count, one, two, three. And you'll see that
19	pool of salmon there just dart off. So we would go a
20	little farther upstream and we would stick a finger in
21	the water again, and this time we would count one,
22	two, three, four, five. And then the salmon would
23	we've been taught that from a very young age that the
24	salmon, our fish stocks, are very sensitive.
25	In most cases, because you can't see that

1 resource, you don't think it's there. It's there. 2 And if one finger can have such a negative impact, 3 bringing in a mine is going to destroy that run, is 4 going to be a real threat to them. 5 I don't want to take up too much more time. 6 I still have a ways to travel. And we're in game 2 of 7 the Stanley Cup race here. So I thank you for 8 listening to me. (Aboriginal Language Spoken) 9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chief Alphonse. Ι 10 expect there are a few others that are interested in 11 that game this evening as well, so. 12 Chief Myers, Chief Laceese, Chief Guichon, 13 and Chief Baptiste, and Chief Alphonse, I thank you 14 again for your overview presentation. We appreciated 15 the reception we had in your communities when we 16 visited them and the hospitality and the opportunity 17 to hear from many people in the community about their views towards the Project, and that has been very 18 19 helpful to us, so we thank you for that. And, again, 20 thank you for your presentation here today. 21 We turn next and to the final opportunity for 22 closing remarks today, and that is to Taseko Mines 23 who, according to our procedures, have the final 24 opportunity to respond to a lot of information that 25 has been gathered over the course of these six weeks

1 of hearings. So I turn to Taseko for their closing 2 remarks, please. 3 CLOSING REMARKS BY TASEKO MINES LIMITED, BY 4 MR. BELL-IRVING: MR. BELL-IRVING: 5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ι 6 acknowledge the Shuswap land. 7 Mr. Chairman, Members of the Panel, Grand 8 Chief, Chiefs and Elders, citizens of Williams Lake, 9 and the Cariboo-Chilcotin, it is my honour, on behalf of Taseko Mines Limited, to be speaking to you today. 10 11 We begin these closing comments by thanking 12 the Panel for how these hearings have been conducted. 13 A lot of work lays ahead for you in the writing of 14 your report and in the preparation of your 15 recommendations. And we fully appreciate your 16 determination to complete that report in the next 17 60 days. Today is the end of more than six weeks of 18 19 public hearings. During that time, the Panel has 20 heard a lot. You've openly received anyone wishing to 21 step forward and express their views and thoughts. 22 You have allowed the public and, in particular, all 23 interested First Nation members in multiple First 24 Nation communities every opportunity to participate. 25 The public has been given the opportunity to

1 follow every detail of the proceedings online. Thev 2 have had the opportunity to both listen and to read 3 every word that has been spoken on the public record 4 over this long period of time. 5 This effort to make these proceedings fully 6 and publicly transparent is an extraordinary 7 undertaking. And you and your able Secretariat are to 8 be congratulated for it. 9 Throughout all aspects of both the Provincial 10 EA and the Federal Panel Review process leading up to 11 these hearings, it has been our commitment and 12 intention to answer every question that was presented 13 We think that you will agree that we have done to us. 14 so. 15 Throughout the now completing public hearing 16 phase of your review, we carry forward this same 17 commitment and answered every question brought forward 18 by all participants in a fully transparent and public 19 way. The effort made by you to make this possible was 20 an extraordinary undertaking and you are to be 21 congratulated. 22 My task today is to offer you our final 23 closing comments. 24 The purpose of these remarks is to both 25 briefly summarize Taseko's position on the

1 environmental effects of the proposed Project and to 2 summarize Taseko's position on the evidence and 3 information brought before the Panel respecting those environmental effects. 4 We also intend to set out Taseko's 5 6 understanding of what we believe to be next steps and 7 make some comments on legal issues that were raised 8 during the hearing process. 9 By way of Introduction: 10 Before summarizing the details of our 11 specific conclusions concerning the environmental 12 effects of our proposed Project, a little background 13 is offered for your consideration. 14 Our conclusions in this EIS are based not 15 just on the opinion or conclusions of our independent 16 consultants reflected in the April 2009 EIS, they are 17 also based on: The fact that throughout this 18 19 17-year review, three Terms of 20 Reference, 1995, 1998, and 2008 21 were developed and they 22 progressively reflected updated 23 policies, standards, and changing 24 priorities. The fact that review and 25

1 input from the public, government, 2 and First Nations (if they chose 3 to participate) was incorporated 4 along the way. 5 The fact that review and 6 approval of baseline reports were 7 undertaken by government in 2008 before the final guidelines for 8 9 the EIS were finalized and issued. 10 The significance of all this 11 background is that the Panel 12 didn't face the difficult job of 13 assessing the adequacy of baseline 14 information and, instead, focused 15 on the adequacy of our assessment 16 and the significance of 17 environmental effects. 18 19 Summary of Taseko's Position: 20 With respect to the Alternatives Assessment, 21 after completing three separate Alternatives 22 Assessments directed and reviewed by government, the 23 public, and First Nations, and reflective of a sincere 24 effort by Taseko to avoid the loss of Fish Lake, 25 Taseko concluded each time that there was only one

1 technically, environmentally, and economically 2 feasible option. This option results in the unavoidable loss of Fish Lake. We wish it were 3 otherwise. 4 The Provincial EAO noted in their assessment 5 6 that the analysis supplied by Taseko during the EA 7 exceeds that which is typically required or presented 8 in the EA of a mine project; that they accept the 9 other two options considered would have substantially 10 had greater costs and they noted that the Ministry of 11 Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources found that the 12 proposed Mine Development Plan and Alternatives 13 Assessment were sound. 14 Taseko accepts this assessment. 15 Neither NRCan nor Transport Canada commented on the Alternatives Assessment. 16 17 Environment Canada noted that all three 18 alternative Mine Development Plans were technically 19 feasible but stopped short of reaching conclusions 20 concerning the economic viability of any option. 21 DFO noted that the Alternatives Assessment 22 lacked detail when considering the effects on fish and 23 fish habitat, amongst all three options. 24 Taseko understands and accepts these comments 25 and acknowledges that Taseko and Taseko alone must

