

NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD'S HEARING REGARDING THE
REVIEW OF AGNICO EAGLE MINES LIMITED'S
WHALE TAIL PIT PROJECT PROPOSAL

FILE: 16MN056

HEARING HELD AT
BAKER LAKE, NUNAVUT
VOLUME 4
SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

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1 (PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 9:09 AM)

2 THE CHAIR COPLAND: Good morning. Today is our
3 last day for the community roundtable; and the
4 community members of Baker Lake, we'll hear from them.
5 If you have any questions or concerns, the floor is
6 going to be open to you. And people in the back, if
7 you have any questions or concerns or comments, you can
8 ask -- or voice them.

9 I'm going to ask Raymond Ningeocheak to give the
10 morning prayer.

11 (OPENING PRAYER)

12 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

13 It is a new day. This week's proceedings, this is
14 a Nunavut Impact Review Board Whale Tail Pit Project
15 Proposal final hearing. My name is Elizabeth Copland.
16 I'm the Chair for the Nunavut Impact Review Board.
17 Thank you again to Baker Lake for hosting us.

18 I remind you to please turn off your cell phones.

19 As I mentioned earlier, the people around the
20 table, just raise your hands if you have any questions;
21 and the people in the back that are here to listen, if
22 you have any questions, you have the opportunity as
23 well.

24 As well, before you speak, be brief and clear and
25 get close to the microphone so we can understand you
26 clearly.

1 Before the community roundtable, before we do,
2 there is one more Agnico Eagle Mine representative that
3 needs to be sworn in.

4 Legal counsel.

5 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
6 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
7 Review Board.

8 Madam Chair, I have actually two procedural
9 matters. One is that yesterday the Board was provided
10 with a statement by one of the community members here
11 in Baker Lake who has to leave and is not able to
12 attend the hearing. She had a number of questions in
13 the statement. So we will be filing the statement as
14 an exhibit, but we have provided it to all the parties
15 so that they can address the issues that were raised in
16 the statement. So I will be marking that as the next
17 exhibit in this final hearing.

18 EXHIBIT 49 - Margaret Kaluraq's handwritten
19 notes (English)

20 GUILLAUME BIGUE, Affirmed

21 MS. MEADOWS: Teresa Meadows, legal counsel
22 for the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

23 Thank you, Madam Chair. Those are my matters.

24 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

25 We're going to hear from Richard Aksawnee.

26 However, we were told last night there was a person who

1 passed away, an elder, Barnabus Angnasungak. And his
2 families will remember them -- or remember them in our
3 prayers.

4 Before we go to questions, Richard had some
5 comments before he had to leave.

6 Community Roundtable

7 MR. AKSAWNEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good
8 morning NIRB Board, staff, community reps, regulators,
9 Agnico.

10 I just want to say something short.

11 Over the past week, we've been discussing Inuit
12 Qaujimajatuqangit, traditional land use, as well as
13 modern technology. It's good that we have the best of
14 both worlds.

15 I represent the youth. I represent the elders. I
16 represent the community and the region. I am asking
17 that the experts all around the table in attendance to
18 please recognize our Grade 11 social study students who
19 are in the back who may want to pursue a career in
20 becoming a superintendent, a geologist. Give them a
21 goal to reach. Interact with our kids. They are our
22 future. You guys are the experts. If they have
23 questions, answer them for them. Please, I am asking
24 for you to answer these questions. Even just talk to
25 them. They don't need to ask you a question. Please
26 talk to our kids. They may want to be legal counsels.

1 They may want to be managers, geologists. So I am
2 asking all these experts in this room to please
3 interact with our youth.

4 Also, our elders in attendance -- and we just
5 heard very sad news about an elder passing. Those are
6 the people that we are representing as well, to respect
7 their ways of life, their traditional way of life. So
8 please consider that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is very
9 important to us Inuit. So I am kindly asking everybody
10 to please respect us and to interact with our youth.

11 It's just a message I want to send out before this
12 hearing is over, as we have all this knowledge sitting
13 in this room and we have some students here who may
14 want to pursue a career in what your profession is.

15 This is just something I want to say this morning.

16 Thank you, Madam Chair.

17 THE CHAIR: Thank you. And welcome to the
18 students.

19 Before the day is out, the people from the
20 communities will have one final opportunity to speak;
21 but you'll be able to ask and comment during the day.
22 Raise your hand, and we'll write your name down if you
23 have any questions for the Agnico Eagle or people
24 behind them -- KIA, government, or other -- any of the
25 intervenors. Just ask questions of them.

26 Okay. Wynona Gibbons.

1 WYNONA GIBBONS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

2 Wynona from Arviat. I'm representing the youth. I
3 want to ask a question.

4 When Cumberland was there, in the beginning, the
5 caribou was -- there was a lot of caribou. You see it
6 on the map. There's a lot of land area mass, and here
7 there's a lot of wildlife in that area. And it's very
8 good to see because the very dark -- these are our
9 caribou. My grandparents, myself, it's our food. It's
10 our staple.

11 Since Cumberland started, a person asked about
12 fish; and you answered, if you take 100, 20 are gone.
13 What about caribou? Since Cumberland started, up to
14 today, did you see whether anyone ever hit a caribou?
15 I know it's obvious. It's happened before. I want to
16 know: Are the caribou being affected the same way as
17 the fish are? It's obvious that the caribou are --
18 there's a lot of caribou. I want to know with respect
19 to caribou, whether it's hurt or injured or anything,
20 have you ever seen any of our caribou that is injured
21 or not healthy since the Cumberland started? Is there
22 any present case or any records of caribou loss?
23 That's one thing I want to find out.

