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2	PROSPERITY GOLD-COPPER MINE PROJECT
3	CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REGISTRY #09-05-44811
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6	FEDERAL REVIEW PANEL PUBLIC HEARING
7	PURSUANT TO:
8	SECTION 34 OF THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT
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13	PROCEEDINGS AT HEARING
14	CLOSING REMARKS
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23	351 Hodgson Road Williams Lake, British Columbia
24	WITTIANS LARE, BITCISH COTUNDIA
25	

1	APPEARANCES
2	FEDERAL PANEL:
3	Mr. Robert (Bob) Connelly, Panel Chair
4	Mr. Bill Klassen, Panel Member Ms. Nalaine Morin, Panel Member
5	
	CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AGENCY (CEAA):
	Ms. Colette Spagnuolo Mr. Joseph Ronzio
	Mr. Jaron Dyble Mr. Livain Michaud
	Ms. Lucille Jamault
	Ms. Patricia McKeage
	APPLICANT
	Keith Clark, Esq. (Counsel)) For Taseko Mines Limited Mr. Brian Battison)
	Mr. Brian Battison) Mr. Rod Bell-Irving)

	n order of appearance on the record):
CL	OSING REMARKS BY:
Mi Fr Sh Ba Sa He St	ketemc First Nation ningWatch Canada iends of the Nemaiah Valley are the Cariboo-Chilcotin Resources Society rbara Hooper ge Birchwater rb Nakada uart Kohut derico Osorio
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	URT REPORTING:
Na	inland Reporting Services, Inc. ncy Nielsen, RPR, RCR, CSR(A) ephen Gill, CCR, CSR(A)

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11	WILLIAMS LAKE)	
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1 OPENING COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN: 2 THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning, Ladies and 3 Gentlemen, I would like to open the hearings again 4 this morning. 5 We will start shortly with a drumming 6 ceremony, but I would just like to welcome the citizens of Williams Lake and the Cariboo-Chilcotin 7 8 region, Ladies and Gentlemen, Chiefs, Elders that may 9 be here, Members of the Tsilhqot'in First Nation, and 10 the Secwepemc First Nation within whose traditional 11 territory we're holding these hearings, Members of 12 Secretariat, and Taseko Mines Limited, we would like 13 to welcome you to the hearings this morning. This is 14 our final stage of the hearing process. 15 And we will open them with a drumming 16 ceremony and we will close this final stage with a 17 drumming ceremony at the end of the day Monday. 18 So, with that, we'll turn to the First 19 Nations to welcome us with a drumming ceremony 20 reminding us that we're holding these hearings within 21 their traditional territory. 22 (DRUMMING CEREMONY) 23 (PRAYER) 24 THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning once again. Ι 25 would like to thank the Members of the First Nations

1 who assisted us with the opening ceremony and also the 2 prayer before we begin our final round of hearings on 3 the proposed Project. As you know, we have held general sessions. 4 5 We have held community sessions. We have held, ending 6 yesterday, sessions dealing with specific topics, and 7 this is the fourth and final stage of the review which 8 deals with closing remarks. 9 I have a few administrative matters that I'll 10 deal with in a moment. 11 But first of all, in case there are some new 12 people here, I'll introduce the Panel. 13 My name is Bob Connelly, I'm Chair of the 14 Panel. On my right, Nalaine Morin, and on my left, 15 Bill Klassen. 16 And I'll ask Taseko Mines to introduce 17 themselves as well before we begin. INTRODUCTION BY TASEKO MINES LIMITED: 18 19 MR. BATTISON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. 20 My name is Brian Battison, I'm Vice-President 21 of Corporate Affairs for Taseko Mines Limited. 22 On my right is Mr. Rod Bell-Irving. Rod is 23 responsible for the Prosperity Environmental 24 Assessment Impact. 25 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS SPOKEN TO BY THE CHAIRMAN:

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Battison. Т 2 have, again, just a few administrative matters before 3 we get on to the closing remarks. There were some exhibits filed yesterday and 4 I will just read them out for the record. 5 6 Exhibit 128 from Taseko, that was the PowerPoint Presentation on the terrestrial environment 7 topic-specific session. 8 9 Exhibit 129 from Environment Canada, their 10 PowerPoint Presentation on Terrestrial Environment. 11 And Exhibit 130 from Wayne McCrory, a 12 PowerPoint Presentation again on the subject of the 13 terrestrial environment. Exhibit 131 from Federico Osorio, maps and 14 15 supporting information. 16 Exhibit 132 from Taseko, this was the 17 PowerPoint Presentation on the socio-economic topic-specific session. 18 19 Exhibit 133 from Patt Larcombe, her 20 presentation during the socio-economic session. 21 Exhibit 134 from MiningWatch Canada, a 22 PowerPoint Presentation on the socio-economic session. 23 Exhibit 135 the presentation by the Nemiah 24 Valley and specifically Dr. Shaffer, his presentation.

Exhibit 136 was the PowerPoint Presentation

1 from Transport Canada. Exhibit 137 was the movie from the Williams 2 Lake and District Chamber of Commerce. 3 And finally, Exhibit 138, the PowerPoint 4 Presentation from Titi Kunkel. 5 At the end of the day -- that completes, 6 7 then, the exhibits that have been submitted to the Panel. At the end of the day, the record is closed in 8 9 terms of submission of new information. 10 As I indicated yesterday, we will be making 11 our conclusions and recommendations based on all of 12 the evidence that has been submitted up to the end of 13 the day. And, of course, we'll be looking closely at 14 the summary presentations that come during the closing 15 sessions, both today and on Monday. 16 These sessions on closing remarks are an 17 opportunity for individuals and representatives of 18 organizations that have previously appeared before the 19 Panel to summarize their positions on the Project's 20 impact and to provide reasons why they feel that way. 21 No new information is to be included in the 22 closing remarks and, as I indicated, we'll not accept 23 any further written submissions. 24 And the reason for this is to ensure that all 25 of the evidence we receive is transparent, everybody

1 can see it, everybody's had an opportunity to co	omment
2 on it.	
3 As I mentioned, the closing remarks are	2
4 reserved for those parties who have previously	
5 appeared before the Panel, and in order to ensur	re that
6 the remarks can be accommodated within the time	period
7 we have, we have set some specific time limits f	for
8 various individuals and organizations.	
9 So we've indicated that Federal departm	nents
10 as well as First Nations and other organizations	s that
11 received participant funding from the Canadian	
12 Environmental Assessment Agency will be given a	longer
13 period of time to make closing remarks, and that	t's in
14 recognition that they have had a greater role in	n these
15 hearings.	
16 Individuals not represented by any of t	chose
17 groups will be given 10 minutes.	
18 So those are the Procedures, very simpl	-У•
19And in terms of this morning's presented	ers,
20 the first presentation is from the Esketemc Firs	st
21 Nation, and we have allotted 90 minutes for that	τ.
22 Next would be MiningWatch Canada, Ramse	зĀ
23 Hart.	
24 Friends of Nemaiah Valley, David Willia	ams.
25 And Share the Cariboo-Chilcotin Resource	ces

1 Society, Bill Carruthers. 2 And for the latter three, we've allocated 30 3 minutes for their presentation. So those are the Procedures. That's the 4 5 agenda for this morning. 6 And we'll call the Esketemc First Nation 7 forward to be the first of the organizations that are here to present an overview, their final conclusions 8 9 and remarks regarding the proposed Project. 10 So I'll call, is it Chief Robbins that will 11 be, I'm not sure who is doing the presentation, but I 12 will have you come forward in any case. 13 I might also add that during closing remarks, we do not have opportunities for questions from the 14 15 audience. 16 The Panel may ask some questions of 17 clarification, but that would be just to make sure we fully understood your final closing remarks on the 18 19 review. 20 So, thank you, I will then begin with the 21 Esketemc First Nation. 22 CLOSING REMARKS BY THE ESKETEMC FIRST NATION: 23 PANEL: BY MS. BETH BEDARD 24 CHIEF FRED ROBBINS 25 MS. ELIZABETH HUNT

1 CLOSING REMARKS BY ESKETEMC FIRST NATION, BY 2 MS. BEDARD: 3 Ms. Bedard: Thank you for this 4 opportunity to summarize. 5 And thank you to all of the Chiefs and 6 Elders, Panel Members, the Secretariat, and all of the 7 community members from Williams Lake, First Nations. 8 It is difficult to adequately come up with a 9 strategy to summarize what has been said and hope that 10 in these words that the community's concerns are 11 addressed adequately. 12 What I would like to request is that you, as 13 you listen to these closing comments, that you think of the community members, you think of the young 14 15 people, you think of the generations to come, and you 16 think of the Elders within the Esketemc community. 17 During the presentations there were many tears, there 18 was a great deal of emotion. This Project will be 19 affecting the Esketemc future. We ask that you 20 consider that carefully. That there's no financial 21 compensation that can replace a culture and future 22 generations. 23 We ask that you consider Esketemc right to 24 survival.

We ask that you consider what that survival

1	is based on: The land, the resources, the sacred
2	areas, the memories, the culture, the 5,000 years of
3	occupation, as seen through the archaeological sites,
4	as seen through the place names.
5	We ask that you remember the community.
6	Thank you.
7	THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Bedard.
8	Chief Robbins.
9	CLOSING REMARKS BY ESKETEMC FIRST NATION, BY CHIEF FRED
10	ROBBINS:
11	CHIEF ROBBINS: (Aboriginal Language Spoken).
12	Thank you, Mr. Chair. My English name is
13	Fred Robbins. My Residential School number was 35.
14	My status number is 7110029801. I am under the wing
15	of the Federal Government.
16	And I would hope that the Provincial
17	Government would be here to sorry to be here to
18	present to the First Nations groups. However, they
19	have made their recommendations on the environmental
20	assessment without Esketemc knowledge. And we've not
21	seen those recommendations until halfway through the
22	process.
23	So was that consultation? H'mm.
24	Taseko Mines says they have been around for
25	17 years. They've spent \$180 million. Wow! It

wasn't until January 19th, I believe, of this year 1 2 that they sold 25 percent of Gibraltar to get that 3 \$180 million. So I'm wondering how did they spend it 4 over the past 17 years. 5 Just a comment, not a question. 6 One of the things that when you think about 7 how the municipal governments work versus First Nations Chief and Council, versus the Federal 8 9 Government, versus legislation, versus mandates, 10 versus -- I could go on and on about how leaders hold 11 themselves. And with First Nations, it's always 12 community driven, community first. 13 One of the things that one of my Elders asked me the other day was, "If they put this transmission 14 15 line, what is Esketemc going to get out of it?" Ι 16 told him, "A lot less deer, a lot less moose, a lot 17 less of our medicines, a lot less of this, a lot less 18 of that." And then she just sat back and she's 19 like ... "I remember when I was a kid, I never had to 20 buy water. Now I have to buy water." 21 There was only 18 people on Esketemc when she 22 The rest had moved off-Reserve and lost was a child. 23 their status. 24 Now, as Bill C3 coming into effect sometime 25 this year, there's going to be an influx of over

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1 45,000 First Nations to all communities in B.C. 2 You know, I sat back and I started to think 3 about all the people that will be coming back to 4 Esketemc because they lost their status, they were 5 discriminated against, the women married off-Reserve 6 in the probably early '50s and they lost their status. 7 And I'm kind of curious as to how many people 8 we're going to have coming back to Esketemc by the 9 simple fact that we're already 850 plus. If we get 10 another 200 more, we're looking at over 1,000-plus 11 First Nations on a Federal Reserve that is not even the size of this mine. 12 13 So that concerns me. It concerns me very 14 much so. Because the simple fact that all our 15 watersheds are drying up. And we won't have anywhere 16 to go get water. I mean, they want us to build, DIA 17 and INAC wants us to build, but their request is you have to make subdivisions, it has to be at least six 18 19 Well, we don't have a watershed big enough to homes. 20 put water into these six homes. 21 So, you know, I'm concerned. I'm very 22 concerned about how DIA and INAC are handling our case 23 as being living in poverty for the past 150 years. 24 There's been misconceptions. I've actually 25 heard some at the very first week of hearings here in

1 Williams Lake. One of the gentlemen from Williams 2 Lake, a business owner, I asked him why was he 3 bringing the economy into this, into this session. And he said, "Well, we pay taxes." And I told him, 4 "Well, what, First Nations don't?" 5 6 You know, there is misconception out there. 7 I mean, I pay taxes. I go and I buy, if I buy 8 anything in Williams Lake, I pay taxes. We have a 9 Community Forest. We pay taxes on that Community 10 Forest. And I'm just getting tired of all of the 11 12 misconceptions that's out there. They say, "Oh, you 13 get your education paid for." Well, we pay, two, three times as much as non-First Nations in the School 14 15 District here in Williams Lake. So who is educating 16 who? 17 There's so many things that the Province and DIA and INAC should be at this table also to 18 19 understand that this impact is going to affect our 20 livelihood. And it's their duty to protect that 21 livelihood. 22 This process, as I stated before, it dilutes 23 all of our court cases that we've won. And, to me, 24 it's a constant battle, like, our Elders say we've won 25 in court, why are we doing it again, why do we have to

1 keep doing it over and over and over? Well, my simple 2 statement was, you got to -- it's just like the 3 Residential School, if you want -- if they wanted you 4 to learn English, they beat it into you, literally 5 beat it into you. So we have to keep beating on them 6 so that some day they'll hear us. 7 Through this process, there's been a lot of discussion on First Nations, a lot of passion, and, 8 9 you know, it sends a message to me that should this go 10 as planned, the discrimination here in Williams Lake 11 is going to grow 10-fold. Big business has always 12 been huge, played a huge role when it comes to 13 Provincial and Federal programs. Well, big business 14 is going to destroy a community. Not just one, it's 15 going to destroy its own community because of 16 discrimination. And I felt that. I kid you not. Ι 17 felt that here in Williams Lake. And I have a lot of 18 people that I respect, you know, but as soon as the 19 "P" word is mentioned, all of a sudden this wall gets 20 put up.

A lot of people don't understand that First Nations are in poverty. We have our health paid for, to an extent, 20 percent. We have our education paid for. Yeah, only in the School Districts. We also have free housing. Now that's a laugh. If people are

1 saying that, they should come out to a Reserve and 2 take a look at where we're living. I mean, CMHC, 3 every year, Esketemc has to make ends meet by covering 4 costs of the low-budget families in our communities. 5 And I was a Chief two years ago, and I 6 believe that that cost was \$282,000 that we paid to 7 CMHC for the homes that they built. And in this day and age, DIA and INAC, they support CMHC housing. 8 9 They say, oh, it's low budget. Yeah, it's low budget, 10 but \$80,000 to build a house, you're paying that house 11 for 25 years at \$500 a month. You know, I would be a 12 bit worried because I'd be paying almost twice what 13 that house was built with. 14 So the living standards with First Nations 15 groups isn't what everybody says it is. If Joe Blow here in Williams Lake would 16 17 actually come out to the community and take a look, 18 see what we have, see what we provide for this 19 community, and then take a look at what this community 20 provides for itself. 21 I hunt. I hunt for my mom, my dad and my 22 brothers and sisters. And I provide food for those 23 And I still have a freezer that's half full tables. 24 of moose meat and deer meat. And I provide that to 25 anybody that needs it. I've had community members

1	come to my house, ask for meat, and I send them off
2	with about 25 pounds.
3	Every opportunity I have, I give to this
4	community. Because I know where I came from. I know
5	where my forefathers are from. I know where I belong.
6	And it's a difficult situation when you look
7	at the Elders that have been here for over 60, 70
8	years, and the changes that they have seen.
9	I used to get up with my grandmother and
10	grandfather in the morning, and they'd be up telling
11	stories at 5 o'clock in the morning. After they'd
12	eat, they'd come and bang on the floor, because I was
13	in the basement and they'd wake me up and say, "You
14	better come up here and eat." So I went up and I'd
15	listen to some of their stories.
16	Their stories weren't about persecution. It
17	wasn't about getting the short end of the stick. It
18	wasn't about discrimination. It wasn't about all of
19	this crap that's going to be happening should this go
20	through.
21	It wasn't about that. Even today, you go,
22	and if anyone, anyone here were to actually go and sit
23	down with an Elder, just sit there, and tell them,
24	"So, what do you know about this hill?" Well, they'll
25	tell you.

1 I used to run around up there when I was a 2 Yeah, we used to go up there and hunt squirrels, kid. 3 bring it home, and then we'd eat those squirrels. We 4 used to hunt rabbits down there, yeah, and over here 5 we used to hunt grouse. And we used to actually have 6 pheasants here and we used to hunt those. 7 So the simple fact that belonging is more 8 important than big business coming in and just 9 destroying a livelihood, that is something that I will 10 not stand for. 11 I look at First Nations history, and I think 12 to myself, my God, we're survivors, just the same as 13 the Jews. And I would hate to see that just 14 disappear. 15 Esketemc is rich in culture and traditions. 16 And with those culture and traditions, they are proud 17 of that, they are very proud of that. 18 And over the years we've had other cultures, 19 other traditions come into our community. And some of 20 the community members have picked that up. Others 21 have not. Others have seeked the Secwepemc way. And 22 with one of those cultures, we have the Sun Dance that 23 came from the States. 24 Well, I committed to the Sun Dancing and I 25 was released from that commitment after two years.