1 determine what is economically feasible and 2 achievable. The environmental effects of our assessment 3 4 are long and many. I don't propose to take you 5 through them all; they are a matter of record. I will 6 summarize the key points. 7 Sixteen Valued Ecosystem Components, or VECs, 8 and 62 Key Indicators were identified to be assessed 9 in this assessment -- in the guidelines. 10 The table I have attached to this submission, Table 1, provides you with a summary and a listing of 11 12 those 16 VECs and 62 Key Indicators that were 13 assessed. It summarized the key conclusions of 14 Taseko, the Provincial EAO, and the Federal RAs and 15 FAs on all of these. Here we will summarize only a few highlights as follows. 16 17 For all VECs and KIs, with the exception of the effects on 18 19 cultural heritage, Taseko 20 concluded there were no 21 significant residual environmental 22 effects following the 23 implementation of planned 24 mitigation. 25 Concerning the assessment of

1 effects on the atmospheric 2 environment, both the EAO, Environment Canada, and Health 3 Canada were in agreement with 4 5 Taseko's conclusions. Taseko 6 agrees with their findings. 7 Concerning surface water 8 hydrology and groundwater quality 9 and quantity, the Provincial 10 assessment and the EAO was in 11 agreement with Taseko's conclusions. NRCan assessed 12 13 various issues and made comments 14 and recommendations. As stated in 15 the topic-specific hearings, Taseko takes issue with much of 16 17 the assessment undertaken but will 18 consider their recommendation. 19 Concerning water quality and 20 aquatic ecology, again, the 21 Environmental Assessment office, 22 Environment Canada, and NRCan 23 accept Taseko's conclusions. 24 Health Canada is satisfied that 25 there are no human health effects.

1 Taseko agrees with these findings. 2 Concerning fish and fish 3 habitat, after applying mitigation in the form of a Compensation 4 5 Plan, Taseko concluded that there 6 were no significant environmental 7 effect. The Environmental Assessment office concluded that 8 9 the loss of Fish and Little Fish 10 Lakes was a significant 11 environmental effect then 12 considered the Compensation Plan 13 as part of their justification 14 considerations. DFO has 15 identified various risks and 16 policy-related gaps in the present 17 form of a Compensation Plan. 18 Taseko continues to work with DFO 19 to resolve these gaps and risks. 20 Concerning terrain and soils, 21 vegetation, and just to point out with respect to vegetation, we're 22 23 talking here the effects on 24 old-growth, the effects on wetland 25 ecosystem, the effects on riparian

ecosystems, the effects on 1 2 grassland ecosystems, on rare plants, on ecological communities 3 of concern, and on forest 4 5 capability, and on 21 wildlife 6 species from California Bighorn 7 sheep, mule deer, and moose, 8 grizzly bear, black bear, badger, 9 bats, blue heron, mallards, 10 Goldeneye, sand hill crane, woodpeckers, Sage Brush sparrows, 11 12 grouse, prairie falcons, 13 flamulated owls, and amphibians, 14 to name a few, the EAO concluded 15 that there were no significant 16 effect. Taseko agrees with these 17 findings. With the exception of 18 consideration of wetlands and 19 riparian habitats, Federal RAs and 20 FAs made no assessments. Taseko 21 understands Canadian Wildlife 22 Service' view concerning the 23 unavoidable loss of migratory bird 24 habitat and is committed to 25 implementation of a Habitat

1	Compensation Plan as outlined in
2	our EA Certificate.
3	- Concerning human and
4	ecological health, the EAO and
5	Health Canada concluded no
6	significant effect. Taseko agrees
7	with these concerns.
8	- Concerning archaeological and
9	heritage resources following
10	completion of Taseko's AIA, the
11	Branch developed recommended
12	mitigation measures. And the EA
13	concluded with the implementation
14	of those measures, no significant
15	effect. Taseko agrees with this
16	conclusion. No assessment on
17	these resources were undertaken by
18	the Federal RAs or FAs.
19	- The Provincial assessment
20	concluded that the effects of the
21	Project will have a significant
22	positive economic benefit that
23	would flow for 22 years and would
24	accrue to both the present and the
25	next generation. They also

1 concluded that there is no 2 expected cost to future 3 generations, except the loss of Fish and Little Fish Lake. 4 Although Taseko wasn't asked and 5 6 didn't undertake an economic 7 analysis, Taseko agrees with these conclusions. Federal RAs and FAs 8 9 undertook no assessment of these 10 effects. 11 Largely, in response to the requirements of the Federal legislation, Taseko assessed cumulative 12 13 effects, the effects of the environment on the Project, and accidents and malfunctions and 14 15 sustainability. Cumulative effects were found not to occur 16 17 for most VECs due to the geographic isolation of the Project. Where they do occur, they were found to be 18 19 either not significant or they were positive. 20 A request from the Panel to undertake a 21 Cumulative Effects Assessment of a theoretical 13-year 22 extension to the mine life was responded to. The 23 Provincial Certificate was issued for a 20-year Mine 24 Plan, as proposed. And that would require amendment 25 should Taseko decide at some time in the future to

1 extend mining operations. 2 Concerning the assessment of the effects of 3 the environment on the Project, both the Provincial EA and the Federal RAs and FAs considered these effects 4 but did not comment. 5 6 A range of environmental effects that might 7 occur in the unlikely event of an accident or malfunction was also considered. No comments were 8 9 offered by either Provincial or Federal agencies. So 10 Taseko assumes they took no issue with our conclusion 11 that effects would be minor and manageable with the 12 application of Emergency Response Plans and mitigation 13 as specified. 14 Now turning to summarizing Taseko's position 15 on the information brought before the Panel, in two 16 parts. 17 First of all, concerning those matters, in 18 our view, properly brought before this Panel, dealing 19 with the assessment of environmental effects as 20 defined in the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. 21 We heard that things have been difficult in 22 this part of the country. Kerry Cook, the Mayor of 23 Williams Lake, spoke powerfully twice to this very 24 point, saying, amongst other things, consumer 25 bankruptcies in the Cariboo Regional District have

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1	increased. This is an increase of over 70 percent
2	over the previous year. Unemployment rate in the
3	Cariboo has increased 84 percent in 2009. Williams
4	Lake residential rental vacancy rates have increased
5	700 percent in the last year. And she concluded twice
6	that the City of Williams Lake is supporting this mine
7	Project because:
8	"We desperately need a boost to our
9	local economy. We need to provide
10	jobs and opportunities to turn the
11	situation around. In January,
12	with the Provincial green light
13	given, there was a new hope, an
14	optimism in our community that I
15	haven't felt for a long time. We
16	need that hope. We all need that
17	hope."
18	End of quote.
19	The South Cariboo consists of a number of
20	small unincorporated areas surrounding the district of
21	100 Mile House and has a population of greater than
22	20,000.
23	Councillor Dave Mingo, speaking on behalf of
24	the District of 100 Mile, and in support of Prosperity
25	echoed similar sentiments as those of Mayor Cook, and

1 I quote: 2 "Our forest industry has been significantly impacted by global 3 economic factors and by the pine 4 5 beetle. Our ranching and 6 aquaculture industry is 7 struggling. Our commercial businesses, because of other 8 9 aspects, are also struggling. Our 10 commercial property vacancies are 11 increasing. Workers and families 12 and especially the young are 13 leaving our community. They are 14 searching for employment 15 elsewhere. We see the mining 16 industry as a major supporter of 17 our economy in this area." 18 Turning to another elected official, in 19 Alexis Creek, the Panel heard from Rick Mumford, local 20 area director for the Cariboo Regional District. He 21 said, and I quote: 22 "In a nutshell, the local economy 23 in Chilcotin is a shadow of its 24 former self. There's not one 25 community in the Chilcotin, and

1	this includes First Nations, that
2	don't need an economic boost. The
3	Prosperity Project has the
4	potential to give our communities
5	that economic boost we need."
6	End of quote.
7	We also heard from experts brought before us
8	to offer expert opinion. I'm referring to Stratus,
9	the MiningWatch, Dr. Morin, Dr. Shaffer.
10	And we conclude that their presentation
11	either misrepresented the information contained within
12	our EIS, or it lacked the benefit of a full
13	understanding of all of the analysis and assessment
14	that was undertaken by Provincial experts in these
15	matters, or, alternatively, was raising matters that
16	were clearly outside of the approved Terms of
17	Reference. And, therefore, we submit their evidence
18	should be given little weight in the Panel's
19	deliberation.
20	In the area of First Nations culture and
21	heritage values, we heard a lot of very valuable new
22	information during the 17 days of community hearings.
23	Unfortunately, even with this additional information,
24	we submit that there's no basis by which the Panel can
25	reach a different determination of significance of

1 effects than that reached previously by both Taseko 2 and the Province. This determination was reached using 3 quantifiable information characterizing the effect in 4 terms of spatial extent of disturbance to the land and 5 6 resource base and this remains to date the only 7 available sound and defensible approach. 8 One issue raised by many presenters during 9 the community hearings related to the spiritual 10 significance of the area around Fish Lake, including 11 the island within the lake. The relevance of this to 12 an Environmental Assessment, in our respectful 13 submission, would be to attempt to measure the 14 significance of the loss of spiritual or sacred values 15 that may result from the biophysical changes to the 16 area resulting from the proposed mining activity. 17 Taseko has attempted to understand the nature 18 of the spiritual or sacred values of the Tsilhqot'in 19 by examining the comments made by the presenters. One 20 of Taseko's conclusions was that the nature of the 21 Tsilhqot'in belief system is that all things, or 22 virtually all things, are sacred throughout their 23 traditional territory. And presumably beyond. Some 24 examples are as follows: 25 Doug Johnny, and I quote:

1 "And in a Native traditional 2 culture, we look at everything as being sacred." 3 "And everything in the land 4 5 has a spirit. Everything is 6 sacred." 7 Chief Francis Laceese, and I quote: "Our land is full of spirit, 8 9 as you know, as we all are. 10 Everything else out there is 11 connected to us in different ways. 12 If you're out there, that's where 13 we feel as one with the land. And 14 that's where our legends come 15 from, is from the land and from the waters. We have a lot of 16 17 legends and a lot of stories that 18 are passed down to us." 19 End of quote. 20 Ms. Naomi Setah reports: 21 "The destruction of Teztan Biny is 22 bad because it will kill us 23 inside. We won't have all our 24 land anymore because of this 25 proposed mine development. I love

1 to camp. One of my favourite 2 places to camp is Teztan Biny 3 because of the scenery. It looks 4 like heaven. Teztan Biny is 5 sacred and special to me because 6 it's a part of me. The whole 7 Tsilhqot'in land is a part of me." Mr. Sami-Joe Perry, I quote: 8 9 "We see our lands as sacred and 10 valuable as it is." 11 Mr. David Williams from the Friends of Nemaiah 12 Valley, and I quote: 13 "I've come to see that every plant, 14 every stone, and tree is known. 15 And has value. And is imbued with 16 the significance for life and 17 survival that I can only describe 18 as spiritual." 19 Following Patt Larcombe's presentation during 20 the technical hearings, Taseko brought the Nemiah 21 Declaration of 1989 to her attention. Ms. Larcombe 22 expressed that it was her understanding that the Declaration referred to the whole of the Eastern and 23 24 Western Trapline areas as well as the Brittany Lake

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Triangle.