1 And I'm a Sun Dance warrior. That may not mean 2 anything to anybody here, but to me, it's my job to 3 protect that spirituality. And fasting for four days without water and 4 5 food, and then having a medicine man, who I stated 6 earlier, I talked about earlier, and he pulled me 7 aside and he told me, "I'm releasing you from your 8 commitment. This is the last year Sun Dance is going 9 to be here, so I'm releasing you." I still had two 10 years to go. 11 But my father-in-law prepared me for that, 12 and when he did that, he took me out to the land. He 13 didn't leave me here in Alkali. Like, it wasn't in He took me to the land where our forefathers 14 Alkali. 15 were. And he taught me a lot. 16 When a spiritual person speaks, a lot of 17 people can't hear what's being said, because they don't beat around the bush, they tell it like it is. 18 19 And it's a lot like you have to listen really hard and 20 then kind of read between the lines. Because they 21 forget about how to get from point A to point B, 22 because they have been there, they have done that, and 23 it's a spiritual thing that you have to go through. 24 So that's how we were taught. Spirituality. 25 You sit down and you listen. Just shut up and listen.

1 And it worked for me. 2 There's been just so much that I could 3 reiterate here and bring back. But I look at all of my notes that I've taken. And this whole book is 4 Prosperity. You know. And I think to myself, what 5 6 did we ever do to deserve this? 7 I mean, Mexico, United States, they are 8 getting huge impact over the next few days because of 9 this oil rig that toppled and burned and now this, you 10 know, that, I look at that and I think to myself, you 11 know, that's not just Mexico's impact, that's our 12 impact, too, because that's where our fish go down, 13 and they come back after four years. And I think to 14 myself, wait a minute, if they are being impacted, 15 that community's being impacted. I wonder how many 16 First Nations down there are also being impacted that 17 are living off the land, that are foraging for food, 18 foraging for their medicines. 19 And I couldn't help but think, you know, I 20 got to pray for these guys. All these people. All of 21 this wildlife that's just literally being destroyed. 22 I've had a lot of teachers in my life. A 23 And one of them was Andy Chelsea. And what he lot. 24 taught me was it wasn't so much being radical. It was 25 knowing what you want and just telling them.

1 Literally just telling them. 2 Well, I know what I want. And I know what 3 this community wants. We don't want this mine. Plain 4 and simple. We don't want a transmission line coming through our backyard. We already have one. 5 We don't 6 want it. 7 And the community knows this. 8 My biggest, one of my biggest fears is 9 Ts'peten all over again. Or Kahnawake. 10 You know, these First Nations fought for 11 their forefathers. And I respect them for that. And 12 at what cost? I mean, I believe that community is 13 still divided, First Nations and non-First Nations. All I can see that doing -- that happening to Williams 14 15 Lake. 16 And should that happen, I'm sure the First 17 Nations will find a way to work together. 18 I have to thank Mr. Bell-Irving because, 19 without his help, the First Nations would still be 20 divided. Today there are no lines drawn in the sand. 21 Today we all stand up for the same purpose. And 22 that's to protect our Mother. Protect everything that 23 she provides. Because nobody's speaking for her. 24 So that's our job that was given to us by 25 Chief Coyote. That's our job that was given to us by

1	Tgetl Kukwpi7 and Sisi C7re. And that's what we're
2	going to do; protect what can't speak for itself. For
3	our own survival.
4	We're not, we're not a community that has
5	this huge economy right next door. We're, like,
6	probably 80 percent of all the other First Nations
7	communities in the rural areas, what we have next door
8	is a rancher that literally stole our lands.
9	Well, it's been sold time and time and time
10	again with no actual interest from them to look at the
11	history. Maybe Esketemc could make better use of
12	this. Maybe Xeni Gwet'in could make better use of
13	this. Maybe Xat'sull could make better use of this,
14	but it's never given. It's never given. And it's
15	frustrating that we continue, continually send letters
16	to DIA and INAC, providing information, and not
17	getting a response.
18	Frustration over, I say 200 years, but a lot
19	of people would say 100 years, some people would say
20	150 years. But I say 200 years because the simple
21	fact, when first contact had happened, First Nations
22	were destroyed. Literally destroyed. There were
23	seven Secwepemc bands that are, were from west of the
24	river, Fraser River. There were four Secwepemc bands
25	that were east of the Bowren Lakes that were destroyed

1	by first contact.
2	And Irvine Johnson made a comment out at
3	Alkali when we were out there, out at Esket. And he
4	was thinking about this story that his Elders told
5	him. And it was my great-great-grandfather that did
6	send them off to Barkerville.
7	Well, Williams Lake's saying that this place
8	is going to become a ghost town if this mine doesn't
9	go through. And I kind of understand the fact that it
10	is a quick fix to the economy here in Williams Lake.
11	But I look at Barkerville. You know, okay, they took
12	all, well, not all of it, but most of the gold out of
13	that location and now it's a ghost town. And I think
14	to myself, okay, 33 years from now or 20 years, and is
15	that going to be Williams Lake after 33 years? You
16	know, I look at Barkerville and I think, okay, that
17	could be Williams Lake in 20 to 33 years after the
18	mine's come and taken the resources and left. Because
19	that's what they do. We'll still be here. I'll still
20	be here. And my kids will still be here. And they
21	can come and go as they please.
22	Prior to 1960, First Nations weren't even
23	considered Canadian. We weren't even allowed to vote.
24	1969 there was a prophesy that the Shuswap
25	had and it was the day an eagle lands on the moon is

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1 the day that Indians in the States are going to get 2 their land back. And they said this prophesy came 3 full-fold when all across the USA, on the front page of every newspaper, "The Eagle has landed". 4 5 And then I think about what my aunt told me about my grandfather, saying that there's going to be 6 7 And it's going to, it's going to rely on the a war. 8 First Nations. And he kind of looked at my aunt and 9 said, you know, I'm glad I'm not going to be here. He'd fought in World War II and survived. 10 11 Filled with empty promises from the Federal 12 Government. Oh, we'll give you 10 acres, free and 13 clear. Well, because he's First Nations, they took 14 that away. They said, oh, you're living on Federal 15 Reserves, you don't need 10 acres. 16 Well, you know, and I -- I thank he survived. 17 Residential Schools, discrimination to First 18 Nations, I mean, it's all right there in the history 19 books. Our history books. 20 When I was going to school at the Residential 21 School, I was out at 150, I think it was in 1975 or 22 '76, and we were talking socials. We were going into 23 history. I was always ashamed to be in First Nations 24 because all my friends, you know, they had money, they 25 had more than one set of clothes to wear to school

1 every day. So all of a sudden we started learning 2 some history of first contact. And all my, well, they 3 weren't my friends back then, but they became my 4 friends after a week of socials learning about First 5 Nations and what had happened to them and how they 6 literally gave the Europeans a chance to survive. 7 Literally, we'll show you how to the live off the 8 land. They literally did that. 9 And I sit before you today saying, "Give it 10 Give us the opportunity to live off the land back. 11 again." 12 Because there's got to be some way we can 13 right the wrongs that happened in the past. And it 14 can't be money. It can't be. Because if we start 15 talking money, with the Residential School 16 settlements, you look at, you look at the healing that 17 had happened. In almost every First Nations 18 community, there was at least one, maybe two or three 19 suicides. 20 And maybe 40, 50 percent were -- became, 21 became chronic alcoholics because they -- we'd never 22 seen -- I've never seen a cheque that big. 23 I was there for six years and all of a sudden 24 I get this cheque in the mail, I'm like, "Oh, it's 25 just my GST, \$62." So I go to the bank and I open it

1	up and here it is. And like, "Holy shit, what am I
2	going to do with \$16,000?"
3	Can you imagine some of the Elders have, in
4	our community, have never seen over \$1,000 and here
5	you're handing them \$16,000. I mean, what are they
6	going to do?
7	There's repercussions to money. There's
8	always repercussions. And there's always
9	repercussions to what you do with it. But there's
10	never repercussions for survival. No. You survive,
11	then, by God, you have something to be proud of.
12	And I speak with some of our Elders from time
13	to time. I go and I sit around the fire with them
14	because they don't like sitting in a house watching TV
15	all day. They have nothing better to do, they'll go
16	light a fire outside and sit around and chat.
17	So whenever I see these fires I'll go and sit
18	down and talk to them. And their stories, you know,
19	it's always about the good times, about surviving the
20	bad times, and laughing about the harsh times.
21	Because it's in the past. And then they look to the
22	future and then they get scared. They literally get
23	scared for the next generation.
24	And that is because we haven't done anything
25	to protect the next generations.

1 And as First Nations go, that's something 2 that we have to think about, that we have to protect. 3 And the next seven generations, I'm a seventh generation from first contact, and our prophesy is, 4 5 it's going to be the seventh generation that's going 6 to turn things around for the First Nations. That's 7 our prophesy. So here I am. The seventh generation. 8 I'm learning my language. I've learned the 9 Blackfoot. I've learned the Sun Dance. I've learned 10 some Secwepemc. I've learned songs. And if you were 11 to meet me on the street in Vancouver, Winnipeq, you 12 wouldn't know it to look at me how traditional I am, 13 how spiritual I am. 14 So don't judge a book by its cover. We are a 15 poor race. Especially the rural communities. Social services doesn't provide nowhere near enough. 16 Federal 17 Government, well, we're in deficit with them, too, 18 because we still have to pay for our hydro, and we pay 19 taxes on that. We still have to pay for our homes, 20 and we pay taxes on that. We still have to pay for 21 our education and we pay taxes on the books to send 22 our kids to education. 23 It's so unfair that the Federal Government, 24 Provincial Government, doesn't step in and rectify the

situation. They know that First Nations are living in

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1 They know they don't have enough lands to poverty. 2 live on. They know about First Nations and where they 3 want to put them. 4 The Provincial Government, they don't even, 5 they don't even recognize the fact that they are 6 living on Crown land that once belonged and was reserved for First Nations. 7 All across Canada, there were treaties 8 9 signed, except B.C.. And that simple fact was because 10 of the Union Jack. There was a treaty signed off on 11 that Union Jack, that flag. 12 As long as the waters flow, the winds blow, 13 the grasses grow, First Nations in B.C. will have 14 their Title and Rights. 15 That's where the Union Jack came from. Ιt 16 was based on that treaty. 17 My grandfather wanted to be covered with that Union Jack. And I don't think we found one. We asked 18 19 the Province if they would be willing to give us one 20 for a war veteran so that we could put him in the 21 ground, and they said, no, we don't have one. 22 So I made a few other calls and I do believe 23 we do have one in our office now. But, you know, the 24 Province didn't have a Union Jack to lend a war 25 veteran so that we could bury him underneath that

1	Union Jack. Wow. You know, it kind of boggles the
2	mind when you think about it.
3	But there's just, you know, I could sit here
4	probably for a week talking about Esketemc, talking
5	about our spirituality, our culture, and what it means
6	to our Elders to maintain that identity. I could be
7	here for a week. I could tell you every detail about
8	the Sun Dance. I could go on and on and on for a
9	week. Well, I'm only scheduled for 90 minutes. And
10	this mine is scheduled for 20 to 33 years. I have
11	90 minutes to make an impact. H'mm. Wow. That's a
12	tough, that's a difficult situation.
13	Because I'm thinking about the future now.
14	33 years down the road, we're going to have a hole
15	that's 1.2 kilometres wide, round, and 500 metres
16	deep, we're going to have a transmission line corridor
17	coming through my backyard, and it's going to be
18	trampling across my forefathers that dug their own
19	graves so that their families could bury them so they
20	wouldn't get smallpox, and then it's going right over
21	our fishing spot, and there's no guarantee, no
22	100 percent guarantee that none of the seepage from
23	this mine is going to get into Taseko River, and then
24	it's going to affect the salmon that we depend on.
25	And just for the Panel's information, we

1 found out that there's going to be a mortality rate of 2 80 percent for the early Stuart run. And that was a 3 run that we used to depend on. Well, that mortality rate is -- we haven't fished that run in about eight 4 5 years, because Chief Tom Alexis needs those salmon, 6 too. 7 So we respect that. So we don't fish the 8 early Stuart. 9 The Province, in all its wisdom, has made 10 huge mistakes on fish counts. I believe you're aware 11 of that over the fish and fish habitat. Well, we rely 12 on that. I would just love to take Taseko down to our 13 fishing rock. Because we earn every fish. We don't 14 drive up to the river. Our hike is a good half mile 15 of sand and gravel. And it's not an easy trip when 16 you're packing salmon. 17 But Francis Johnson spoke to the Panel and Taseko at Alkali. Well, he was with me when we were 18 19 working for fisheries. This must be about 15 years 20 ago now. And what had happened was I was -- my 21 grandfather was still alive and I'm telling him, 22 "Yeah, you know, I was packing everybody's salmon last 23 night, and holy smokes, I'm starting to feel really 24 strong again." What does my grandmother tell me, he 25 just literally says, "I used to run up that hill with

10 salmon." You know, and first I'm thinking, oh, 1 2 that can't be true. There's no way you can do that. 3 By the end of that year, Francis and I ran up that hill with 10 salmon. So I know it's possible. 4 5 And with that, I have to think, a lot of the 6 stories that I do get from Elders are from doing 7 things that are impossible and making it possible. 8 I went to a meeting with Chief Shane. And he 9 invited you guys down there for that ceremony. 10 And I went down there, and on my way down, I 11 couldn't help but turn off the radio and roll down the 12 window and just listen. And it was really interesting 13 because I had my family with me. My daughter just all 14 the way down, just talked and talked, because she 15 doesn't see me as much as she should anymore, because 16 I'm the Chief of the community. 17 And then just last week, we got our first 18 And she was jumping around like a bunny, "My horse. 19 horse, my horse, my horse." Well, the horse isn't 20 broken yet, it's not -- it's halter broke, but we can 21 lead it to water. 22 And this morning, before I came in, she 23 joined me in watering the horse, about 7:30, 7 o'clock 24 this morning. We got down to the creek and the horse 25 just stood there. And I told her, you ever hear the

1 phrase, "You can lead a horse to water but you can't 2 make them drink"? She was like, "No." And I told 3 here well, this is what we're talking about here. And she's standing there and she's waiting for the horse 4 to go to the creek. And it wouldn't. So I said, 5 6 "See. Okay, let's go feed him." 7 And the day before, she was really upset, 8 really, really upset because the horse is timid, it's 9 the first time around in where we have it, so it's really timid, it's kind of spooked about everything 10 11 because it's unfamiliar grounds for him. And my 12 daughter is 10, she took offence to this. She started 13 thinking, this horse doesn't like me, I don't want 14 this horse, it doesn't like me. But I told her, well, 15 just come in here with me. I brought her inside the 16 corral, we walked around, we just totally ignored the 17 I told her, "Don't even look at the horse. horse. 18 Just walk around, if you see a rock or something, pick 19 it up and throw it out of the corral, don't even look 20 at the horse." So we're walking around, must be about 10, 15 minutes this morning went by, all of a sudden 21 22 this horse just walks right up to us. And she's like, 23 "He likes me". And I told her, "Yeah, it's because he 24 knows you're not trying to hurt it". 25 A lesson was taught this morning to my

1 daughter: You can lead a horse to water but you can't 2 make him drink. 3 You know, she's so young, she asks just so 4 many questions. And it was a great honour to be there for that moment. 5 6 I'm sure you all have families that you can't 7 wait to get home to. And it's the same thing with me. 8 It's my wife's birthday today and here I am. The 9 importance of this. And she understands that. And 10 she's been a very loyal supporter for me for the past 11 going to be 17 years this year. 12 When elections came around this year, I 13 really wasn't going to throw my hat in and run for 14 Chief, but she said, "I'll be there for you". She 15 said, "I think you should and I'll be there for you". 16 And she has. You know. 17 What Mr. Grinder was talking about this 18 morning about honouring your women, it's true. They 19 are the life-givers. Just like our Mother Earth is. 20 And if you were to go into probably any First 21 Nations community that is very traditional and very 22 cultural, and you walk into someone's home, the first 23 thing you'd notice is the women are sitting in the 24 best seat. The women is sitting in the armchair with 25 the recliner. And they are the ones that are barking

1 the orders. 2 And it's a respect that they demand. I don't 3 mean to sound judgmental. I apologize to the women here for that. But it's true. 4 THE CHAIRMAN: 5 I'm not sure there's anything 6 different in our culture, either. 7 CHIEF ROBBINS: Yeah, and that's just it. 8 There is a common ground there. You know. And it's 9 got nothing to do with the almighty dollar. It's the 10 livelihood. That's where the common ground is. 11 That's where the point was. And I thank you for 12 opening that door so I could stick the knife into it. 13 But what you've heard from Esketemc over the 14 past three days out there is, they are all opposed. I 15 don't think there was one community member that stood 16 up and said, what's Esketemc going to get out of this. 17 They literally just oppose it. 18 And I have to agree. 19 And I want to agree. 20 Because that is my hunting grounds where that 21 transmission line is going to go. We call it "Tsu7ke 22 Mentmis". I just learned that this summer from my 23 dad. And it means "throw 'em down gulch". I guess --24 I'll just leave that one there. 25 There's just so many things that the Panel,

1 you know, I'm just looking at some of my notes here 2 and I'm, if I said all of this, my God, you guys would 3 have a lot of work ahead of you. I mean, the water The fish and the wildlife. 4 issues alone. 5 Jurisdiction issues. History. Forest and range. 6 Treaty Rights. Provincial government issues. Hunting 7 issues. Localized. Grave sites. Hereditary sites. 8 Land base. Land use projects. You know. And it's, 9 it's something that I think you're going to have to 10 really take seriously, because those are the things 11 that I have to deal with on a daily basis as a Chief 12 of a community. 13 And it's very discouraging and frustrating 14 being a Chief, because you know the importance of all 15 of these issues. And you provide written submissions 16 to the Federal Government, to the Provincial 17 Government, to protect a lot of these rights. And you 18 insert your jurisdiction on the land base with 19 passion, pride, and then you look at protocol 20 agreements and mandates and MoUs with neighbouring 21 communities and Williams Lake. You know, it's, it's, 22 it's a lot to take on. 23 One of the things that the Panel, Robert, 24 Nalaine, Bill, I think one of the things that you 25 really have to remember is this is an Environmental

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Assessment. The Environmental Assessment should be
made on the First Nations' environmental concerns.
Because it is their livelihood.
Even our young people are concerned about
their future for their kids and their grand-kids. And
they have stated, "We can't eat gold. We can't eat
copper".
And that's true. I don't know if anybody's
ever tried it, but it's true.
There are no real differences between living
in the city and living in Esket. The only difference
is, when you're in Esket, you're culturally,
traditionally, tied to the land. When you're in the
city, and I assume most of you are, when you're in a
city, everybody's got a place to go, everybody's
trying to get there as soon as they can.
I went to Vancouver for a Union of BC Indian
Chiefs meeting and the meeting was over and I was
going to go for a walk. As soon as I got out the
door, I started walking. All of a sudden I got caught
up by this crowd and I got hooked up into this crowd,
and here I am, I'm not just walking anymore, I'm in a
rush to get somewhere. Finally I caught myself and I
stopped and I stepped off to the side and I started to
think to myself, "Why am I walking so fast?"