1 Taseko noted that the Declaration states, and 2 I quote: 3 "This area," that's the area, the 4 Eastern and Western Trapline, as 5 well as the Brittany Lake 6 Triangle, "This area is the 7 spiritual and economic homeland of 8 our People and describes that the 9 area is set aside 'to practice our 10 traditional Native medicine, 11 religion, sacred and spiritual 12 ways.'" 13 When Patt was asked by Taseko to: 14 "Give us or the Panel any 15 context that puts the 16 significance, the value, of 17 central Nabas (that is, the area 18 of the mine) in the context of 19 this broader area, previously 20 mentioned, which you declare is 21 the spiritual economic homeland?" 22 Mrs. Larcombe's answer was as follows, and I 23 quote: 24 "And so the work that's been, 25 doesn't allow you to say, one, you

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1	know, relatively what is one area
2	more important than the other.
3	And I would argue that the
4	Tsilhqot'in People don't say one
5	place is, it's not within their
6	cultural belief system to call one
7	place more important than another.
8	You can't compare is one place
9	more spiritual than another. Like
10	that's impossible."
11	In conclusion, and without intending to be
12	disrespectful in any way to the Tsilhqot'in People,
13	it's Taseko's conclusion that the Fish Lake area has
14	fond memories and spiritual significance to many
15	Tsilhqot'in People, but taking into account the
16	assessment of Mr. Justice Vickers in the William case,
17	it may not have any more or less spiritual
18	significance than other land throughout the area
19	described in the Nemiah Declaration of 1989.
20	On the subject of current use, the position
21	of Taseko is that the temporal meaning of "current
22	use" is its ordinary definition, meaning how is it
23	being used now its current modern day use?
24	According to the text "Canadian Environmental
25	Assessment Act, an Annotated Guide", and I quote:

1	"This definition is also designed
2	to capture any changes to the
3	environment caused by the Project
4	that result in changes to the
5	modern day use that Aboriginal
6	People make of the flora, land,
7	fauna, and other natural resources
8	for traditional purposes such as
9	fishing, hunting, trapping,
10	gathering and ceremony."
11	This part of the definition from CEAA's own
12	guide has been crafted to focus on any changes in the
13	current use of the land and natural resources
14	resulting from the environmental effects of the
15	project and not on whether the land and natural
16	resources were, in fact, historically used for
17	traditional purposes by Aboriginal People.
18	What Taseko heard of its modern day use was
19	that it is used primarily for camping and for fishing
20	trips with the family. It was recently used for an
21	organized event where traditional values were taught.
22	This took place at Onion Lake in 2009 but appears to
23	have been taken place at Fish Lake in about 2007.
24	And the area is also used for organized
25	outings to allow children to experience nature.

1 It's also used by some people as a place to 2 gather plants and to seek to gain spiritual powers. 3 It's also used for hunting. 4 It appears that it's not currently used for 5 trapping, probably since that activity is uneconomic 6 in recent times. 7 It also appears that there appear to be many 8 other areas nearby, including Onion Lake, which have similar values for the Tsilhqot'in People. 9 10 Moving to other matters that were introduced 11 to the Panel. Focusing for a minute on some legal 12 questions that were raised in the hearings. There were a number of comments throughout 13 14 the hearing concerning legal positions that were being 15 taken by a number of the presenters opposed to the 16 Project. And Taseko will briefly comment on some of 17 these. The first question, what were the findings of 18 19 the William case concerning the area around Fish Lake? 20 This case was frequently referred to in the 21 hearings. And there appeared to be a great deal of 22 confusion amongst some of the presenters about what 23 the findings in the case were. 24 From Taseko's perspective, the most relevant 25 findings of the Court were as follows:

1 1. The Court would have been prepared to find Aboriginal Title 2 3 to approximately half of the land that was subject to the claim if 4 5 there was not a defect in the 6 pleadings. Most of the land where 7 Aboriginal Title would have been found was in the area known as the 8 9 "Brittany Triangle". 10 2. The Court determined that no 11 portion of the Eastern Trapline, 12 which is where Fish Lake is 13 located, was subject to Aboriginal 14 Title because the Tsilhqot'in 15 People did not have a significant 16 connection with the land. The 17 words after that lengthy trial 18 used were as follows, and I'm 19 quoting from paragraph 893: 20 "I'm satisfied Tsilhqot'in 21 22 People were present in the

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Eastern Trapline Territory at

the time of first contact.

The area has been used by

1 Tsilhqot'in People since that 2 time for hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering of 3 roots and berries. I am not 4 5 able to find that any portion 6 of the Eastern Trapline 7 Territory was occupied at the time of Sovereignty assertion 8 9 to the extent necessary to 10 ground a finding of 11 Tsilhqot'in Aboriginal 12 Title." 13 14 In finding that the Fish Lake 3. 15 area was not subject to Aboriginal 16 Title, the Court had to make an 17 assessment of the relative 18 cultural significance of the land 19 to the Tsilhqot'in People. The 20 Court noted: 21 22 "Aboriginal Title arises out 23 of the claimant's connection 24 to their ancestral lands. 25 The particular lands must

1 have been occupied by the 2 claimants prior to sovereignty, although the 3 Court notes that the group's 4 5 connection with the land must 6 have been integral to the distinctive culture of the 7 claimants, Lamer C.J.C., also 8 9 directed that any land that 10 was occupied pre-sovereignty, 11 and which the parties had 12 maintained a substantial 13 connection with since then is 14 sufficiently important to be 15 of central significance to 16 the culture of the 17 claimants." 18 19 He also explained at paragraph 149 that: 20 21 "The standard of occupation 22 required to prove Aboriginal 23 Title may be established in a 24 variety of ways ranging from

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the construction of dwellings

1 through cultivation and 2 enclosure of fields to regular use of definite 3 tracts of land for hunting 4 5 fishing or otherwise 6 exploiting its resources. 7 In considering whether occupation sufficient to 8 9 ground title is established, 10 one must take into account 11 the group's size, manner of 12 life, material resources, and 13 technological abilities and 14 the character of lands claimed." 15 16 17 "The cultural relationships 18 between the claimant 19 Aboriginal group and the land 20 and the ceremony and cultural 21 significance of the lands 22 will also be relevant to this 23 inquiry." 24 25 By finding that the Fish Lake area was not

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1	subject to Aboriginal Title, the Court was implicitly			
2	concluding that the area was of lesser ceremonial and			
3	cultural significance to the Tsilhqot'in People than			
4	the Brittany Triangle area where the Court would have			
5	been prepared to find Aboriginal Title.			
6	The second question: Should the Project be			
7	put on hold pending the determination of Aboriginal			
8	Rights and Title and the settlement of treaties?			
9	There is no legal basis for such a			
10	proposition.			
11	The recent decision of the Supreme Court of			
12	Canada in Haida Nation was intended to address exactly			
13	this issue. The answer is the duty of consultation.			
14	A key extract of the Haida Nation decision is as			
15	follows:			
16	"The answer, once again, lies in			
17	the honour of the Crown. The			
18	Crown acting honourably cannot			
19	cavalierly run roughshod over			
20	Aboriginal interests where claims			
21	affecting those interests are			
22	being seriously pursued in the			
23	process of treaty negotiation and			
24	proof. It must respect these			
25	potential but yet unproven			