1 It's because in that society, everybody has a 2 place to go, everybody's going somewhere, everybody 3 wants to get there. But if you were to come out to 4 Esket, it's a relaxed atmosphere. You walk out the front door, go for a walk up the hill, you don't have 5 6 anybody honking at you or saying, it's a red light, 7 why are you crossing the street, or anything like 8 that, so. 9 But there's so many issues that the Panel's 10 got to look at. And it starts with the history of the 11 First Nations, Esketemc. Like I said, I could go on 12 and on about the history of Esketemc. 13 The effects of this mine. 14 And I think you've heard them all already. 15 I hope you have. 16 And I hope that you did hear them, because 17 listening and hearing are two different things. 18 That's what my mom told me. You can listen all you 19 want, but unless you hear me, you're not, you're not 20 going to go through with what I ask you to. 21 When we were out at Alkali, I got rudely 22 stopped. No, just kidding. I didn't get stopped. 23 THE CHAIRMAN: I know it wasn't rudely, 24 anyway. CHIEF ROBBINS: 25 I started going into my

1 Residential School story. And there was a lesson that 2 was learned. And it's still being learned today by 3 the next generation. And that lesson is how to be a 4 father. You know, growing up, it was hard for me. And probably most of the First Nations that were at 5 6 these Residential Schools because their parents were 7 either alcoholics or they were never around. 8 So I was getting into my story. I'm learning 9 to be a parent again. I worked hard all my life. Μv 10 grandmother, my grandfather, really helped me out a 11 lot, gave me good direction. 12 One of the final things that I remember when 13 I moved out into my own place, well, it wasn't my own place, I was moving into my wife's place with her mom 14 15 and her son. My grandmother told me, you're the man 16 of that house now, you behave like it. You know, and 17 I was 20 years old. I'm, like, it's a lot of weight 18 to put on my shoulders. 19 So I took that on. To this day, I still fill 20 up that woodshed. 21 And the young man that's in that house now, I 22 remind him from time to time that he's the man of that 23 house now. And he's been living up to the 24 expectations that I put in front of him. 25 But I'm learning to be a father, a parent,

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1	and it's been a really difficult time, but I think
2	I've done a good job. I've done the best that I can.
3	And that's all that anybody can really do.
4	So I'm doing the best that I can to convince
5	the Panel, to convince Esketemc, to convince Taseko,
6	to convince Williams Lake, to convince my daughter, to
7	convince and so on and so on and so on, that this is
8	not going to work. This will not benefit Esketemc as
9	it should. This will not be tolerated by Esketemc.
10	And I kind of look forward to sitting down
11	with the three gentlemen from the Federal Government
12	that have been sitting in all of these hearings. I
13	actually met one of them, or all three of them just by
14	saying "Who are you? I've seen you here, I've seen
15	you there. Who are you?"
16	Because when we were in Dog Creek, they kind
17	of stood out because, along with maybe the rancher
18	down there, and a couple of other people, they were
19	the three that were in the back and you kind of
20	wondered what they were doing back that. It's like,
21	who are these guys, what are they doing? How come
22	they don't stand up and put in any submissions? How
23	come they are just there?
24	Well, I think I got a pretty good idea now
25	why they're just there.

1	And listening to all the First Nations
2	groups, I don't think they heard one "yea" to this
3	mine going through.
4	Listening to Esketemc, I'm sure they didn't
5	have a "yea".
6	And listening to Dog Creek, it's the same
7	way.
8	I think the only people that are saying "yea"
9	to this are the millionaires that don't give, pardon
10	my French, a rat's ass about our backyard.
11	You know, they are in China, they are in
12	Florida, they are in, they are all over in this world,
13	but they aren't in my backyard.
14	And, Panel, wow! These guys are influencing
15	Williams Lake. They don't even know where Williams
16	Lake is. They know where this mine is going to go.
17	They may know how many people are in Williams Lake,
18	but they have never actually been here.
19	I've heard some comments, too, about what
20	we're going to do after this session is over, what,
21	what are, not we as in me and Elizabeth and Beth, we
22	as in the First Nations communities. I heard some
23	comments. And they are good comments. But the impact
24	that's going to be felt to Williams Lake, you know,
25	there's, it's just, I guess I can't, why can't the

Federal Government release information to non-First Nations instead of letting them think that we don't pay taxes, letting them think that we get our health paid for, we get all of this, that the Federal Government is paying for all of this with their tax money. Well, it's a lie. And that lie has been happening for 150 years, since Governor Douglas and his constituents started that lie.

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9 But the communities around the First Nations 10 groups, like, I, I can't -- they don't understand what it's like to be First Nations. They don't understand 11 12 that we do pay taxes. I fill out income tax forms 13 every year just so I could get GST. So that I could 14 get a small amount for my daughter from the Federal 15 Government Child Tax Benefit. You know, and it's --16 they don't -- the non-First Nations don't see that. 17 It's a lie that all of Canada kind of have seemed to 18 buy into; the simple fact that First Nations have 19 everything just handed to them.

20 Well, we are also put on these small plots of 21 land. Seems like every other year there's a huge 22 company that wants to come in and develop in our back 23 yards. Seems like every other year we have to 24 scramble just to survive with the salmon that we have. 25 Every other year we're living in poverty. Every other

1 year we need more houses. Every other year, every 2 other year, it keeps going and going and going. And that's where the frustration starts to build. 3 That. the people don't know what First Nations have to deal 4 5 with on a daily basis. 6 I've had one of my Elders come up to me here 7 the other day and ask me, just literally ask me: "Do 8 you have any meat that I can have, I want to have 9 I don't have any meat." So I brought it up to some. her house and I dropped it off. And she was thankful. 10 11 Because her sons have all died. They have all gone 12 All alcohol-related. But I told her, I don't on. 13 fight her, I told her, "If you need any meat, let me 14 know, I'll go out and get you some". 15 And one of his sons was one of my good 16 friends growing up. 17 So I kind of took that household under my wing. 18 I kind of feel that I have to be the man of 19 that household, too. 20 So I'm not the only one that's doing this in 21 In the majority of First Nations the community. 22 communities. I'm sure that Xeni Gwet'in has someone 23 that's doing that for their community. And I'm sure 24 that Anaham, the same thing. And that's pulling 25 people together. Family always comes first with First

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1 Nations. 2 And it's got nothing to do with politics. 3 They could swear at me. Like I've had my uncle swear 4 at me for being the Chief, for doing my job. But after I get out of the office, he calls me in, come 5 6 and have a cup of coffee, let's talk about what we're 7 going to do next week. So I go and I sit down with 8 him, you know, it's friendly banter, maybe a few pokes 9 here and there. But as soon as I get back into the 10 office, the next day, he's right there again, he's the 11 watchdog. You know, there's always a watchdog. 12 And Taseko's watchdog is MiningWatch. The 13 Federal Government's watchdog, at least from my 14 perspective, is the First Nations, especially in B.C., 15 because they hold the Crown lands in trust for First 16 Nations. 17 And the Province, I don't know. I really 18 don't know why they're not at this table. I sincerely 19 don't. But there's a lot of issues that they should 20 be part of. 21 But I'm concerned about the next generations, 22 definitely. You know, what are they going to have? I 23 hope it's more than what I do. 24 I look at non-First Nations and some of them 25 I see living on the streets and they come up to me and

1 they ask me for money, and I give it to them. And 2 then I see some First Nations that live in blue collar 3 class, always wearing a blue collar, always got a gold 4 credit card in their pocket that they can just go and 5 buy whatever they wanted. 6 And I've met some of these people. And they 7 were asking for help. And I helped them. You know, 8 they were just so grateful that I was there to help 9 And they had no idea about my income. Like I them. 10 said, you wouldn't recognize how spiritual and 11 cultural I am if we were to pass on the street, but I 12 had to share some of that with these people. Because 13 they had their addictions. And this was at the Betty Ford Centre. And I was there as a counsellor. 14 Т 15 think they call it a CIT, is what they call it, a 16 counsellor in training. 17 So I went down and they included me in their sessions. And I could not believe some of these 18 19 people that were in there. They don't have to worry 20 about money at all. And what are they doing with it? 21 They are buying drugs, buying alcohol, getting 22 addictions. And I just showed them a bit of my 23 culture, my traditional knowledge, and they perked up. 24 They didn't realize that there is spirituality out 25 there. That there is Tgelt Kukwpi7 and Sisi C7re.

1	They just assumed that they could just run roughshod
2	all over everything, but that's not the case when it
3	comes to survival.
4	Okay, I'm starting to ramble here. I don't
5	know if you've got me on a clock or how is this
6	working?
7	THE CHAIRMAN: Well, I am watching the
8	clock, to be honest. It's more for, again, for
9	fairness for others who are scheduled behind,
10	obviously, but you have some more time, about 25
11	minutes, if we want to stick to the clock, I guess.
12	CHIEF ROBBINS: Well, like I said, there's
13	never enough time when you're fighting for your
14	spirituality and your culture and your traditional
15	lifestyle.
16	And I told you a story when we were out at
17	Alkali that Jim Johnson told me. And that was the
18	relationship that we had with the Tsilhqot'in. We
19	could sit around, we could bullshit all day. And by
20	the end of the day, we would all be smiling. And
21	realizing that it's just bullshit.
22	And that's the way First Nations are. By the
23	end of the day, end of the day, if we still have a day
24	to live, it's a good day. And that's what we're
25	fighting for is a day. A day so that my grand-kids

1 can have that day. 2 And with that, I would, again, like to say 3 Esketemc First Nation does not approve of this mine. And I'm sure its members will do anything in its 4 5 powers to not let it happen. And I'll be right there 6 with them. Because I believe in this community, I 7 believe in the people that are there, and I believe 8 what they say, they will follow through with --9 I probably will have one closing comment. And with that I'll hand it over to Elizabeth Hunt. 10 11 Thank you, Mr. Chair, Panel, Taseko. 12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chief Robbins. 13 And, Ms. Hunt, please. 14 CLOSING REMARKS BY ESKETEMC FIRST NATION, BY MS. ELIZABETH 15 HUNT: 16 MS. HUNT: Thank you, Mr. Chair, other 17 Panel Members. Thank you to the Esketemc for allowing 18 me to be legal counsel, and thank you to the Elders 19 and the Tsilhqot'in and the Shuswap. 20 I've been up here for a number of years and 21 just always appreciative to be sharing their culture 22 and communities with them. I'm starting to get to 23 know them guite well. 24 I'm going to be reiterating some of the 25 comments that have been said, but in the context of

1 flowing with the closing comments, I don't think 2 there'll be too redundant. 3 Esketemc's closing comments are as follows. 4 Esketemc has Aboriginal Title and Rights to their lands and their territories. These rights are 5 6 both inherent and they are protected under the Constitutional Act of Canada. 7 Esketemc has the right to self-determination 8 9 and the right to govern themselves and to choose their 10 own preferred way of life. 11 Since the engagement of this process, the 12 Esketemc Government, and each and every Esketemc 13 Elder, youth, and other community members as well, as 14 all of the documentation submitted by Esketemc, 15 including the interim reports, the comments during the 16 public hearings, stated clearly that Esketemc is 17 opposed to the development of the Prosperity Gold and 18 Copper Mine and to its associated transmission line by 19 Taseko for many reasons. 20 And I want to go over some of those reasons 21 which were discussed. 22 Aboriginal Title, which among other 23 characteristics of Aboriginal Title, includes the 24 right to the land itself, and it includes subsurface 25 Rights.

1 All of the money comes from the land. And these lands are burdened. These Esketemc lands are 2 3 burdened with Aboriginal Title. This land is only available as a source of revenue to the Provincial 4 Government once Aboriginal Title and Rights are 5 6 discharged, which has not been done. Aboriginal Rights, which among other 7 8 characteristics of Aboriginal Rights, include the 9 right, which exists now, to a traditional diet, 10 health, and their preferred foods. 11 Another concern for the opposition was that 12 Esketemc is a low-income community that is heavily 13 reliant on traditional foods for their basic needs and the present pressing issues of the access and 14 15 availability of these food sources. 16 There was many people in the community that 17 talked about, and as well as the Chief, the historical 18 and ongoing colonial oppression and impacts. 19 There's the issues of the complete 20 disappearance or absolute extinction of traditional 21 resources, polluted waters, including the ongoing 22 water advisory, even within their own small Reserve 23 lands, a fishery that's on the verge of complete 24 collapse. I don't know whether the Panel members have 25

had an opportunity to review the letter that was submitted by the Betty Ford Institute of Palm Springs. Mr. Patrick Haggerson is a regular visitor from Betty Ford and they have a particular interest in the special nature of First Nation communities and the impacts of colonization and how that relates to drug and alcohol abuse.