1 interests. The Crown is not 2 rendered impotent. It may 3 continue to manage the resource in 4 question pending claims 5 resolution. But, depending on the 6 circumstances discussed more fully 7 below, the honour of the Crown may 8 require it to consult with and 9 reasonably accommodate Aboriginal 10 interests pending resolution of 11 the claim." 12 One very part of the above passage is that 13 the Crown will continue to manage the resource in 14 question pending claims resolution. This is at the 15 heart of what was a repeated theme of who should control the land use decisions; the Crown or the First 16 17 The Supreme Court of Canada has Nations. 18 unequivocally answered this question. The Crown 19 manages the resources prior to the conclusion of a 20 treaty or a determination of legal claims which might 21 alter that management. 22 Related to the issue of who has control over 23 the land use decision is what should happen if 24 consultation with First Nations does not result in the

support of First Nations for the Project.

1 The answer of the Supreme Court of Canada on 2 this manner is also unequivocal. Consultation does 3 not give rise to a veto by First Nations. Quoting 4 from paragraph 165: "This process does not give 5 6 Aboriginal groups a veto over 7 what can be done with land pending final proof of the 8 claim." 9 10 The third question: What is the relevance 11 advance of the comments that the William case is 12 currently under appeal? 13 Whether the **William** case is actually 14 proceeding to an appeal is irrelevant to this 15 environmental assessment. 16 Firstly, the law is clear, that the law is 17 what the Court has decided, not what some other court 18 might decide on appeal in the future. Our system of 19 justice would not operate if it were otherwise. 20 Secondly, the law is also clear that, even if 21 a subsequent ruling were to determine that the Eastern 22 Trapline Territory were subject to Aboriginal Title, 23 that would not prevent the government from approving 24 the Project without the consent of the Tsilhqot'in 25 People.

1 This is discussed in the decision of the 2 Supreme Court of Canada in **Delgamuukw** in the context 3 of how to justify an infringement of Aboriginal Title. Basically, the Court recognized that the Crown could 4 5 authorize certain types of development on lands 6 subject to Aboriginal Title, although it would require 7 justification, which would include consultation with the First Nation holding said Aboriginal Title. 8 9 And I quote from paragraph 165: 10 "In my opinion, the 11 development of aquaculture, 12 forestry, mining and 13 hydroelectric power, the 14 general economic development 15 of the interior of B.C., 16 protection of the environment 17 or endangered species, the 18 building of infrastructure, 19 and the settlement of foreign 20 populations to support those 21 aims are the kinds of 22 objectives that are 23 consistent with this purpose 24 and in principle can justify 25 the infringement of

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1	Aboriginal Title."			
2	A determination of Aboriginal Title in the			
3	Eastern Trapline Territory might assist the			
4	Tsilhqot'in in a claim against the Crown for			
5	compensation but would not prevent the Crown from			
6	justifying an infringement of Aboriginal Title for the			
7	purpose of developing a mine.			
8	Concerning Adequacy of Consultation.			
9	A number of presenters suggested that Taseko			
10	should have started consultation earlier or done more.			
11	We submit there was an enormous amount of consultation			
12	with First Nations that took place in connection with			
13	this Project. And, as you're aware, that's summarized			
14	in detail in the consultation record that is included			
15	in our application.			
16	However, one additional observation is			
17	appropriate here; which is that the obligation of			
18	consultation is owed solely by the Crown. Although			
19	some procedural aspects of consultation may be			
20	delegated to the Proponent, the legal responsibility			
21	for consultation rests with the Crown.			
22	This is set out as follows in the Haida			
23	Nation decision at paragraph 53, which states in part:			
24	" the duty to consult and			
25	accommodate, as discussed above,			

1 flows from the Crown's assumption 2 of sovereignty over lands and 3 resources formerly held by the 4 Aboriginal group. This theory 5 provides no support for an 6 obligation on third parties to consult or accommodate. The Crown 7 alone remains legally responsible 8 9 for the consequences of its 10 actions and interactions with 11 third parties, that affect 12 Aboriginal interests. The Crown 13 may delegate procedural aspects of 14 consultation to industry 15 proponents seeking a particular 16 development; this is not 17 infrequently done in environmental 18 assessments... However, the 19 ultimate legal responsibility for 20 consultation and accommodation 21 rests with the Crown." 22 Throughout this assessment, Panel assessment, 23 we've noticed different approaches being taken by the 24 different Federal departments. Taseko noticed and 25 appreciated the approach taken by both DFO, NRCan,

1 Health Canada, and Environment Canada throughout their involvement in both the Federal and Provincial review. 2 3 DFO provided advice and explained their interpretation on matters of policy preferring to 4 leave it up to the Panel and Federal Cabinet to make 5 6 any recommendations and provide direction on the fish 7 and fish habitat matters before DFO exercised their course of action decisions. Taseko will continue to 8 9 work with DFO to narrow any remaining gap and risks. 10 Health Canada, although they didn't 11 participate in either of the community hearings or the 12 topic-specific hearings, participated in the review 13 and provided their assessment of effects within their 14 jurisdiction and expertise. 15 Environment Canada and NRCan both went beyond 16 their specific areas of mandate and jurisdiction in 17 assessing areas within their expertise. Taseko appreciates this and even though there were some minor 18 19 areas of disagreement. 20 Transport Canada, however, provided the Panel 21 with what can only be described as a very unusual 22 submission. They reached a conclusion concerning 23 significance not on the issue of interference of 24 navigation, which Taseko understands to be their 25 mandate, but on the acceptability of Taseko's

1 mitigation measure. In our view, they reached the 2 determination of significance before applying 3 mitigation and having acknowledged publicly that they had not considered various aspects associated with 4 First Nations use of the area. 5 6 Taseko has serious questions arising out of this submission and will look for the earliest 7 8 opportunity to seek clarification. 9 Concerning Impact Benefit Agreements. 10 A number of presenters commented on the fact 11 that Taseko has not entered into an Impact Benefit 12 Agreement with First Nations. Some even suggested 13 that it should be a pre-condition of Taseko proceeding 14 with the Project. 15 The evidence disclosed in the hearings that 16 Taseko raised the subject of Impact Benefit Agreements 17 with the TNG at an early stage. And the position of the TNG at that time was that they did not wish to 18 19 have such a discussion until after the Environmental 20 Assessment Process was concluded. 21 There is no legal requirement or even a legal 22 definition in British Columbia of what constitutes a 23 benefit sharing agreement, often referred to as an 24 impact benefit agreement between a proponent and a 25 potentially-affected First Nations.

1 The policy of the Province concerning benefit 2 sharing agreements, as expressed in the service plan 3 of the EAO is, and I quote: 4 "The EAO encourages proponents to explore benefit sharing agreements 5 6 with First Nations where the 7 parties consider that to be in their mutual interest. The Office 8 9 will consider any information it 10 receives regarding such agreements 11 when assessing the social and 12 economic impacts of a proposed 13 project. However, such agreements 14 are not considered pre-conditions 15 to completion of the EA Review 16 Process or a decision by the 17 responsible ministers." It's worth noting that the Province did 18 19 require certain legal commitments from Taseko in its 20 Certificate which address subject matters that are 21 frequently considered to be key components of an 22 impact benefit agreement, including preferential 23 provisions for First Nations for jobs, job 24 notifications, contracting opportunities, training, 25 and input on certain environmental considerations.

1 In addition, the Province has introduced the 2 Revenue Sharing Policy that will apply to this Project 3 which addresses the revenue sharing component that has 4 been a feature of a number of Impact Benefit 5 Agreements. 6 As a result, whether or not Taseko ultimately 7 enters into one or more Impact Benefit Agreements with 8 First Nations, most or all of the categories of 9 benefits that would normally be found in such an 10 agreement have already been incorporated into this 11 Project by a combination of both legal commitments and 12 Provincial Government policy. 13 One of the common themes that the Panel heard from the TNG was that ideally Taseko should have 14 15 developed the Project in a joint venture agreement 16 with the Tsilhqot'in People and, in any event, the 17 Project should not proceed without their consent. 18 However, when the approval process that was 19 the model for the Tsilhqot'in was described by David 20 Setah, former Councillor with Xeni Gwet'in, it became 21 apparent how practically impossible that would have 22 been. 23 Former Councillor Setah's model required that 24 a company wishing to do business with Tsilhqot'in 25 should arrive with no plans whatsoever. The model

1 would then require a long joint process of the 2 development of a business plan with 50 percent of the 3 business being owned by Tsilhqot'in with the Tsilhqot'in contribution apparently based on 4 acceptance of their ownership of the land base. 5 6 Control of all aspects of the development of the plan 7 would be in the hands of the Tsilhqot'in. At the end 8 of the development, of the business plan, through this 9 process, the Tsilhqot'in People would then hold a 10 referendum to determine whether or not the project 11 would actually proceed. 12 The evidence appeared to be that the 13

experience with the only forest company that had actually got through a process of this kind was that the community rejected it at the referendum stage.

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As appropriate as this consultation model may appear to the Tsilhqot'in, it is completely unworkable in the context of this mining development. The costs, risks, and timing issues surrounding a project like Prosperity would mean that, if following that model were a requirement of development, then no mine would ever be built or even attempted.

In our submission I summarize more of former Councillor Setah's evidence on that point, which I won't go through.

1 Turning now to the last component of our 2 remarks and speaking to what we consider to be the 3 next steps. 4 Taseko's position is that there are no significant environmental effects after taking 5 6 mitigation measures into account. 7 However, if this Panel were to find, as the 8 province did, that the loss of Fish Lake was a 9 significant adverse environmental effect, then the 10 issue of justification arises. 11 Under the Terms of Reference, if the Panel is 12 likely to cause -- if the Project, sorry, is likely to 13 cause a significant adverse environmental effect, then the Panel should also ensure that information with 14 15 respect to the justifiability of any significant adverse effects is obtained. 16 17 Under this Panel process, the determination 18 of whether an adverse environmental effect may be 19 justified will ultimately be made by the Responsible 20 Authority - the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans -21 following a consideration of both -- of the Panel's 22 report by Cabinet. 23 In reaching a determination on justification, 24 the Minister may take into account policy 25 considerations it considers appropriate. This is

1 noted in the recent Imperial Oil case where Justice 2 Tremblay-Lamer of the Federal Court stated, 3 paragraph 74: "Should the Panel determine that 4 5 the proposed mitigation measures 6 are incapable of reducing the 7 potential adverse environmental effects of a project to 8 9 insignificance, it has a duty to 10 say so as well. The assessment of 11 the environmental effects of a 12 project and of the proposed 13 mitigation measures occur outside 14 the realm of government policy 15 debate, which by its very nature must take into account a wide 16 17 array of viewpoints and additional 18 factors that are necessarily 19 excluded by the Panel's focus on 20 project related environmental 21 impacts. In contrast, the 22 responsible authority is 23 authorized pursuant to 24 Section 37(1)(a)(ii), to permit

the project to be carried out in

1	whole or in part even where the			
2	project is likely to cause			
3	significant adverse environmental			
4	effects if those effects can be			
5	justified in the			
6	circumstances. Therefore, it is			
7	the final decision-maker that is			
8	mandated to take into account the			
9	wider public policy factors in			
10	granting project approval."			
11	Many important issues were raised by this			
12	Panel process, including:			
13	- The state of the economy in			
14	the Cariboo-Chilcotin.			
15	- The balancing of interests			
16	between various economic			
17	components of the economy, such as			
18	the cost of generation of			
19	electrical power and the benefits			
20	attributable to resource			
21	development.			
22	- The likely impact of the pine			
23	beetle on the forest industry			
24	sector and what that will mean to			
25	the Cariboo-Chilcotin.			