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And we would ask that the Panel members 8 carefully review that. Great effort was made for 9 10 Mr. Haggerson, who comes regularly as an ongoing, they 11 have alumni, it's a very special thing that's 12 happening. It's kind of a Canadian Provincial pride 13 to have this First Nation community that has overcome 14 the addiction issues that have occurred and Betty 15 Ford, because of the honour of all, and the work that 16 was done in the recovery addiction issues, they are 17 very interested to see how a community recovers from 18 these things. And they have had an ongoing, for over 19 five years, relationship with Esketemc. And the 20 president of the Betty Ford centre authorized 21 Mr. Haggerson to write his letter to talk about the 22 impact that this mine potentially could have on the 23 re-traumatization and the effects of colonization on 24 each and every community member. 25

While he's been up here on this visit, and

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1 it's every five weeks, he's talked about the 2 confidential nature of his clients, but the already 3 existence of people crying, upset, much of what you 4 might have saw at the Panel hearings of their grief and concern and the real issue of the 5 6 re-traumatization if this mine was to proceed. 7 We heard about the existing land use 8 conflicts and the problems exercising rights and 9 completely useless and unfair referral processes that 10 don't reconcile the issues such as grazing, drift net 11 fences, wild horses, destruction of ungulate habitat. 12 These conflicts of uses are lengthy between the 13 Esketemc and the Crown. 14 You heard about the involvement in the treaty 15 process and the borrowing of millions of dollars to 16 deal with their basic Rights. 17 Esketemc has tabled to the governments maps 18 and reports of sacred areas. Seven sacred areas and 19 nine protected areas, all of which the transmission is 20 cutting right through the centre of many of those 21 And Esketemc tabling a traditional Land Use areas. 22 All of which have been ignored. Plan. 23 The existing history of the transmission 24 lines, and that ongoing conflict. 25 You heard from community members about the

1 lack of trust. The lack of trust and confidence in 2 the government and third parties. Given the Nemiah 3 case. We also have outstanding specific claims of 4 Reserves that should have been reserved but haven't 5 6 been reserved. And the ongoing long, long, many, many 7 years of bureaucracy, all of which funding is secured 8 but it goes outside of the communities. 9 We have to talk a little bit about Taseko. 10 Taseko's lack of engagement to enter into impacts and 11 benefits agreements. 12 To discuss anything with the Esketemc early 13 in this process. 14 The lack of Taseko to at least politically 15 acknowledge Aboriginal Title and Rights. But instead Taseko has denied the existence and shift the 16 17 responsibility to the government when Taseko knew, or 18 they should have known, given that they are a 19 Vancouver based company and they have an existing mine 20 in this area, Taseko ought to have known the high level of uncertainty of tenure given the outstanding 21 22 issues in British Columbia. 23 Yet Taseko presented and held out to its 24 shareholders and the public that millions have been 25 expended on this mine to date and how they are caught

1 in the middle and blame the governments and First 2 Nations for, "Not stepping up to the plate." 3 Considering the profit, but actually 4 listening to MineWatch yesterday, we're wondering whether there really is any profit. 5 6 Or maybe considering it's the second largest 7 low-grade ore deposit in Canada, Taseko is still 8 pushing forward. 9 But Taseko is fostering the conflict between 10 the Federal and Provincial Governments, between the 11 Native and the non-Native populations instead of 12 squarely addressing the outstanding issues and the 13 concerns brought forward by all parties about this mine and it's impact on the Esketemc and the 14 15 environment that all Cariboo people share now and into 16 the future. And after today, they will leave behind a 17 climate of racism and mistrust and fear of the future, 18 19 and blame it on the Indians, and blame it on the 20 government. 21 But these finger-pointing tactics are not a 22 method of business practices that Esketemc would ever 23 support. 24 You heard that the Esketemc is not opposed to 25 development or joint ventures where values, rights and

1 interests are incorporated. However, Esketemc 2 strongly objects to the arbitrary imposition of this 3 Panel and its process where Esketemc is not able, nor 4 set up to address its fundamental basic constitutional 5 Rights. 6 This is what Esketemc wants: 7 Esketemc wants the Panel to recommend to the 8 Minister that this mine not proceed any further until: 9 The constitutional issues are firmly 1. 10 resolved, which include, but are not limited to, 11 certainty and protection of Aboriginal Rights and 12 Title. 13 Treaty negotiations and the debts Next. 14 associated with these negotiations and the unilateral 15 removal of these subject lands and the resources 16 without any discussions. 17 Analysis of the traditional knowledge. Next. 18 You heard from the Chief and the community members, 19 there's much traditional knowledge about these lands. 20 You heard much about the experts and people talking 21 about how do we know these things, we know it from the 22 literature. Are these findings based on field surveys 23 or are they based on studies in other areas that will 24 apply that here? 25 But there's a lot of traditional knowledge

1 within the Esketemc community. And we want that 2 analyzed, as well as a gap analysis of the baseline information and real findings of fact of the cultural 3 uses within the transmission line, and the mine area. 4 The deficiencies of this process and the lack 5 6 of information is well documented in the letter from Chief Fred Robbins to the Minister. 7 That was set out in 25 pages of concerns 8 9 regarding the cultural exercise of rights and the 10 mine's impact on those rights. 11 Esketemc needs to know the real cumulative 12 impacts of this Project on Esketemc's Rights and Title 13 and how the mine is going to affect their ability to 14 maintain their culture, language and history. 15 This mine has the potential to completely 16 prevent Esketemc from passing on their way of living 17 sustainably from the land and passing it on to their 18 children. They want to be able to continue to hunt, 19 they want to fish, trap, gather. And these practices 20 are already threatened. 21 The migration routes of wildlife on which the 22 Esketemc depend are being interfered with. And 23 there's no baseline data on the existing impacts. 24 Esketemc sacred sites which define who they 25 are and enable them to continue their way of life will

1 be destroyed by this Project. 2 Esketemc share that they have extensive 3 experience of the approval of one transmission line that turned into two more, and its devastating impacts 4 5 of the transmission line on their rights. 6 We don't want this mine to proceed any 7 further until the last point, meaningful consultation, 8 has occurred. 9 And we have to really look at this from a 10 pragmatic point of view. Consultation. What is 11 consultation? 12 You know when somebody's consulted when 13 Esketemc can say, I feel like my constitutional rights 14 have been consulted about. I feel like I've put 15 forward, what Chief Fred was saying, I've put forward 16 my concerns, they have been discussed and they have 17 been accommodated. You're not hearing one First 18 Nations saying, I feel like I was consulted. I was 19 heard, my issues were discussed and accommodated. 20 Esketemc considers the Panel process to be 21 wholly deficient as a process of consultation 22 concerning Esketemc's 5,000 years of history of use, 23 occupation, stewardship, governance, language, their 24 development of intellectual property rights. 25 And I could really go on, the list could

1 really go on here. 2 We think, to approve this mine, even with 3 recommendations, given what the Panel has heard about 4 the Aboriginal concerns, the extensive environmental impacts, and the real facts about the social 5 6 implications of mines, would result in a mockery of 7 Esketemc's constitutional rights and the purpose of our Canadian Environmental Assessment laws. 8 9 The facts are not here to show us that this 10 mine is not going to erode already pressing and 11 difficult rights for Esketemc to practice. 12 To approve the mine, even with 13 recommendations, would constitute an act of 14 environmental racism by the Government of Canada. 15 In the short three days of community 16 hearings, Esketemc has told you some of the impacts 17 that will affect Esketemc's rights. We talked about the water. 18 19 We talked about the hunting. 20 We talked about the fishing, the trapping, 21 the gathering in sacred sites. 22 Of course the right to have a livelihood. 23 And this list is not exhaustive. 24 Esketemc told you that they do not have full 25 information on key resources relied upon, the use of

1 resources, ecological requirements for each resource, 2 the vulnerability of resources due to climate change, 3 the socio-economic conditions necessary for Esketemc to exercise their rights, the key issues affecting 4 5 resource harvest, ecological, social, cultural, economical, key factors to affect the resources in the 6 7 future, culturally acceptable management practices, 8 the cumulative impacts affecting Esketemc's rights, 9 and this list, of course, again, is not exhaustive. Esketemc do not have the information on the 10 11 amount of land, water and resources required in order 12 to exercise Esketemc rights. 13 Esketemc came to the Panel under duress, 14 underfunded, without being provided the necessary 15 time, information, technical support, resources, and 16 tools to properly assess the impact of this Project on 17 their constitutional Rights and Title. 18 The Federal Government has stated that it 19 will rely on the Review Panel process to discharge the 20 duty to consult and accommodate to the extent that 21 that is possible. 22 Esketemc considers this Panel process to be 23 wholly deficient to satisfy the duty to consult and 24 accommodate. 25 There has been a lack of effort put forth by

1 the Proponent to show that it has genuinely listened 2 to and heard Esketemc's concerns. 3 Yesterday, when Mr. Bell-Irving was asked by 4 Ms. Nalaine Morin about whether the company had changed its mind about Taseko's finding on wildlife in 5 6 the EIA reports, based on what he had heard from the First Nations, he said no. 7 There has been a lack of effort put forward 8 9 to show how they will try to address Esketemc's 10 concerns in a meaningful way. 11 The Proponent has another mine in this area. 12 And this has shown us that there is a complete 13 interest to resolve long-standing issues which include 14 cultural, environmental, and financial. This 15 disengagement means that the Panel process cannot be 16 relied on by the Crown to uphold the honour of 17 discharging its duty to consult. 18 The purpose of these Panel hearings is not 19 just so the Panel has information, but also so that 20 Esketemc, the Esketemc community concerns can be 21 addressed. 22 If there is no real and meaningful response 23 to Esketemc's concerns, then there is no 24 accommodation. The adequacy of consultation is judged by 25

1 looking to see if there is a fair process, which there 2 is not here, but also by looking to see what 3 accommodations are put forward and whether those accommodations are reasonable. 4 During this process, parties have shared 5 6 information to the Panel, but no accommodation of 7 constitutional rights. 8 The Proponent's approach to the community 9 hearings, and it's lack of response to Esketemc's 10 concerns, displays the total failure and inadequacy of 11 this process to provide a forum for meaningful 12 consultation and accommodation. 13 Today, there is no evidence that Esketemc's 14 concerns about the impact of this Project on their 15 rights were heard and addressed. You need real facts of the issues with real 16 17 solutions that are signed off by parties all on 18 agreement. 19 That is not what we have by this Panel 20 process. 21 The purpose of consultation and accommodation 22 is reconciliation and to assure that Aboriginal rights 23 interests and ambitions are taken into consideration 24 and included in Project design to protect the 25 long-term sustainability of Esketemc's rights.

1 The Panel has stated that it will be relying 2 on the information provided through the public and 3 community hearings process to fill in the gaps for the information deficiencies previously identified. 4 5 However, the Proponent has totally disengaged in 6 relation to addressing the Esketemc community or how 7 the Esketemc concerns will be addressed. There is no 8 information being provided today in specific response to the Esketemc community concerns. 9 10 The approach of the Proponent to these 11 hearings further shows that this hearing process did 12 not fulfil its mandate in gathering sufficient 13 information to adequately assess Esketemc rights. 14 Indeed, today, no one is even trying to 15 pretend to address Esketemc's concerns. The Esketemc community members were not there 16 17 at the other community hearings. They didn't hear what Taseko said or what the Panel said. But Esketemc 18 19 is of the opinion that they share the same concerns as 20 their neighbouring other First Nations, which is 21 dealing with their basic rights, their title, and the 22 right to be consulted in a room for their culture in 23 their own territory. 24 There are many serious fundamental flaws in 25 this process to evaluate the impact on the environment

1 in the Esketema culture. 2 The Esketemc know that the duty to consult 3 and accommodate is a Crown responsibility. 4 It's not a duty to respond and provide 5 information to the Panel. They have participated, but 6 it's not a duty to consult some First Nations and only listen to some First Nations and not other First 7 Nations and First Nations that aren't able to get on 8 9 the speakers list. 10 Esketemc has the right to be heard, but also 11 the right to have their concerns addressed in a 12 substantive way. 13 In this process, Esketemc concerns about the 14 future of Esketemc rights are minimized. There is no 15 Crown honour that has been displayed in these 16 proceedings. And, for the record, the position of 17 Esketemc is that these proceedings are wholly 18 inappropriate and totally deficient at constituting 19 any form or any part of meaningful consultation and 20 accommodation in which Esketemc's rights are 21 constitutionally protected. 22 Esketemc expects that their concerns will be 23 directly addressed by the Crown in a meaningful 24 consultation process outside of these Panel hearings 25 and Esketemc ask that the Panel make the

1 recommendation to the Minister today that this Project 2 go no further until those points I made earlier 3 concerning title, rights, treaty, et cetera, are addressed and that there's been consultation and the 4 5 consultation is adequate. 6 And there's always commentary about whether 7 there's been consultation, but when Esketemc say 8 there's been consultation and they say, I've been 9 consulted and accommodated, then that's when you could 10 go to the next step. 11 When everybody else is saying they have been 12 consulted, it's another form of oppression and 13 victimization to say, oh, they have been consulted. You heard from the Chief and the community 14 15 members that when they speak, they speak the truth. 16 The hope is that the Panel will make the 17 honourable decision to raise Esketemc's outstanding, 18 long-standing concerns which need to be addressed to 19 the Minister before any further decisions about this 20 mine can be made. 21 Esketemc asks that you right the wrong that 22 is upon us today and not permit this Project to 23 proceed under these circumstances. 24 Esketemc ask that you honour Esketemc now. 25 Esketemc asks that you honour Esketemc

1 children who will be here long after you leave their 2 lands and they live with your decisions. 3 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and other Panel 4 Members, those are my closing comments. QUESTIONS OF MS. HUNT, THE ESKETEMC NATION, BY THE 5 6 CHATRMAN: 7 THE CHAIRMAN: I do Thank you, Ms. Hunt. 8 have one question. Have you read our Terms of 9 Reference? 10 MS. HUNT: Yes. 11 THE CHAIRMAN: Because if you had, I think 12 you would realize that it's not our responsibility or 13 this is not the process by which the Crown will honour 14 its duty to consult and accommodate. It's quite clear 15 that we do not have the mandate to make any determination as to whether Canada's met its 16 17 respective duty to consult and accommodate in respect 18 to rights recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the 19 Constitution Act. 20 So I put that out for clarification because I 21 want to make sure that the expectations that you have 22 are, in fact, understood, or at least you understand 23 what our mandate is relative to your expectations. 24 MS. HUNT: Yes, Mr. Chair, I completely 25 understand that. And we expect that whatever the

1 finding of the Panel is is a finding that consultation 2 obviously has not occurred in any way and that there's 3 still these outstanding issues and that it would be, given the submissions of Esketemc and other First 4 Nations, not appropriate for the mine to proceed in 5 6 any further form until those issues are addressed. 7 THE CHAIRMAN: We understand your view. And that's a different issue. 8 9 I think this brings this presentation to a conclusion. I thank you, Ms. Hunt, Ms. Bedard, and 10 11 Chief Robbins for your closing remarks today. We 12 appreciate the opportunity to visit your community and 13 to hold three days of hearings there to have the 14 opportunity to understand its culture and 15 spirituality, the attachment that your community has 16 to land, which you have summarized in your remarks 17 today. And also we certainly understand the views of 18 the community with respect to the Project. We thank 19 you for that. 20 FURTHER CLOSING REMARKS BY ESKETEMC FIRST NATION, BY CHIEF 21 FRED ROBBINS: 22 CHIEF ROBBINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair, just 23 one more. Well, actually, a couple more things. 24 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, we are running out of 25 time, Chief Robbins, in terms of those who are

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1	scheduled next, so be very quick.
2	CHIEF ROBBINS: Just one minute, please.
3	Esketemc doesn't view hunting as a sport. One of the
4	things, you know, what happens when a community has
5	nothing left to lose? As Esketemc, should this
6	happen. It's exactly what you might be looking at.
7	Thank you, Mr. Chair.
8	THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, thank you,
9	Chief Robbins.
10	We'll take a short break and come back to the
11	next presentation, which is from MiningWatch. Thank
12	you.
13	(BRIEF BREAK)
14	THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, we'll resume the
15	hearing again. And our next presenter for closing
16	remarks is Mr. Hart with the MiningWatch Canada. Go
17	ahead, Mr. Hart.
18	CLOSING REMARKS BY MININGWATCH CANADA, BY MR. HART:
19	MR. HART: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20	Once again, I'd like to acknowledge the fact
21	that we're in Secwepemc territory. I would like to
22	thank the Elders and drummers from this morning. A
23	wonderful way to start off the day of proceedings.
24	Thank you to Panel members for the incredible
25	task you've taken on and to the Secretariat who have

1 been managing things so smoothly and effortlessly. 2 MiningWatch's position on the proposed 3 Prosperity Project is that it cannot be approved 4 through the Federal Environmental Assessment Process because it is not sustainable and it cannot be 5 6 justified given the environmental effects and the 7 social effects stemming from those environmental 8 effects. 9 Trying to figure out if a mining project can 10 be sustainable is no easy task. Mines in many ways 11 are inherently unsustainable because they are 12 extracting a non-renewable resource. 13 But it is my belief and MiningWatch's belief 14 that it is possible, under some circumstances, to have 15 a mine which contributes to sustainable development. We have found little evidence in reviewing 16 17 the material for this Project that suggests that this mine will in fact contribute to sustainable 18 19 development. 20 There are serious unmitigable environmental 21 and social impacts. And the net economic benefits 22 have been questioned. 23 Throughout this process, this assessment, 24 this conclusion we've reached, has only been strengthened. 25

1	We have focused largely on three issues:
2	- The effects on First Nations;
3	the need to find a new way of
4	reconciling our relationship;
5	- The effects on fish and fish
6	habitat.
7	- And socio-economics.
8	I regret that we did not have adequate time
9	or resources to fully investigate the impacts of the
10	transmission corridor, because I believe there, too,
11	there are unmitigable effects of increased access.
12	This has been raised by the Secwepemc
13	repeatedly.
14	As well as the effects on old forests which
15	are of considerable concern.
16	Before getting into our principle concerns
17	around fish habitats, socio-economics, and finding a
18	new relationship with the Indigenous communities of
19	the area, I would like to return to something that I
20	brought up in my very first presentation to the Panel,
21	which was in somewhat a response to Taseko's opening
22	comments, and that's the question of certainty and
23	uncertainty.
24	Taseko continues to insist that they have a
25	high degree of certainty in how this Project is going

1 to play out environmentally. 2 And they have offered us some examples of 3 other Projects to support the high degree of certainty that they have. A simple truck and shovel operation. 4 5 It's been done many times before. 6 They offered us a couple of examples, like 7 the Mount Polley Mine, which, as Mr. Holmes mentioned, 8 is now requiring to reapply for its mining permit in 9 order to be able to discharge water. They offered up the Island Copper Mine as an 10 11 example of reclamation and the movie they showed, a 12 movie which is woefully out of date. 13 The Island Copper Mine needed to flood its 14 pit in a hurry in order to avoid acid generation and 15 metal leaching from the pit walls over the 25 years it was estimated to fill naturally. A similar time that 16 17 it will take the Prosperity pit, if it is built, to 18 fill naturally. The theory was going to be that the 19 pit would fill and stratify and keep all of the 20 contaminants in the bottom. Unfortunately, the truth 21 The real world, it's not is, that concept is flawed. 22 working. 23 The different layers in the pit lake are 24 mixing, the toxic metals are slowly increasing in 25 concentration on the surface, and eventually the pit