1	- Why it's important that the
2	Project proceed now as opposed to
3	sometime in the future.
4	- The opposition of the
5	Aboriginal Peoples who appeared
6	before the Panel to the Project.
7	- The role of Aboriginal People
8	in land use decisions in British
9	Columbia.
10	- The adequacy of the Crown's
11	consultation that is required in
12	this case.
13	- The role of the Crown in the
14	reconciliation process with
15	Aboriginal Peoples of Canada.
16	- The respective roles of the
17	Provincial and Federal Governments
18	in Environmental Review Processes
19	and the future of those roles.
20	- And societal concerns with
21	respect to the balancing of
22	interests between economic
23	development and the preservation
24	of wilderness values.
25	These issues, we submit, have little or

1 nothing to do with the Panel's determination of 2 significant environmental effects but that the final 3 decision-maker may consider all of these matters and other wider public policy factors in reaching a 4 determination in whether a significant adverse effect 5 6 may be justified in the circumstances. 7 Taseko prepared our Environmental Impact 8 Statement in accordance with agreed-upon guidelines. 9 The guidelines did not require a justification 10 analysis and Taseko did not prepare one. 11 Taseko's view is that, should there be a 12 finding of significant adverse environmental effect, 13 then that can be justified by the economic benefits 14 that will arise from the Project and the particular 15 need for the Project at this point in the history of the Cariboo-Chilcotin. 16 17 In summary, on the issue of justification, if 18 the Panel concludes that the Project is likely to 19 cause significant environmental effects, the Panel 20 should forward the information on justifiability that 21 it has obtained with the expectation that the Federal 22 Government will make a determination of 23 justifiability, taking into account that information, 24 and whatever other information and public policy 25 factors it considers appropriate in the circumstances.

1 Taseko remains confident that the Project is 2 both environmentally responsible and technically 3 Taseko and its shareholders are preparing to viable. 4 invest \$800 million to develop this Project, but it 5 can only be built if two things happen: The Federal 6 Government makes a positive decision, and following 7 that positive decision, the Taseko Board of Directors 8 makes a positive decision to build the Project. 9 Through our work and investment at the 10 Gibraltar Mine, and through our significant investment 11 in preparing the plan for Prosperity, which reflects 12 the very best in scientific work, in engineering 13 design, and in technical and environmental expertise, 14 Taseko has proven itself to be a responsible corporate 15 citizen. We want to continue to invest in the Cariboo 16 17 for the benefit of our shareholders and for the benefit of others. That is our intention with 18 19 Prosperity and what Prosperity means to us. 20 Prosperity is a large and important project. 21 People hold strong views on its future. There is 22 clear and significant value and benefit for the 23 country. 24 Whether the Project is approved or not will 25 have lasting ramifications for the Province as a place

1 to invest. B.C. is currently the largest copper 2 producer in Canada. The eyes of the international 3 mining and mining investment communities are squarely focused on how the Federal Government handles this 4 decision. 5 6 Let there be absolutely no misunderstanding; 7 The stakes here are very high. Not only for Taseko, 8 and Prosperity, but for this community, and for the 9 Cariboo, for the Provincial Government, the Province, 10 and for this country and its people. 11 Rarely does an opportunity like Prosperity 12 Rare, indeed, is an opportunity to build come along. 13 a large metal mine with the strength and power to 14 deliver lasting value for people. 15 For the better part of 17 years, this 16 Project's been undergoing an Environmental Assessment. 17 The examination of our work and the science behind it, the technical merits of our engineering and the high 18 19 degree of confidence that we have in it, the economic 20 value and the social benefit that will be delivered to 21 local and regional communities, the need for this 22 Project at this particular time in our history, all of 23 this has led the Province, after lengthy detailed and 24 careful examination of all the facts by each of their 25 responsible Ministries and agencies to approve

1 Prosperity for development. 2 The decision by the Province of B.C. was the 3 right and proper course of action to take. 4 And for all these reasons, we submit it is the right and proper course of action for the Federal 5 6 Government to take as well. A number of factors influenced the decision 7 8 of when to build a mine: Commodity prices, 9 availability of capital, investor confidence, public 10 attitude, and need. The need for metals, the need for 11 wealth, and the need for opportunity. Now is the time to build this mine. 12 For now 13 is the time that these factors are aligned. Only if 14 this mine is developed will it be able to create the 15 wealth by which First Nation communities can be given 16 new local opportunity to rise above the poverty and 17 despair that so many of them in their remarks to the 18 Panel spoke so passionately and emotionally about. 19 Now is the time for a decision by the Federal 20 Government which will allow this mine to proceed. Put 21 your faith in us. Have confidence in our findings and 22 in the decision of the Provincial Government. Have 23 confidence in the Federal departments, in Natural 24 Resources Canada, Environment Canada, Department of 25 Fisheries and Oceans, and in the future decisions that

1 they will make. Put your confidence in our plan. 2 Have confidence in our people. Have confidence in our 3 abilities and determination to deliver a sound, safe, 4 and beneficial Project. Have confidence in our future conduct and in the commitments that we have made to 5 6 First Nations and others. Have confidence in 7 Prosperity. 8 Mr. Chairman, Panel Members, good luck with 9 the work before you and the execution of your 10 remaining duties. 11 Thank you. 12 (Applause) 13 CLOSING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN: 14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Bell-Irving, 15 for your closing remarks and, on behalf of Taseko Mines, your response to many issues and views that you 16 17 have heard and we have heard over the course of these 18 six weeks or so. 19 Also your views on our Terms of Reference and 20 the way in which, from your perspective, we should 21 interpret them and also, from your perspective, on the 22 nature of the conclusions we should reach. 23 That is the purpose of the closing remarks 24 and we have heard, not surprisingly, different views 25 from others and we will have to, of course, take all

1 of that into consideration in our deliberations. 2 And in that respect, we are now at the point 3 where it's time to close these hearings and I would 4 like to take the opportunity to thank all of the 5 participants for their input in this Review Process. 6 Your submissions and presentations will be of great 7 benefit to us in our work towards reaching a 8 conclusion and making recommendations on this very 9 important matter that is before us. We certainly 10 understand the importance of the issue from all 11 perspectives. 12 We've noted that some have raised concerns 13 about the process that we have before us. And I think 14 it's fair to say, and it's not surprising, that some 15 have expectations of an environmental assessment to deliver more than it may be able to deliver. 16 17 I want to point out that our job, of course, 18 was not to design an environmental assessment process, 19 but, rather, to carefully follow the rules that we 20 were given, namely our Terms of Reference, and we've 21 tried our best to do that in a manner that was fair to 22 all of the people who are involved in this process. 23 And we hope that we have achieved that. 24 In accordance with our Terms of Reference, 25 this Panel will now review all of the evidence that