1 will require costly water treatment. 2 We've had a bit of a battle of experts on 3 this question of certainty and uncertainty. We've had 4 Taseko's experts and hydrogeologists and geologists and chemists and we've had other renowned experts come 5 6 and present a very different picture of the question 7 of certainty and uncertainty. 8 I'm certainly not qualified nor able to 9 decide which of those two sides is right. I would 10 quess it's perhaps beyond your capacity as well to do 11 a full Scientific Review of who's right and who's 12 I don't know. But either way, to my mind, wrong. 13 those other experts' findings, renowned highly 14 qualified experts, have fundamentally different 15 conclusions to the Proponent, to me suggests at least 16 a high degree of uncertainty. 17 Natural Resources Canada, too, has guestions 18 about the Project, and suggests that perhaps things 19 haven't been got quite right. 20 There's concerns about the groundwater 21 modelling entering Big Onion Lake suggests that the 22 groundwater may move there faster than predicted. 23 There's uncertainty around proposed 24 mitigation options. I was very disheartened to hear 25 that one of Taseko's principal mitigation measures,

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1 the pump and treat option, was described by one Canada 2 Resources presenter as: "Highly variable in its 3 success. Commonly applied, yes, but highly variable in its success." 4 5 Perhaps some of these things can be figured 6 They can be addressed through mitigation, out. 7 through application of more technology. 8 But Mr. Jones is on the record as saying that 9 the difference of \$350 million was enough to not pull 10 the trigger on a Project based on the Alternatives 11 Assessment. That's a capital upfront cost. What 12 would annual long-term treatment costs do to the 13 viability of this Project? 14 Mr. Morin suggested a rough figure of a 15 billion dollars or so to think about treatment costs 16 for this Project. 17 To me, that introduces a high degree of 18 uncertainty. 19 For me, another area of uncertainty, if 20 problems should arrive, is how long will it take for 21 the problems to be fixed? 22 The Commissioner of Environment and 23 Sustainable Development had pointed to significant 24 inadequacies in the Department of Fisheries and 25 ocean's ability to monitor and enforce the Fisheries

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1 Act. 2 From my own experience, I know that 3 remediating and addressing contamination issues can take a long time before a solution is found, before 4 5 it's implemented and built. 6 What impacts will occur in the meantime? 7 So that leaves me with a high degree of 8 discomfort and uncertainty around some of the 9 technical aspects of this Project. 10 Something which I don't have any uncertainty 11 at all about is that the proposed Fish Habitat 12 Compensation Plan cannot provide a sustained 13 replacement fishery for the loss of Fish Lake, Little 14 Fish Lake, and Fish Creek. 15 Taseko has gualified its aims and objectives 16 with the Habitat Fish Compensation Plan, they are 17 saying they are not trying to recreate the lake, 18 that's impossible, we can't make ecosystems. But it's 19 hoping to replace the fish resource. 20 Despite creating a self-sustaining fishery 21 being a requirement for the Provincial approval, 22 Taseko has offered no evidence that it can actually 23 create a self-sustaining long-term viable fish 24 habitat. I have no doubt they can make a lake. 25 That's fairly straightforward. Making a lake with

spawning habitat, with hydrologic functions, with the 1 2 right temperature, with the right spawning areas, that 3 is something inherently complex. 4 The reviews clearly show that we do not have a good record of success in creating fish habitat, 5 6 even simple fish habitat, let alone a highly complex 7 multifunction system like that that's being proposed. We've heard that this time it will be 8 9 different, this time we'll get it right. Everybody 10 else thought they were going to get it right, too. 11 People will be onsite. People are onsite at Highland 12 Valley Copper where the famous Trojan Pond and those 13 big trophy copper-contaminated fish live. There are 14 people on site at that mine, that's an active mine, 15 but they haven't got an operating spawning bed that 16 doesn't need regular maintenance. 17 Now, what about post mine life? Are we suggesting that replacing a fishery for 30 years is 18 19 adequate mitigation and then we'll walk away and let 20 nature take its course in a system that needs constant 21 human intervention or frequent human intervention? 22 To me, that is not sustainable and it's not 23 mitigation. 24 It's been suggested that there will be more 25 discussion, that they are still going to keep working

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1 to come up with an adequate Fish Habitat Compensation Plan that will be suitable to DFO. 2 3 I would submit it's the Panel's duty to 4 assess the Project as it is now. As it is before 5 them. Not as it may be. 6 And this process has given the most rigorous 7 thorough review of that Compensation Plan it's going 8 to get. There will not be significant public consultation about that project in the future. 9 10 So the compensation for Fish Lake is 11 incomplete. It's not likely to work. At least in the 12 long-term. But Fish Lake is much more than a place 13 where trout live. Fish Lake has been called a backyard, a heartland, a homeland. It's a spiritual 14 15 place. It has power. I felt that power. I had the 16 honour of visiting the lake with Chief Marilyn and 17 some youth from the community. 18 We scrambled over the islands, wandering 19 through the pit house depressions that the 20 archaeologists somehow didn't seem to find. 21 A young woman found an eagle feather on the 22 shore. 23 I'm not going to belabour the cultural 24 significance of this place. That's not my job. 25 There's other people that can do that far better

1 than T. 2 I'd just like to point out that the 3 destruction of Fish Lake is another completely unmitigable effect that will be had on the Tsilhqot'in 4 5 People. 6 One of the most startling things I've heard 7 in this entire Panel process that I've been involved 8 with was just yesterday when Mr. Bell-Irving told the 9 people in this room that he was offering this Project 10 to the Tsilhqot'in People, but only if they wanted it. 11 Only if they wanted it? Well, they don't want it, so 12 does that mean the Project's not going ahead, I 13 thought in a flash in my head. Oh, no, he means that they'll get to participate only if they want to. 14 15 To my mind, that's like somebody moving into 16 your house against your will and setting up shop in 17 your living room, trashing all of your family's heirlooms, eating your food, putting their feet up on 18 19 your sofa, and then inviting you in to watch TV every 20 once in a while on their terms. 21 I don't think that's socially just and I 22 don't think that that's sustainable. 23 In this community of Williams Lake, we've 24 heard about people that want to live, find a way to 25 live together with the First Nations. We have

1	Provincial commitments to find a new relationship.
2	In Canada, the Federal Government is
3	committed to trying to ratify or find a way to abide
4	by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous
5	Peoples. We've had an apology about the Residential
6	Schools.
7	Our country needs to find a new way of
8	relating with Aboriginal Peoples. A way based on
9	social justice and mutual respect.
10	This is in all of our benefit. First Nations
11	populations are growing, continued conflict will only
12	hinder both of our future success.
13	Future conflict is something that bears
14	heavily on my mind and on my heart. I don't know to
15	what degree the Panel is able to consider the words
16	that have been spoken through the Panel process about
17	what might happen if this mine is approved. But in
18	terms of justifiability of this Project, I think the
19	potential for future conflict should be considered.
20	And I think that potential is very real.
21	So we have a project with unmitigable
22	environmental and social impacts.
23	Can those impacts be justified? Some,
24	including the Provincial Government, apparently, would
25	have us believe that they are that the economic

1 impact of this Project will be such that we should 2 overlook those unmitigable effects. There's been talk about the contribution to 3 4 the local economy, which, undoubtedly, would have an 5 impact here in Williams Lake, but most people that we've heard speak said it's not going to save Williams 6 7 Lake, it will bring a few hundred jobs, some more 8 spending, a few people buying new trucks. It's no 9 silver bullet, it's no panacea. It's relatively 10 short-term. 11 Williams Lake has identified the need to find 12 alternative more sustainable sources of employment. 13 But I haven't heard how this mine would contribute to 14 that process. How exactly would the exploitation of 15 another resource-based export-oriented resource 16 Project contribute to that transition? I haven't 17 heard that evidence. 18 Perhaps you have and I've missed it. 19 The EIS hasn't even attempted to address 20 impacts on the most vulnerable economic communities. 21 We don't have any information about how the community 22 or the Proponent might deal with housing issues and 23 the social services that are badly needed by those 24 that are most vulnerable, including the First Nations. 25 At a Provincial level, we've heard about what

1 a phenomenal contribution this Project will be to the GDP of B.C. 2 But we've also heard that on a net balance 3 4 sheet, perhaps the benefits aren't so great. At the very least, we should take into 5 6 consideration the huge Provincial subsidy that will go 7 to providing hydroelectricity and building roads, or 8 upgrading roads. 9 Yesterday, Ms. Kuyek gave an economic 10 critique of the potential economic impacts. And in 11 Taseko's response yesterday, they really didn't 12 question the fundamental basis of her presentation. 13 Took a few potshots at some of the smaller aspects of 14 it, but there was no response to the basic facts that 15 she presented. 16 So we have a Project with unmitigable impacts 17 of a transmission corridor and the destruction of a watershed, the destruction of a place of cultural, 18 19 spiritual significance. 20 And we have the potential for some economic 21 Highly qualified by the subsidies that will growth. 22 go in and the potential impacts on vulnerable 23 populations. 24 This Project would take us a step backwards 25 in finding a new relationship, a new way of living

1 with those who have first lived on this land. 2 It would be very easy, I imagine, it 3 certainly has happened to me on many occasions, to get lost in the detail of this Project, to get weighed 4 down by the volumes of information about how many 5 6 breeding birds actually do live in Fish Lake, is it 63 or 400. 7 8 If you find that happening to you, I urge you 9 to take a step back, to take a break, to think of the 10 big picture. To think about the watershed, about the 11 people that you've met through this process, and to 12 think about their grandchildren and their hopes for 13 this land and what it could become. I think in doing so you'll find great clarity 14 15 in coming to a decision that this Project is not 16 sustainable, it is not justifiable, and it should not 17 be approved. 18 Thank you very much. 19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hart. I don't 20 think we have any questions of clarification at this 21 I thank you for your closing remarks. point. 22 And next would be Mr. Williams of Friends of 23 Nemaiah Valley, please. 24 CLOSING REMARKS BY FRIENDS OF NEMAIAH VALLEY, BY 25 MR. WILLIAMS:

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. Thank you, 2 Mr. Chairman. I, too, would like to acknowledge that we are 3 4 on Secwepemc First Nations land and to thank the Panel and the CEAA staff. 5 6 And I admire your endurance. I used to be an 7 endurance runner myself, and I don't think I could have sat through what you've sat through in the last 8 9 number of weeks. 10 I want to thank Taseko, too. Because I think 11 you have brought a lot of people together in Williams 12 Lake who did not realize and were unprepared to speak 13 out against your proposal. 14 We're a very small organization. We have 15 found, though, amazingly in the last weeks that we 16 have support for our particular stand on this mine 17 from all over British Columbia. And from many people 18 in Williams Lake. We didn't know they were there. 19 They held an auction at which 125 people came and 20 raised money, \$7,000, to help bring the experts to 21 this event. 22 And without those, we couldn't have done 23 this. 24 And I think they support us because our 25 presence here is based on principle. And they

1 recognize an essential unfairness that pits private 2 citizens against a wealthy and powerful corporate entity. 3 There's an imbalance here. 4 But we do the best we can. I'm not 5 6 particularly comfortable in this position. It's not 7 something I have done for many years. I'm happier 8 sitting out on my porch watching the grizzly bears 9 walk by, which they do from time to time. 10 To begin, I'd like to draw your attention to 11 the Sustainability Assessment Framework of the Joint 12 Review Panel considering the Kemess North Copper-Gold 13 Mine Project and that consists of five points: 14 environmental stewardship; 15 economic benefits and costs; social and cultural benefits and costs; 16 17 fairness and distribution of the benefits and cost; and 18 19 the present versus future generations. 20 And I would hope you would adopt a similar 21 framework rather than a narrow technical one when 22 considering this Project. 23 I have a sense that you will do that. 24 A reading of your Terms of Reference 25 certainly allows for it.

1 If you do, we believe you can come to only 2 one conclusion: That this mine does not begin to meet 3 the test by any one of these five standards. 4 I've listened to several days of technical submissions. We have examined in some detail most of 5 6 the relevant documents and comments, including 7 Taseko's EIS, government reports, those of independent 8 experts, and members of the informed public. And our 9 conclusion of failure to meet the test is based on our 10 consideration of the following areas, somewhat akin to 11 the Sustainability Framework, but with the 12 distinction, the addition of a distinct legal 13 situation. 14 And that involves the legal rights and land 15 of the Tsilhqot'in First Nation. We do not believe 16 that title has ever been extinguished. It clearly has 17 And one simply has to go back to the Royal not. 18 Proclamation that Mike Bird spoke of yesterday. Ι 19 don't need to belabour that. And the Vickers 20 decision. 21 Title was never extinguished. There's no 22 treaty. 23 David Vickers said: 24 "Tsilhqot'in People have an 25 Aboriginal Right to hunt and trap

1 birds and animals throughout the claim area." 2 And I would argue that you can't destroy the 3 4 ability to do that with impacts on the land. If vou do that, you're breaking the law. 5 6 There are two decisions before the Courts 7 presently, Chief Marilyn's case, and ex-chief Rogers' 8 appeal of the Title and Rights decision. And as those 9 two decisions are before the Courts, we feel that any 10 decision to impact the land in a major way, or any 11 way, is simply premature. And I think there's legal 12 opinion that it would be illegal. 13 And certainly a decision like that will 14 further erode trust with First Nations. You've heard 15 that over and over and over again. I just want to move on to the five points. 16 17 Environmental stewardship. Of course first is the outright loss of Fish 18 19 Lake, Teztan Biny, Fish Creek and Nabas. I don't need 20 to say more than that. 21 And there's an inadequate compensation or 22 mitigation plan through Prosperity Lake. 23 I'm just going to guote Dr. Gordon Hartman 24 who spoke before you this week: 25 "The proposed spawning and

1	rearing channel in Prosperity Lake
2	do not come near to making up for
3	the loss of Fish Lake, Little Fish
4	Lake and the outlet and two inlet
5	streams that would be destroyed.
6	It simply cannot work."
7	Gordon Hoglund of the Lower Bridge Creek
8	Water Stewardship Society said:
9	"To suggest that a man-made
10	lake can adequately replace a
11	fully functioning natural one
12	borders on the absurd."
13	I have to say that I agree.
14	And quoting Dr. David Levy who did a report
15	for MiningWatch:
16	"The compensation proposal is
17	inadequate and does not account
18	for differences in littoral
19	habitat between Fish and
20	Prosperity Lake and predicted
21	reduction in Prosperity Lake
22	productivity over time.
23	When these factors are
24	considered, Prosperity Lake would
25	need to be four or five times

1	larger than proposed to meet the
2	No Net Loss principle, the DFO
3	Policy for the Management of Fish
4	Habitat."
5	And Adam Silverstein, who was before you
6	earlier this week, Regional Manager of the Habitat
7	Management Division of Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
8	said:
9	"There are issues DFO has in
10	relation to the new lake that
11	Taseko plans to create to replace
12	Fish Lake, which will be
13	compromised, that's the word that
14	was used in the Williams Lake
15	Tribune, I think that's a strange
16	use for the word "compromised,"
17	it's actually going to be
18	destroyed, as part of the Project.
19	There's a risk that First Nations
20	will not be able to meet their
21	food, social and ceremonial needs
22	for fish.
23	Overall, DFO has identified a
24	shortfall or gap between the
25	productive capacity of the

1 existing habitat and that of the 2 proposed Fish Habitat Compensation 3 Plan as presently proposed." I have to say that I've seen nothing since 4 5 these remarks were made to convince me that there have 6 been any substantial changes to the Compensation Plan. 7 There will be an unacceptable impact on terrestrial wildlife. And I'm referring to Wayne 8 9 McCrory's report. Referring only to grizzly bears, he 10 says: 11 "The impacts of the proposed 12 project, serious in their own 13 right, will be additive to the 14 already existing layer of 15 cumulative adverse effects to 16 grizzly population and its 17 habitat, and because most of the 18 negative effects cannot be 19 mitigated, will push the grizzly 20 population over the extinction 21 threshold. 22 Once the mine is developed, 23 impacts such as roads mortalities 24 will not be reversible or 25 adequately mitigated."

1 I was surprised to hear Mr. Bell-Irving 2 yesterday, who said that, or he implied, that there 3 would seem to be enough protected areas within the 4 larger area for grizzly bears to go to. What perhaps he's not aware of, and it surprises me, is that this 5 6 is already in a protected area, the Aboriginal 7 Wilderness Preserve area. And that is one of the 8 areas that Mr. McCrory was referring to. So this is a part of the protected habitat. 9 10 There's, of course, a wide array of impacts 11 on many, many other species. 12 I was, I know a little bit about wildlife. 13 I'm not a biologist, but I studied it for many years 14 and I lived with it, and I was not impressed by 15 Taseko's wildlife experts, their report or their 16 presentation. 17 There are potential impacts on salmon runs. 18 And I refer here to Dr. Kevin Morin, the Stratus 19 Consulting Group statement. Stratus: 20 "Many mines with different characteristics 21 have had water quality impacts and mines with 22 characteristics that are similar to the Prosperity 23 Project have had impacts that were not predicted. 24 These impacts have resulted in adverse downstream 25 impacts or costly unplanned water capture and

1 treatment systems that in many cases must be operated 2 in perpetuity or both." I would submit that this is too important and 3 4 the risk is too great to jeopardize already severely impacted Fraser and Chilko River salmon runs. 5 6 And I would draw your attention again, as 7 part of your mandate, to invoke the precautionary 8 principle. I don't need to repeat what that is 9 because it's within the terms of your reference. 10 I'm going to move on to economic costs and 11 benefits. 12 I did a questionnaire which I submitted at 13 the hearings in the valley. And many of the operators, all of them, in fact, that I was able to 14 15 question, cite the loss of wilderness qualities, 16 traffic, noise, dust, light pollution, influx of 17 quads, 4x4s and skidoos, into the area as being 18 inimicable (phonetic) to their operations. Many of 19 them feel that it will shut them down permanently. 20 And that's an economic loss, which, I said before, 21 must be offset against any possible benefit to the 22 local community here. 23 There are, of course, serious impacts to the 24 Tsilhqot'in People in terms of health. And that I 25 think was adequately presented by Shari Hughson of the

1 health services in the valley. 2 There are costs to society as a whole, and 3 again, when I refer to Dr. Marvin Shaffer's report 4 yesterday, and again said, using the methodological 5 correct assessment of benefits and costs, he concluded 6 that: 7 "There would be significant net costs for British Columbians 8 9 and Canadians as a whole as well 10 as very significant non-quantified 11 environmental, cultural and social 12 costs of great concern to the 13 affected First Nations and others. 14 There would be increased 15 opportunities within the region, 16 but there is absolutely no 17 evidence to suggest the Project 18 would generate positive net 19 benefits overall." 20 And I know that was not within the mandate of 21 Taseko's Terms of Reference. It's not within their 22 Terms of Reference to do that, and they did not. But 23 it should have been. It's something that should be 24 considered. It must be considered, in fact. If this 25 mine is going to be so heavily subsidized that there's

1 a net cost to the rest of the people in the province 2 and Canada, then I really can see no purpose for it 3 going ahead, despite the fact that there will be limited short-term local benefits. 4 Cultural loss. That's a particular concern, 5 6 of course, not only to First Nations People, but to 7 We have great concern for certainly the People of us. Xeni Gwet'in and the rest of the First Nations 8 9 communities in the area. 10 I've already said, speaking before you in the 11 Nemiah Valley, Teztan Biny is part of their land. The 12 alien presence of the mine and an overwhelming number 13 of outside workers will cause cultural loss so great 14 here as to constitute a tragedy. 15 And guoting Shari Hughson again speaking at 16 that time, citing the 2003 Convention for the 17 Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage: "The economic gains of mining 18 19 leases have been accompanied by 20 cultural losses which in turn have 21 produced a breakdown in social 22 capital and increasing incidences 23 of substance abuse and domestic 24 violence. The Xeni Gwet'in First Nation 25

1 intangible cultural heritage is 2 threatened by the mine and needs to be protected by the Government 3 of Canada, according to the United 4 5 Nations." 6 And I submit that the government has a sacred 7 duty to do that. And again referring to social costs. 8 And I'm 9 going to again quote Shari: 10 "We believe, speaking for the 11 Nemiah health team, the social 12 impact of the mine will be 13 increased mental health issues, 14 addictions, violence, abuse, and 15 crime in the community." 16 Health costs. She says: 17 "The mine will interfere with 18 the health care plan for the 19 community and severely disable the 20 recovery that we have started. 21 The Fish Lake Mine will harm 22 this community's health and social 23 balance. I strongly urge the 24 government representatives to 25 protect these people and their

1 environment." 2 Fairness. 3 And this is a big one. Fairness and 4 distribution of benefits and costs. Again quoting 5 Dr. Shaffer: 6 "There will be some benefits 7 within the region, especially the towns. Possibly great benefits to 8 Taseko shareholders. But there's 9 10 no evidence of benefits, of 11 economic benefits to British 12 Columbia or Canada. 13 There will be very great 14 costs, cultural, social, health 15 and economic, to local communities 16 and certainly to First Nations and 17 to local settlers. And by 'local' I mean within the local area of 18 19 the mine, Nemiah Valley." 20 So we can only conclude that the burden is 21 unfairly distributed. It's what you might call just 22 another example of public pain for private gain. 23 Present versus future generations. We've heard talk of "seven generations". 24 25 That this whole business started seven generations ago

1 with the European invasion. 2 I think we should be looking ahead seven 3 generations from now. 4 This is a very limited short-term regional and corporate set of benefits versus the loss of a 5 6 priceless resource: Water, fish, wildlife, 7 sustainable economic wilderness tourism industry. And possibly, and quite likely, irreparably damaged 8 9 relations with First Nations that will continue a 10 legacy of distrust and discord. 11 I submit that you have the opportunity to 12 begin to put a stop to this particular travesty right 13 now and to begin to put an end to a Federal piece of 14 legislation, Section 2 of the Mining Metals Effluent 15 Act, that endangers fish bearing waters throughout the 16 land, and those of us, especially First Nations, who 17 rely upon such waters and the land for sustenance, recreation, spiritual connection, and for life itself. 18 19 In fact, we believe that the way this Project 20 has been promoted, should it be approved, will set 21 back relations between First Nations and the rest of 22 the community by as much as 100 years. 23 Mr. Battison was interviewed last Tuesday on 24 CBC Radio and he characterized this as a conflict, if 25 you like, between First Nations and non-First Nations.

1 He's going to have to stop doing that. That is a 2 mischaracterization of what's going on here. Many, 3 many, many people across British Columbia and Canada are opposed to this mine. They e-mail us and write to 4 5 us and call us constantly. Many of them are in this 6 community. But they are everywhere. 7 I would say there is a ground swell of 8 outraged public opinion out there, and I think you 9 should hear that. As best I can, I want to convey 10 that to you. 11 We've received donations, as I say, from There's going 12 concerned citizens all across the land. 13 to have to be reconciliation following this process. 14 If the mine is approved, that will not be possible. Ι 15 don't see it happening for many, many, many years 16 should that happen. 17 There's an alternative, there are many alternatives. I don't want conflict to be one of 18 19 We've heard some of that talk. And it disturbs them. 20 It disturbs me more than I can say. me. 21 I would do anything in my power to ensure 22 that that did not come about. But should it, I think 23 responsibility will have to fall quite squarely upon, 24 of course the government, but also in some ways to 25 some extent by the way in which this mine has been

1 I found that a very, very unsettling promoted. 2 process. Very disturbing. It's essential that trust be regained between 3 4 First Nations People and non-First Nations People. 5 And there's only one way that's going to happen in the 6 present instance as far as I can see and that's that 7 this mine be turned down. I think that concludes my remarks for Friends 8 9 of Nemaiah Valley. I think I've said what I needed to 10 say. But I just have to emphasize that I'm very, very 11 concerned about the way this process has been managed 12 by the local media and by Taseko. 13 And I thank you, Panel, for hearing me out. 14 Thank you. 15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Williams, for 16 your overview of the position of the Friends of 17 Nemaiah Valley. And, as I said yesterday, we 18 appreciated the input that you have made to this 19 hearing process. Thank you again. 20 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much. 21 THE CHAIRMAN: We are probably catching up a 22 little bit on time. So I think I would like to 23 certainly hear from the Share the Cariboo-Chilcotin 24 Resources Society, Bill Carruthers, before we break 25 for lunch. Mr. Carruthers, please.

1 CLOSING REMARKS BY THE SHARE THE CARIBOO-CHILCOTIN 2 RESOURCES SOCIETY, BY BILL CARRUTHERS: 3 MR. CARRUTHERS: My name is Bill Carruthers 4 and I'm the Chairperson for Share the 5 Cariboo-Chilcotin Resources Society. 6 And I would like to open by thanking everyone 7 who participated in the review. It is a huge 8 demonstration in democracy. 9 I will not take too long. I've listened to a 10 lot of compelling reasons why this Project should not 11 proceed. Some are small issues and some are very 12 We heard that we squandered the forest large. 13 industry and that we will do the same for the mining. 14 The local people did not create bogus financial 15 instruments. We did not know that climate change 16 would allow the mountain pine beetle to prosper. This 17 was looked at as a sustainable industry. Now we have 18 670 million hectares of dead or dying timber. 19 The man from MiningWatch talked about OGMAs, Old Growth Management Areas, they are not much use to 20 21 you when the trees are dead in those areas. 22 We have heard about a reduction in deer and 23 moose due to the power line and the mine. More deer

> and moose are killed on our highways than will ever be at risk because of the opening up of the power line

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25

1 right-of-way or the mine site. 2 If you look on the website for the Ministry 3 of Transportation, 4783 deer were killed in this 4 province last year on the roads. That's nowhere near a number that will ever be impacted by what's 5 6 happening, what could happen out in the Chilcotin. 7 We heard concerns about speed on the Nemiah 8 access road. You cure this issue by putting cattle 9 guards in without running strips. Drivers will slow 10 down as he's apt with speed bumps. I'm just using 11 these as commonsense examples. 12 We are advocates of an environmentally 13 responsible Project. If it is engineered properly, has adequate environmental safeguards and determined 14 15 that the prospect of catastrophic failure is of a very low probability, then we believe that the Project 16 17 should be approved. 18 This is a huge economic engine, it has the 19 prospects of benefitting the whole Chilcotin. Ιf 20 revenue-sharing agreements are available, then they 21 could be leveraged to improve the conditions of the 22 First Nations People. I'm not a social scientist, so 23 this is personal opinion. There will have to be 24 leaders in their communities to take the initiative. 25 They can not and should not count on anybody else

1 doing this for them. 2 Yesterday, we heard a presentation on the 3 demographics of the population. And we have fewer young people and more older 4 The future mine workers in this area could be 5 people. 6 the First Nations People. 7 I came across an employment notice in The It was for a finance officer for an 8 Vancouver Sun. 9 organization that is being funded by the Canadian 10 Government to train 500 Aboriginal People in the 11 skills required to work on pipeline and pipeline 12 terminal projects. This is -- the office would be in 13 Prince George. Not very far from here. Two-and-a-half-hour drive. 14 15 It could certainly do, if they can do this 16 for this activity, they can certainly do it for the 17 mining industry. Somebody will have to lobby the government to 18 19 get this going if it is part of the future vision of 20 the First Nations People. 21 I can't look at this Project the same way 22 that the First Nations People look at it and never 23 will. We are different cultures. 24 David Williams of the Friends of Nemaiah and 25 I have dueled in the local paper over our different

1 points of view. He was writing in regards to the 2 impact of this Project on the Tsilhqot'in and its I countered with the issue of his hometown of 3 People. 4 Victoria dumping raw sewage into the Strait of Juan de 5 And no primary and secondary sewage treatment, Fuca. 6 only the tidal movement to get rid of this material. 7 And I don't have to elaborate on what that material 8 is. 9 Do the First Nations People know that the 10 salmon fishery is impacted by these practices? 11 The City of Williams Lake, a little small 12 town here, even has its own primary and secondary 13 treatment. 14 Our group was involved in the 15 Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan when it was created in 16 the early '90s. 17 We were also members of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition, which was created by 18 19 politicians. In the small communities there were 20 members of the First Nations involved, many of the 21 Chiefs, people from industry, environmental people, 22 our group was represented at it and we looked at and 23 explored alternate employment opportunities. And we 24 kept coming back. We looked for non-timber 25 opportunities.

1 Everything pointed to large resource 2 industries as our major employment opportunity. 3 The rest of the opportunities identified were 4 very small businesses with limited employment. 5 My summary statement is that we think this 6 Project is worthwhile to the community and will have a 7 positive economic and social impact. There is no free lunch. We must add value to land and resources to 8 9 create wealth. This wealth is redistributed in the 10 form of taxes in and transfer payments out. 11 Thank you. 12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Carruthers, 13 again, for your input in the Review Process, your 14 submission and your appearance before us previously as 15 well. Appreciate your views on the Project. 16 I think, actually, we have got right back on 17 time. You were very short but to the point in terms of your summary. And it's now 12 o'clock. 18 19 I would suggest breaking for about an hour 20 and 15 minutes so we'll start again at 1:15 with the 21 order of presenters that we have on our schedule this 22 afternoon. 23 Thank you. 24 (NOON BREAK) 25 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 12:00 P.M.)

1 (PROCEEDINGS RECONVENED AT 1:15 P.M.) 2 Good afternoon, Ladies and THE CHAIRMAN: 3 Gentlemen, I would like to reconvene the hearing, 4 please. Welcome back to the afternoon session of our 5 closing remarks. Just to go over the procedures. 6 As 7 I mentioned this morning, for those who weren't here, 8 closing remarks, this particular session today and 9 Monday are to provide an opportunity for individuals 10 and representatives of organizations that have 11 previously appeared before the Panel to briefly 12 summarize their position and to provide a rationale 13 for that position. 14 This is not a place where we receive new 15 information. At this point, in fact, the record has 16 closed as of the end of the day yesterday in that 17 respect. 18 Obviously if somebody wants to support a 19 document that, in fact, includes their closing 20 remarks, that's fine, obviously, but no new 21 submissions are being received. 22 We have set up an amount of time for certain 23 groups and organizations and for those who are 24 individuals who are not represented by any group or 25 organizations, we've allocated a period of time for

1 10 minutes for those groups. And, in fact, this 2 afternoon, as it turns out, we have five speakers who 3 have been allocated 10 minutes each. The two government departments, Federal 4 5 departments, National Resources Canada and Environment 6 Canada have chosen not to make closing remarks. 7 So the order we have this afternoon will be, 8 I'll just go through them all just so you're aware of 9 who's speaking this afternoon. 10 It's Barbara Hooper, Sage Birchwater, Herb 11 Nakada, Stuart Kohut, and Federico Osorio. These are 12 all people who have appeared before us earlier in the 13 proceedings and therefore have the opportunity, if 14 they so wish, to make closing remarks. 15 So with that introduction, I think you know 16 who we are, I will call on Barbara Hooper to make her 17 closing remarks. And, if I recall, you spoke to us in 100 Mile House, if I remember. 18 19 CLOSING REMARKS BY MS. BARBARA HOOPER: 20 MS. HOOPER: Yes, my name is Barbara Hooper. 21 Thank you for the opportunity to speak. 22 Madam Morin, Mr. Connelly, and Mr. Klassen. 23 I was a little nervous before I came up here 24 today and my husband said, "Well, just try not to be 25 too blonde." So actually, I just want you to know,

1	this is not blonde hair, this is white hair.
2	THE CHAIRMAN: Well, actually you might be
3	insulting me because at one point I was fairly blonde.
4	MS. HOOPER: Were you a blonde?
5	I am here, if I may be so presumptuous to
6	assume, to represent the children of the Chilcotin and
7	Cariboo. I've been a teacher for many years. I'm a
8	retired teacher at the moment. I have taught at Canim
9	Lake Reserve for a number of years. The children that
10	I taught are now parents. And when I meet with their
11	children and my ex-students in town, there's still a
12	very warm connection there because of the number of
13	years of proven respect and care.
14	And I feel that trust is very important when
15	we relate to children. It should be: Do what I do,
16	not just do what I say.
17	I feel that, as we've often heard, it takes a
18	community to raise a child. I've always loved that
19	saying. And this, of course, is very much the view of
20	the Tsilhqot'in People, that their community is partly
21	there to provide a surround, a loving and protective
22	surround for young people to grow up in to respect
23	themselves and their culture.
24	Self-esteem, as we all know, is extremely
25	important in the development of young children. I

1 have a friend, Dr. Bob Oberheide, who lives at the 2 108 Mile House, who is a retired psychologist. And he 3 wrote a book about self-esteem. And he asked me to express the concern that if the Prosperity Mine goes 4 5 through, it will be quite devastating to the self-esteem of many of the Tsilhqot'in People and, 6 7 perhaps even more so, the children. 8 I wonder about the message we are giving 9 First Nations children in this area when we do not 10 take into deep regard their culture, their land. What 11 are we saying to them? 12 So often, adults say one thing and do 13 another. Children these days are extremely well informed about the environment. It used to be in 14 15 university we would learn critical thinking skills. Then in high school. Now it's at elementary level. 16 17 Children in daycare and pre-school recycle and learn about pollution, learn about how valuable 18 19 our water is. 20 There is an elementary school principal in 21 100 Mile and she said to me that a major component of 22 the science curriculum is about environmental issues. 23 It's highly significant to elementary students. 24 The last time I spoke to you, I read from a 25 number of, I guess you could call them textbooks, that

1 children read at the elementary level. And the quotes 2 are so beautiful, if you don't mind, I would like to 3 read some of them again. The first one is from Fun with Nature. 4 "A pond or lake is a natural 5 6 gathering place. 7 Some animals live in the 8 water. 9 Others visit the pond or lake 10 to drink the water and eat the 11 pond plants and animals." 12 Another one, from Wonders of the Fields and 13 Ponds at Night. 14 "Here waterfowl come to 15 breed, muskrats move in and build 16 their homes, and mink and raccoon 17 visit to fish for trout, while at 18 night the deer come to drink and 19 the frogs make their own special music." 20 21 My understanding is that there, and please 22 correct me if I'm wrong, that there will not be a 23 fence around Fish Lake when it becomes a tailing pond. 24 I am wondering what will we do? Put up a sign to the 25 animals and say, "Do not drink this water"?