1 has been submitted to us and prepare our report. 2 We've received -- we have a lot of work to do, as you 3 can all appreciate, and many of you have expressed We have a lot of work to do, as I say, given 4 that. the amount of information that we have received 5 through the hearings themselves and also through all 6 7 of the various background documents and submissions 8 that have been tabled through the process. All of 9 this is available, of course, on the Agency's website. 10 All of the transcripts are available. The whole 11 hearing and its audio recording is also available on 12 that website. 13 Our Terms of Reference require us to make recommendations to the Minister of the Environment and 14 15 to the departments of Fisheries and Oceans, Transport 16 Canada, and Natural Resources Canada who are 17 Responsible Authorities under the Canadian 18 Environmental Assessment Act. 19 The ultimate decision, as has been mentioned, 20 will be taken by the Federal Cabinet of Ministers 21 based on the conclusions we reach and the 22 recommendations we reach -- we make to them. Our 23 report will set out the rationale, the conclusions,

and recommendations of the Panel relating to the overall Project.

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1 The Panel report we fully expect to issue 2 within 60 days of the close of the hearings, so if I 3 look at my calendar, 60 days from today takes us to 4 July 2nd. Now I hope we might be able to take July 1st off as a holiday, but I'm not sure about that 5 6 at this stage. All I have to say is that we're going 7 to do our very best to try to follow the Terms of 8 Reference, as we have tried throughout the hearings, 9 and it is our intention to complete our work within 10 that period of time. 11 Copies of the Panel's report will be 12 forwarded as soon as the report is completed certainly 13 to all of the main parties that have participated in 14 this hearing process, to Taseko Mines, of course, to 15 the various departments that have participated in the 16 process, to the First Nations, and, in addition, 17 although you may not receive a printed copy right 18 away, those of you who are perhaps I would call 19 members of the public at large, the report will also 20 be available electronically on the website the day it 21 is issued. 22 And at this point I would note that the

record is closed for the receipt of any further submissions or letters of opinion or documents on the Project.

And, finally, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to a number of people here; obviously to all of the participants that I mentioned earlier who have been extremely helpful in bringing forward all kinds of information, their views on the Project, background information to assist us in reaching our decisions.

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I'd also like to thank the Panel Secretariat, 8 9 our numbers are somewhat depleted today, but there are 10 two remaining, and in particular, Colette Spagnuolo 11 who is the Panel Manager who has assisted all of you 12 in many ways in providing information, explaining the 13 process, making information available, but also doing 14 the phenomenal job of arranging all of the logistics 15 to keep this whole process running in a way that was 16 very smooth and generally on time, and she can't be 17 blamed for some of the late hearings, that was my 18 responsibility, but generally for handling all of the 19 logistics to enable us to proceed quite smoothly.

I'd also like to thank our court reporters and, in particular Nancy Nielsen, and of course her team behind the scenes for the verbatim transcripts that are helpful to us and, in fact, essential to us in reviewing all of the material that has been brought forward. Those transcripts become very important for

1	us, as many of you have mentioned, to review what it			
2	is we have heard.			
3	I would also like to thank our sound			
4	technician, Alex Barber, for the technical support in			
5	providing the recordings and allowing the			
6	communication that we've had throughout these			
7	hearings.			
8	And without the assistance of all of these			
9	dedicated people, these hearings would not have been			
10	possible.			
11	And finally, I would like to thank Taseko			
12	Mines Limited for their efforts, their patience in			
13	responding to all of the many questions that have been			
14	raised by the many participants in this process, and			
15	also by us, the Panel.			
16	And I think others have mentioned the word			
17	I'm searching for here is our ability to our			
18	endurance, I guess, was the word I was searching for.			
19	And I would also like to note that that honour or that			
20	note should probably go to Rod Bell-Irving, in			
21	particular, on the other side of the table for his			
22	endurance in continuing to respond to the questions			
23	that have been raised and continuing with us through			
24	the late nights that we've had in some of the			
25	hearings.			

And there are many of you in the audience who 1 2 have endured along with us. And I think there are two 3 in particular I'd like to mention, and that's Chief 4 Baptiste and Former Chief Roger William who have 5 accompanied us throughout the hearing process. And we 6 appreciate your interest in following us as we 7 proceeded from hearing to hearing from meeting room to 8 meeting room. 9 So Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to 10 close the hearing. I would note that we will have a 11 closing ceremony with First Nations. And I would ask 12 in respect to our procedures that we don't deal with 13 any further closing remarks in the conduct of those closing drumming ceremony this evening. 14 15 So with that, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would 16 like to say that the hearing on the Taseko Prosperity 17 Mine Project is now closed and I thank you very much 18 for your attendance and I would now ask First Nations 19 to assist us in recognition. 20 (Applause). 21 And I thank you for that applause. The final 22 note is the closing ceremony, of course, is in 23 recognition that we're holding these hearings in 24 traditional territory of First Nations. And I thank

you once again for your involvement in this process.

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1	(DRUMMING CEREMONY)
2	(HEARING CONCLUDED AND CLOSED AT 5:45 P.M.)
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1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION
	REPORTER 5 CENTIFICATION
2	
3	I, Nancy Nielsen, RCR, RPR, CSR(A), Official
4	Realtime Reporter in the Provinces of British Columbia
5	and Alberta, Canada, do hereby certify:
6	
7	That the proceedings were taken down by me in
8	shorthand at the time and place herein set forth and
9	thereafter transcribed, and the same is a true and
10	correct and complete transcript of said proceedings to
11	the best of my skill and ability.
12	
13	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my
14	name this 5th day of May, 2010.
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19	Nancy Nielsen, RCR, RPR, CSR(A)
20	Official Realtime Reporter
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