What about the birds that fly over?
It will take a while before the water becomes
so toxic that they will know not to drink from the
water.
A quote from <i>Looking at the Environment</i> by
David Suzuki:
"When habitats are destroyed,
most creatures who live there
can't just move to a new location,
instead they simply die out.
Turn on a tap and take a
drink of water. Did you know that
some of the water was once part of
the clouds from the sky? Some of
it was inside forest trees. Some
was deep underground. And some
was in rivers and streams. Water
recycles endlessly.
If a big industry pours a lot
of chemicals on the ground or
buries them, some of them will
sink into the water below.
Groundwater doesn't change much.
It sits where it is for thousands
of years. If we poison the water,

1 the poison is there for thousands 2 of years, too, and we have no way to clean it out." 3 4 Human beings are inflicted with arrogance. 5 We claim to have understanding that we rarely have. 6 We have forgotten the wonder of being part of 7 something much larger than yourselves. We think our needs should always take precedence over the needs of 8 9 the whole. 10 Mother Earth is very forgiving, but there is 11 a limit to the destruction we can inflict upon our 12 environment. 13 We are the only animals that soil our own Some of us in the nest won't put up with it 14 nest. 15 anymore. It's getting stinky. 16 The word "ecology" comes from Greek words 17 meaning the study of a household or home. Children of 18 today see our Earth as our home. They use words such 19 as "sustainability", a word that was not often used 20 even 10 years ago and now it is a part of our 21 elementary schools children's vocabulary. 22 We all know we should show our young people a 23 good example. 24 I ask you today to be that good example. 25 Choose not to destroy Fish Lake.

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1 Find a way to create sustainable industry. I know in 100 Mile we have done two 2 3 Feasibility Studies to look into sustainable industry, both in the beef industry and in the food service 4 industry and we are carrying forward with that. 5 6 So, just to close, I would ask you to ask any 7 child that you know, perhaps your son or daughter, 8 perhaps a grandchild: What would you do? Would you 9 destroy this lake? Show them pictures of the lake. 10 Tell them about the animals and the fish. Ask them, 11 what decision should I make? Should we destroy this 12 lake? 13 There might be jobs for mom and dad, but 14 those jobs, will they feed your soul? They may feed 15 your body, but will they feed your soul? Will they 16 feed your trust, your trust that human beings, that 17 adults, will make the right decision? Because we do 18 not inherit this Earth from our ancestors, we borrow 19 it from our children. 20 Thank you. 21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mrs. Hooper. 22 Thank you for presentation, your summary remarks, I 23 mean. 24 And the next person is Mr. Sage Birchwater, 25 please.

1 CLOSING REMARKS BY MR. SAGE BIRCHWATER: 2 MR. BIRCHWATER: Thank you, Panel Members. 3 I've had the opportunity and the privilege of speaking to the Panel three or four times during this hearing. 4 5 And I thank you for the opportunity. 6 My message has been consistent if not 7 somewhat repetitive. I've basically stated that this mining 8 9 development should not go ahead without the agreement and consent of the Aboriginal People who live there. 10 11 I'm also saying that there are alternatives 12 to destroying Fish Lake, Teztan Biny. 13 According to Taseko Mine's own Supplemental Study, 20 years of mining could safely occur without 14 15 encroaching on Fish Lake. In order for this to happen, Taseko Mines 16 17 would have to shift from its inflexible position of 18 needing to mine all the known reserves and maybe be 19 satisfied with taking only part of it. 20 What's wrong with that compromise? 21 Over the course of the hearings, I've heard 22 Brian Battison state several times that the Aboriginal 23 People opposing the current mining development are 24 inflexible in their position to preserve Fish Lake,

1 its plan to destroy the lake. 2 Reading Taseko's Supplemental Alternative 3 Mining Plan Report prepared for the Panel in August 2009, it is guite obvious why the plan to 4 5 destroy Teztan Biny is the only acceptable option for 6 the company. 7 This is the plan that would allow the company to maximize its profits by allowing it to extract all 8 9 of the known reserves that have been identified so 10 far. 11 The question then is: Should maximizing 12 profits be the only value to be considered here. 13 I guess if I were a shareholder of the 14 company, I would want the most bang for my buck. But, 15 at what cost? As a shareholder, would I want, "dirty 16 money", that is derived by stomping on the rights of 17 Indigenous People and threatening to destroy the 18 environment needlessly. 19 More and more shareholders are making moral 20 choices when investing their money. 21 When shareholders and companies can't be 22 counted on to make the correct moral choice, then it's 23 up to government to set the guidelines to protect 24 other valuable interests. That's what this hearing is 25 all about.

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1 I've also heard Brian Battison state publicly 2 that: "Some Aboriginal People oppose Taseko's mining 3 plan to destroy Teztan Biny." Specifically I heard 4 him state this at the hearing in 100 Mile House and twice on CBC Radio. 5 6 Minimalizing the Aboriginal opposition to the 7 current mining plan is not honest. 8 The legally and democratically elected leaders of the Tsilhqot'in and Secwepemc Nations have 9 10 unanimously and emphatically stated their position 11 that the plan that would destroy Fish Lake, Teztan 12 Biny, is not acceptable. 13 For instance, when George Bush invaded Iraq in 2003, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien stated 14 15 clearly that Canada did not support an unprovoked 16 invasion of that country. No doubt there are some 17 Canadians who agreed with Bush that the invasion 18 should occur, but the official Canadian position was 19 against the invasion and no troops or military support 20 for this war effort were provided. How would Brian 21 Battison and Taseko Mines have felt if George Bush 22 made the statement that, "Some Canadians oppose the 23 Iraq invasion", wouldn't they have interpreted such 24 remarks as an attack on Canadian sovereignty? 25 Williams Lake Mayor Kerry Cook said in her

1	presentation to the Panel that she was ashamed of the
2	historic treatment of First Nations in Canada.
3	Maybe now is the time to change the way we
4	conduct our business with First Nations so our
5	children and grandchildren no longer have to be
6	ashamed. We need to show respect.
7	Gauging by the feedback I've received, many
8	people of different persuasions share my perspective:
9	Pensioners, environmentalists, workers, business
10	owners, people who want jobs, people of many ethnic
11	and socio-economic backgrounds agree with me that the
12	Aboriginal People need to be onside with this
13	development before it goes ahead.
14	I've been around this country long enough to
15	have witnessed the demise of the Ooligan fishery in
16	Bella Coola. For 25 years I saw this fishery in its
17	abundance before a resource management decision by DFO
18	allowed the shrimp trawling of Queen Charlotte Sound
19	where 90 tonnes of Ooligan were the reported bi-catch.
20	The next year, the Ooligans failed to show up in the
21	Bella Coola River and the ancient practice of
22	rendering Ooligan grease by the Nuxalk People came to
23	an end. An important cultural tradition was lost
24	because of an errant resource management decision.
25	We don't want the same thing to occur here.

The Chilko sockeye run is one of the Fraser River system's strongest remaining sockeye runs for several reasons. One reason is the purity of the water in the Chilcotin River system. Another is the preponderance of glaciers feeding Chilko Lake and Taseko Rivers. Other famous sockeye runs, like the Horsefly and Adams River runs are suffering because of the water temperatures are too warm because the glaciers and snow packs are diminishing in their headwaters. So the Chilcotin River sockeye is becoming more and more significant for many people beyond this region and we need to manage these resources carefully.

13 Best Practices Resource Management means we 14 need to involve First Nations people in these big 15 decisions, not attempt to side step them or pay them out after the fact. We need their innate wisdom and 16 17 knowledge to minimize the risk of destroying the 18 greater good that we all cherish.

19 Despite huge unanswered political questions 20 around Aboriginal title to this land and ownership of 21 the resources associated with it, we need to move 22 forward on a Project of this magnitude together as a 23 whole community, not as fragments of special interests 24 seeking to exploit a resource. 25

Offering token appeasements like a financial

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1 share in the resource revenue after the fact just 2 doesn't cut it. You don't have to be a scientist to notice 3 4 that the world is changing in ways it has not done before and that humanity is pushing the natural 5 6 ecosystems beyond the tipping point. 7 This proposed Taseko Mines Project is a 8 classic example of how we are pushing the complexity 9 of a delicate ecosystem to the limit and threatening 10 its life-sustaining possibilities. 11 We are reaching into the furthest reaches of 12 Supernatural British Columbia with a chequebook in our 13 Putting economic considerations first is hand. 14 threatening the last vestiges of what we consider 15 sacred. At risk is some spectacular unbridled wilderness where people caught up in the confusion of 16 17 our human activity can get away and nurture their 18 souls. 19 At the hearing in 100 Mile House I asked 20 Taseko Mines if they would consider doing a joint 21 project mining venture with the Xeni Gwet'in and 22 Tsilhqot'in People. They responded by saying they 23 would love to work with the Native People, but the 24 concept of joint venture partnership seemed like a 25 foreign concept to the mine representatives. They

1 just don't seem to get the concept of working together 2 as co-developers and co-managers or else they just 3 don't want to get it. 4 At the topic-specific hearings in Williams Lake on April 26th, I asked Taseko which of the 5 6 alternative mining plans that the Tsilhqot'in People 7 favoured. Taseko representatives responded they 8 didn't know, but stated that the Tsilhqot'ins were 9 unanimous in their opposition to destroying Fish Lake, 10 Teztan Biny. 11 Taseko Mines is saying that unless they can 12 take all of the known copper and gold reserves that 13 have been identified next to Teztan Biny, then the 14 mine isn't economically feasible. With Taseko Mines, 15 it is all or nothing. 16 The Tsilhqot'in People have not said no to 17 mining, they have said no to destroying Fish Lake, 18 Teztan Biny. So who is the inflexible party here? 19 So my question to the Panel is, what's wrong 20 with taking just part of the mineral resource 21 identified at Teztan Biny? 22 The Panel Chair even asked Taseko why the 23 adamant position of the Aboriginal People to preserve 24 Teztan Biny wasn't a fatal flaw in choosing their Mine 25 Development Plan.

1 I think this inflexibility by the mining 2 company is the real fatal flaw in this proposal. 3 Yes, in corporate boardrooms maximizing profits is the holy mantra, but this Panel hearing 4 isn't a corporate boardroom. It is more than that. 5 6 There are social, human, and environmental considerations that must be factored in as well. 7 So in conclusion, I would like to thank the 8 9 Panel for considering what I've had to say and for 10 giving me the opportunity to speak. 11 Sechanalyagh. 12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Birchwater, 13 for your closing remarks. CLOSING REMARKS BY MR. HERB NAKADA: 14 15 MR. NAKADA: We falsely believe our 16 business as usual model allows us to flourish, to 17 prosper. Our false economy is false if it is leading us to the disintegration of our human civilization. 18 Civilization is at risk. Its fatal flaw is our 19 20 dysfunctional codependent relationship with a 21 non-sustainable economic growth model. 22 We heard well and clear the testimony of both 23 those who are desperate, betrayed and angered, with 24 and without this false promise. 25 Thank you for allowing my voice to be heard.

1 Thank you for this opportunity to recap my views. Т 2 am grateful for your time. Thank you again for the people of the rivers, 3 4 lakes and earth. Thank you again for you and this 5 Panel. 6 Thank you for your difficult and challenging 7 work to be the quardians of our being, gatekeepers of our environmental laws, intended to secure our common 8 9 existence. This was an amazing process. I'm glad to 10 11 have witnessed what I did here witness. То 12 participate was good. I did not like being cut off at 13 Alkali. I hope you don't mind me saying that. THE CHAIRMAN: I've heard a lot worse, so. 14 15 MR. NAKADA: It is a better answer to our 16 common problems in perfecting democracy. This Panel 17 hearing I think is one answer. Clearly, we need to be 18 heard fully with understanding. 19 My purpose here was to persuade you that 20 civilization is at high risk. This is relevant to all 21 of us. Life is worth all we can possibly do to 22 preserve our life and our environment wherever we 23 happen to be. 24 At Alkali, I said truly, now more than ever, 25 environmental protection is critical for our common

1 survival. 2 We are here at the end game. We have had 250 years of economic growth 3 4 models and business practices that have contributed to global warming, species depletion, environmental 5 6 degradation, and human degradation. 7 This is dysfunctional. 8 Our codependent reliance on growth models is 9 dysfunctional. 10 And we are now at the tipping point for human 11 civilization. 12 Robert Hanson said that, at 450 parts per 13 million of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere guarantees disaster for us. Polar icecaps, Greenland ice sheet, 14 15 all the mountain glaciers globally, will inevitably 16 melt at that level. 17 Alex Rogers said that corals and shellfish will start to die off at 450 parts per million. And 18 19 that at 650 parts per million, plankton will start to 20 die off impacting the entire, adversely impacting the 21 entire marine food chain. 22 And I asked at Alkali, can our salmon survive 23 this. And I asked if we could. 24 I said that we were on a projected path to 25 reach 900 parts per million of carbon dioxide by the

1 end of this century and unless we make drastic changes 2 now, it's going to be two times the disaster that 3 Robert Hanson was talking about. If that's possible. The more we delay, the greater the drastic 4 changes and the more difficult the corrections. 5 We 6 need to envision well this century and take urgent effective action now. Preserving this biosphere must 7 8 be our primary concern. 9 If the permit is given to Prosperity Mine, I 10 had -- maybe I said it too strongly, but I had 11 recommended that this Panel make it conditional that 12 an 80 percent decrease in their carbon dioxide 13 greenhouse emissions by 2020, I had suggested that, to help us, all of us try not to pass 400 parts per 14 15 million globally. We're at 387 now. 16 Prosperity must do its share to become carbon 17 neutral. This will be a challenge. It is easy to 18 excuse and ignore by describing Prosperity's 19 greenhouse emissions as miniscule. 20 I'm here to say that we have a narrow range 21 for our existence. In this human community, the 22 leaders in a position to make a significant difference 23 now need one common cause: To secure our common 24 living. We cannot be healthy unless our environment 25

1 is healthy. I believe it is still possible to do this 2 here sustainably. Consider carbon neutrality for this 3 Project for its duration if you grant its permit, if you recommend its permit. 4 Think and feel civilization at high risk. 5 6 There's a very high risk that human civilization can 7 fail very soon unless we commit ourselves to urgent 8 action to save our civilization. If we fail, who will 9 remain to maintain the mitigations which permit all of 10 the human environmental degradations now we're talking 11 about into perpetuity? 12 I said, what we do here now is just not about 13 Taseko Mines, Williams Lake, British Columbia or 14 I gave numbered examples of 7, 20 and 50 Canada. 15 generations. With 50 generations, I said, I believe 16 we can still sustain 300 billion people still to come 17 over the next thousand years if we do things right 18 now. 19 We can do that with common decency if we make 20 the necessary changes for our sustainability soon. 21 Think and feel for them. Imagine what kind 22 of environmental protections must be in place for them 23 and begin making it happen now. 24 Think and feel for civilization at high risk 25 and make it part of each of your decisions that you're

1 going to make in the next couple of months. I trust that three of the most conscious 2 3 (sic) and responsible human minds in Canada were 4 selected for this Panel Review with an unwavering 5 commitment for preserving our biosphere. Three human 6 minds and three human hearts who, understanding the 7 greater issue for humanity, that human beings, given 8 the proper conditions, can preserve our vital needs 9 commonly, can meet our environmental, enormous 10 environmental challenges, can preserve our common 11 biosphere with common decency. 12 Help provide us with the proper conditions. 13 Aim at allowing the miracle that is each of 14 us to share civilly with common decency the wonder of 15 our miraculous lives in this finite space in this 16 universe. 17 We need to distinguish clearly between healthy functional models and practices from the ones 18 19 that are truly dysfunctional. 20 We need urgent effective action to do this 21 now. 22 Many questions have been deferred and now 23 buried in the transcripts here, back there, and not 24 being answered could be a fatal flaw in this process. 25 We need healthy, fully functioning,

1 actualizing human beings who can see not only what we 2 humans are, but also who can imagine what humans can 3 become in 1,000 future years if we make it possible 4 for them. 5 My hope is that there are some here who can 6 hear this and take it into their hearts for our common 7 survival. We need firm, unfailing civil respect for 8 9 this natural order. We need uncompromised strict external 10 11 regulation that works for preserving this 12 life-sustaining environment. 13 And this Panel, with others, guarding a balanced life-sustaining environment truly is work we 14 15 cannot do without. 16 You can cut me off any time if I'm over. 17 THE CHATRMAN: You're pretty close, so 18 perhaps wrap it up. 19 MR. NAKADA: We are all at a gala ball and 20 the fire of runaway global warming has started. Exits 21 for a lot of us is death. There's nowhere to escape 22 on a finite planet. We need to put the fire out in 23 time to save all of us. 24 And I think we can still do this. 25 In summary, clearly and simply said, with

1 civilization at risk, critical for the meaning and 2 purpose of our lives, we need to address our common 3 threat of climate change. Far-reaching climate change 4 adversely impacts and threatens all that we find valuable in our lives. 5 6 We need our climate stabilized soon. I'm almost done. 7 8 If you recommend the permit for Prosperity 9 Mine, help stabilize our climate with the condition of 10 the regulated cut of 80 percent of Prosperity's carbon 11 dioxide emissions by 2020. 12 Why must Prosperity Mine be the first and 13 only mine? Is that fair? This can be applied 14 generally to all mining activities anywhere in Canada. 15 Our margin of error is very small given what 16 we are risking. This may keep us away from runaway 17 global warming. Delay change past 2012 may be too 18 late. 19 We need to attain genuine sustainable 20 economic development governed by principles of peace, 21 social justice, sustainability, and love for all. 22 That's not usually in our economic models, 23 love. 24 No longer to be trumped by selfish profits in 25 the marketplace.

1 We need low carbon prosperity. 2 We need to eradicate global poverty. 3 We need to achieve zero growth. That's difficult to discuss in places like this. 4 Five points to finish: 5 6 1. Prosperity Mine claims that it is 7 environmentally-friendly. Will this Panel verify this claim? 8 2. 9 3. Will this Panel standard be carbon 10 neutrality as one part of being an environmentally 11 friendly project for our sustainability beyond 2030? 12 4. Will you require carbon neutrality as one 13 condition for your recommendation for a permit? 14 5. Will this Panel be recommending 15 Prosperity Mine as one world leader in sustainability in its work to fulfil its claim to be 16 17 environmentally-friendly? 18 If you recommend against this mine, 19 destroying a vital lake, and putting a vital watershed 20 at risk, I have faith in Taseko Mine that it can 21 profitably find a way for Prosperity Mine to work 22 without destroying Teztan Biny, otherwise know as Fish 23 Lake. 24 This, I'm going to sneak this one in. This Panel might consider recommending the People of the 25

rivers, lakes and earth to have authority over their
sports fishing, licensing and sports hunting licensing
in their territory to help protect their subsistence
ways of living in their territory.
If that was inappropriate, you can delete
that.
Thank you for your work and good luck with
your decisions.
Thank you.
THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Nakada.
And our next speaker is Stuart Kohut, please.
CLOSING REMARKS BY MR. STUART KOHUT:
MR. KOHUT: I can begin?
THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, please proceed.
MR. S. KOHUT: I'm going to read today.
Hello everybody, Panel Members, Taseko
employees, First Nations friends, and all others
present.
My name's Stuart Kohut. I've submitted to
this Panel in writing and presented in person in Dog
Creek.
What I want to leave you with today has to do
with respect and acknowledgment of some things.
Acknowledgment, first of all, that we are a
community, a community of human beings on this earth,

1 and if we forget that, we would do well to remind 2 ourselves here in struggles like this, adversarial and 3 opposition to each other, just as an ecosystem, and 4 just as we are part of an ecosystem, everything is 5 connected and works together or does not work. 6 This includes the relationships we have with 7 one another. This is also part of our ecosystem. 8 Taseko Mines has the ability to hire 9 scientists of all kinds, but it seems to me that they 10 have forgotten that they are a part of the very 11 ecosystem that sustains them. 12 Taseko Mines Limited is not outside of, 13 above, or beyond our ecosystem within which we live. 14 As I see it, Taseko Mines is forever in a 15 legally protective mode with legal counsel watching 16 over with one goal: Money. 17 This is not communication, nor relating to 18 those around you. It's a legal game. 19 But this is the system within which we 20 operate. 21 Corporations do not have a legal 22 responsibility to relate well to the rest of the 23 world. Respect, again. 24 I myself can't imagine not being allowed to be an individual and to relate to others as 25

1 individuals and to relate to my environment, to just 2 feel the magic of Mother Earth and enjoy being a part 3 of her. 4 I wonder if the employees at the Taseko table 5 would be here of their own accord, unpaid, to stand up 6 for the interests of this corporation with no strings 7 attached the way that so many others bring themselves 8 here. 9 We should also acknowledge that as a 10 community of human beings, we are reaching a defining 11 moment in our very existence. 12 These hearings, as I see them, and as complex 13 and intellectually heavy a process as they are, are, 14 in fact, a representation of our world and all the 15 problems within it, as well as a representation of our gifts and strengths being played out right here in our 16 17 small corner of the Earth. The decisions made about this mine will 18 19 reverberate throughout the rest of the world. 20 Make no mistake, the way business is done on 21 this Earth will have to change. Developments like 22 this cannot be sustained into perpetuity by our Earth. 23 It's also really about supply and demand. 24 People will demand better and the supply will have to 25 improve. The very people that support it, the common

1 people who buy the resulting products from resources 2 like this are becoming increasingly aware of this 3 fact, slowly but surely. More than 60 percent of the gold produced in 4 the world belongs to the demand of jewelry. 5 This 6 figure is sourced from the World Gold Council website. 7 Are we to assume, then, that over 60 percent 8 of the gold that would come out of the ground beneath 9 Fish Lake will be for people to wear shiny things? Is 10 60 percent of all the time, money and energy put into 11 these hearings for us to wear jewelry? 12 Personally, it makes me think twice about 13 buying a gold engagement ring, but maybe that's just 14 me. 15 Everything that is produced in this world 16 trickles down to use by the common man. It is our 17 behaviour and our choices we make as consumers that 18 are a key force in the way things operate in this 19 world. 20 People are starting to learn about where the 21 things in their lives come from and making consumer 22 choices based on their values in relation to that. 23 Consciousness is changing, ever-evolving, and 24 eventually, if we are lucky to last long enough, this 25 change will reverberate from the bottom to the top.

1 Now, that is democracy. 2 You are not above the rest of the world, 3 Taseko. We need each other. This must be 4 acknowledged. 5 I'm not going to suggest a group hug or 6 anything. But we need you. We need you, Taseko Mine 7 employees. We need your gifts, knowledge, and abilities to help this world, not to help us get rich 8 9 and take us further from our connection to our own 10 ecosystem, but to contribute to the Garden of Eden, 11 helping it to last for all of us to be taken care of 12 by it. 13 We need you to help us find a better way to 14 make it. And that will take care of your future 15 generations, too, not the money that you will leave behind for them. 16 17 Money can't buy clean water if there's none left. 18 19 No modern mitigation measures can handle the 20 imbalance brought to light when Mother Nature shows 21 her force. Just as we have seen recently in only a 22 mere two incidents: With Iceland's volcano virtually 23 shutting down Europe last week; and now the sinking of 24 an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico threatening to 25 destroy the Louisiana coastline just this week.

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1 Perhaps it could be said that the most 2 fragile system on Earth is actually our man-made 3 economic system. It is fragile, we should know how 4 easily it can collapse. In hundreds of years, perhaps our current era 5 6 of economic domination will be thought of as very 7 foolish, like a giant social experiment accumulating material wealth in the extreme, hellbent on destroying 8 9 the very hand that fed it. 10 Pages and pages of technical scientific description and terminology aren't required for some 11 12 things to be understood. 13 I also want to leave the Panel with 14 acknowledgment of your task at hand in making a 15 recommendation dealing with these issues to the 16 governing body of this land. 17 This is not only about a lake. The issues with our world that I'm referring to are intrinsic 18 19 within every issue that has been presented here. 20 Within your Terms of Reference, however 21 precise or vague, and with whatever language used and 22 meant to be interpreted, you will see these things 23 speaking. 24 If you look, you will also see the great 25 spirit that lives in all things. The spirit that you

1 see in the eyes of your loved ones, and the eyes of everyone present in this room, in the food and water 2 3 that will nourish you this evening, and in the pain and struggle that is also part of life. 4 5 If you look, you will also see this spirit 6 that lives in all things, in the job you have ahead of 7 you, in all of the evidence and papers in front of 8 you. 9 You also carry this spirit within yourselves, 10 and who you are as individuals and in all the power 11 you have to do your job. 12 You, as the individuals who make up this 13 Panel, have a monumental task of somehow bringing it 14 all together within your Terms of Reference in a good 15 way. In the best interests of our environment, our 16 economy, our country, and ourselves, recognize the 17 imbalance and destructive nature of this proposed mine 18 and acknowledge that this issue is representative of a 19 greater problem in our world. Please use your 20 responsibility wisely in respect of this. 21 Acknowledgment, it could also be said, goes 22 hand-in-hand with truth and reconciliation, a 23 commitment made by our government to our First 24 Peoples. 25 Recognize that one essential step in bringing

1 the balance we need in this world is to respect First 2 Nations People and what they have to share with our 3 world. 4 Our government's commitment to truth and 5 reconciliation cannot coincide with this Project. 6 Lastly, I would suggest that everyone that 7 this development concerns would do themselves and 8 their work a service by taking time to yourself, maybe 9 out on the land somewhere quiet, where you can be at 10 peace and connect with the reality that you are a part 11 of everything and that everything that exists, and 12 that everything is a part of you. 13 Ask yourself for perspective. Meditate on 14 where to move from here. 15 I'll leave with this. And for the Panel 16 members carrying the weight of your task at hand, know 17 that you and the job ahead of you are acknowledged and 18 respected. 19 Thank you again for your time. 20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Kohut, for 21 your summary remarks. 22 And I guess the next person, I think I just 23 saw him leave the room, I'm sure he'll be back in a 24 moment, is Federico Osorio. I'll just wait for him to 25 return. Okay, just in time.

1 Mr. Osorio. CLOSING REMARKS BY MR. FEDERICO OSORIO: 2 3 MR. OSORIO: Again, I don't have a watch, 4 so if somebody could signal me when I'm getting to the 5 10 minutes, please. 6 So thanks to Taseko, to the Panel, to the 7 Panel Secretariat, and to the public in general. 8 It's been an honour to be part of such an 9 extraordinary example of democracy and practice and I 10 really want to thank the Panel and the powers that be 11 that allow for such a process to take place. 12 A political system of this calibre is rare in 13 this world. And it's something to be really proud of. 14 Whether in your recommendations you have an 15 opportunity to uphold the integrity of this process 16 and to keep a functional political system from 17 succumbing to economic forces that threaten our 18 democratic system and the common good. 19 Such a fine political system is unique in 20 this world. Just like in the Nabas area and the 21 history of the Tsilhqot'in People. 22 We have an opportunity here to right past 23 wrongs and to present the world an example of an 24 effective reconciliation in a new and just 25 relationship with Aboriginal People.

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1 What's at stake here is not only Canada's 2 reputation as stewards of the environment, approval of 3 this mine would undermine our credibility and social 4 justice. The only logical explanation I can come up 5 6 with as to why we're even talking about this Project is that it could --7 Maybe talking a little bit 8 THE CHAIRMAN: 9 too fast for our recording so just slow down, please. 10 MR. OSORIO: The only logical reason I 11 have as to why we've been talking about this EIS and 12 the Project is that it could provide a significant 13 economic stimulus to the provincial and the Canadian 14 economy. 15 And in most of the world, these are very 16 challenging economic times. But for us in Canada, it's not so much. We can look around and we have it 17 18 pretty good here. 19 Our financial institutions are solid. And 20 our standard of living for the most remains 21 unaffected. This is evident in our daily lives. 22 But this also might not always be the case. 23 There could be a time in the next 10, 20, 30, 100 24 years in which we really experience severe economic 25 conditions and we might then need an economic stimulus

1 of this, of these proportions. If we let Taseko take 2 our gold and our copper now, we won't be able to access it when we truly might need it. 3 4 I urge you to consider the cost of the loss of the potential future economic benefit of this 5 6 gold-copper deposit. 7 Right now, the deposit is proven, it's safe. 8 It's protected at no cost by the Tsilhqot'in on behalf 9 of all Canadians. 10 For as long as they are here, that deposit is 11 safe. 12 Are we so desperate right now? Are we so 13 hurting that we're willing to let Taseko take our 14 gold, our copper, our water, our environmental 15 reputation for so cheap? 16 We should wait. Let's just take it easy for 17 a bit and take your time. Gather some real credible 18 Come up with an Environmental Impact Statement data. 19 that adequately does justice to what's at stake here. 20 I urge you to go beyond the attitude of 21 keeping to standards and doing the bare minimum. This 22 Project is by no means a standard Project. It's huge. 23 It's unheard of. Doing the bare minimum is completely 24 unacceptable for a Project of this size. 25 I encourage you to give peace and

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1 reconciliation a chance. 2 We are proud of our Beautiful British 3 Columbia, of Supernatural British Columbia. This was 4 evidenced during the Olympics. All the images that 5 were shown were with regards to the natural beauty of 6 this land, not with regards to open pit mines. It's one of the most sought-after places to 7 8 live in the world. And the source of our pride is our 9 beauty, not our cruelty. 10 And, as it stands, this is cruelty. 11 In regards to our economic system, I would 12 like to draw the analogy with driving a car. Just 13 because you put 300,000 kilometres on your car, doesn't mean that it's going to run as good for the 14 15 next hundred thousand kilometres. So far the economic model based on infinite 16 17 growth, that's based on finite resources, has gone 18 through those first 300,000 kilometres. It's time to 19 get a new car. It's time to move on from this rape 20 and pillage system that Taseko's proposing to 21 resurface. 22 We all need water to live. Nobody needs gold 23 and copper to survive. That's simply how things are. 24 Gold and copper are luxuries. 25 And this next little bit, don't take my word

1	for it, if I had access to better sources, I would
2	have researched it more, but I believe in your powers
3	as a Federal Authority, you might be able to access
4	this information.
5	And what I'm talking about is the use of gold
6	and copper in the military industrial complexes.
7	It's my understanding that copper primarily
8	is a key part of jacketed bullets, for example, and a
9	lot of ammunition. Gold is highly sought after for
10	high conductivity and it's used in missiles and
11	whatnot. Anyway, like I said, you should probably
12	check that for yourselves.
13	But this find, if it goes to the Canadian
14	military, what if our gold and copper is going to go
15	to the U.S. military to kill innocent civilians in
16	Iraq. If it's going to be used to launch another
17	illegal war in Iran or North Korea. If it's going to
18	supply the Chinese military industrial complex, I
19	think there's a serious issue.
20	If somehow this Project got approved, I would
21	strongly urge that a strict chain of custody is
22	implemented to make sure that our gold and copper is
23	not being used for illegal purposes.
24	We need the Minister, the Prime Minister, and
25	the Privy Council, to hear our voices loud and clear.

1 This Project should not go ahead now. Not at 2 such a high cost. And never when it involves 3 foregoing our humanity. 4 We need a moratorium on any such development 5 until social and environmental atmospheres improve. 6 Canada's environmental reputation has 7 suffered tremendous blows; the Copenhagen summits and 8 past summits in which we've been shamed over and over 9 again. 10 Our reputation as stewards of the environment 11 is standing on the edge of a huge open pit. If you approve this Project, it will be a step forward. 12 13 And lastly, in the closing remarks in 14 Williams Lake, Taseko said that, and I paraphrase, 15 "Ultimately Tsilhgot'in approval is not legally 16 required." 17 And we'll see about that. 18 Thank you. 19 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Osorio, for 20 your closing remarks. 21 I'll just check, but I had removed from the 22 list of presenters Natural Resources Canada and 23 Environment Canada. I think I'd been informed that 24 they chose not to make closing remarks. 25 So that does complete our list of closing

1 remark presenters for the day. 2 And our next and final day of closing remarks will be Monday. And we'll be meeting at 9 o'clock. 3 4 We have to change our venue, though. This room was no 5 longer available and so we'll be meeting at 9 o'clock 6 Monday morning upstairs I believe in Big Mama's 7 Steakhouse. Not in the restaurant, I understand, but 8 maybe a fitting place to bring closure to these 9 hearings. I don't know, it remains to be seen. 10 So with that, I thank everybody for their 11 closing remarks today and wish you a good remaining 12 weekend and we will reconvene on Monday morning at 13 9 o'clock. 14 Thank you for coming. 15 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 2:15 P.M.) (CLOSING REMARKS PROCEEDINGS TO RECONVENE 16 17 ON MONDAY, MAY 3, 2010, AT 9:00 A.M., AT BIG 18 MAMA'S STEAKHOUSE, WILLIAMS LAKE) 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION I, Nancy Nielsen, RCR, RPR, CSR(A), Official Realtime Reporter in the Provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, Canada, do hereby certify: That the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand at the time and place herein set forth and thereafter transcribed, and the same is a true and correct and complete transcript of said proceedings to the best of my skill and ability. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 1st day of May, 2010. Nancy Nielsen, RCR, RPR, CSR(A) Official Realtime Reporter

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