24 MR. VANENGEN: Ryan Vanengen for Agnico
25 Eagle.

26 Thanks very much for the question. We presented

1 yesterday a number of ways at which we ensure the
2 protection of caribou. We do our best. But there are
3 times and there has been times where we have had
4 vehicle collisions with caribou, and that's certainly
5 unfortunate. It doesn't happen very often, but it has
6 happened.

7 That being said, we really learned from our
8 lessons of the past. We had some collisions with
9 caribou -- in particular, one incident in 2011, I
10 believe, or 2012. And since then, we have had zero
11 collisions with caribou, which is really -- shows our
12 commitment to protecting caribou. You know, we will
13 continue to do our best and because based on the
14 information that we have and the number -- the -- at a
15 population level very -- the caribou don't interact
16 with our site very much. As you can see with the
17 figures that we showed yesterday, only 1 percent of
18 their time is spent -- based on the collaring data,
19 only 1 percent of their time is spent within our
20 project area. We believe that we can continue to
21 protect the caribou that interact with our site and
22 avoid any future collisions.

23 Mat'na.

24 WYNONA GIBBONS: Thank you for answering my
25 question.

26 I want to say the area that you want to work on is

1 going to close in 2045. That's still a lot of years in
2 the future. When the future started, hunters and
3 trappers and HTO in Baker Lake, they were -- 20,000 or
4 40,000 caribou are gone. I just tried to do some math
5 using that. Over 45 or 30 years that you're going to
6 mine for gold, in 35 years -- I know the caribou. They
7 don't know where they're going or where they are now.
8 40,000 caribou, they're gone. Looking at that number
9 and the years coming, maybe 120,000 caribou will be
10 gone in 2033.

11 Our wildlife and our land has to be considered for
12 our future and training for our youth. It is something
13 that they are educated in. We're losing our wildlife.
14 We got Nunavut in 1999. I agreed to it as well, to
15 have the creation of Nunavut, so my children will
16 benefit.

17 I am asking the mining company again what we see
18 now, as you said with the amber alert, right now, the
19 workers at Agnico, are they utilizing this system?
20 When the caribou is getting close, you notice them.
21 Are they using it right now at the mining company? Or
22 is it just in Whale Tail? Or is it going to be in
23 Meadowbank as well?

24 MR. VANENGEN: Ryan Vanengen at Agnico Eagle.

25 Right now we have a protocol that's very similar
26 to this. But when we start the Whale Tail Pit

1 operations, we will apply this protocol along our
2 all-weather road; around our mine site activities, so
3 where Meadowbank mill is; along the Whale Tail Pit haul
4 road; and around the Whale Tail Pit site as well. So
5 we'll apply it throughout our operations at Meadowbank
6 and at the Meadowbank mill as well as Whale Tail Pit.

7 WYNONA GIBBONS: Thank you.

8 My next question: When Agnico Eagle started, I
9 was from Baker Lake then too and I signed and I agreed.
10 As you said, the people from the community will get
11 royalties, each household. Today I hear that nobody
12 knows. Where's the royalties that we were going to
13 get? And yesterday I asked the question that if --
14 whether people are still asking where those royalties
15 are. Yes. Was it true? Is it not true? How is it
16 running?

17 You have to apologize to the community of
18 Baker Lake if this is not true. We're not the -- I'm
19 not the only one waiting for those royalties. I signed
20 my name too when Agnico Eagle wanted to start their
21 business around Meadowbank, and we were told that
22 households would get royalties.

23 I apologize. I have no more comments.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. VANENGEN: Ryan Vanengen from Agnico
26 Eagle.

1 Certainly you heard in our presentation that we
2 have a big commitment that we've made to the Kivalliq
3 Inuit Association through the Inuit Impact Benefit
4 Agreement that we signed, and we request that the KIA
5 speak to that question and respond to that question.

6 Okay, Madam Chair? We're asking them to respond
7 to the question of how the money will go to the
8 Baker Lake -- the community of Baker Lake.

9 THE CHAIR: Wynona. As you said, Wynona,
10 you signed your name and you were told that the
11 households would get royalties. When were you told
12 that? Who told you that? Was it Agnico Eagle or KIA?

13 WYNONA GIBBONS: It was from the mining
14 company.

15 THE CHAIR: Apparently by Agnico Eagle
16 they were told.

17 MR. VANENGEN: Ryan Vanengen from Agnico
18 Eagle.

19 Our understanding is that this was -- this
20 agreement would have been made before Agnico Eagle was
21 involved in the Meadowbank project. So that was when
22 Cumberland would have owned the property and signed the
23 original Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement. So given that
24 history and that we weren't part of those
25 conversations, we feel as though the Kivalliq Inuit
26 Association should be responding to this question.

1 Thank you.

2 THE CHAIR: Kivalliq Inuit Association.

3 MR. MANZO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank
4 you for the question. My name is Luis Manzo, director
5 of lands, Kivalliq Inuit Association.

6 I don't have records of royalties being delivered
7 in the -- for households.

8 Now, I can explain and clarify. Everything
9 raised -- this question is good because everything
10 raised for a number of -- one of the slides put by the
11 proponent, which is \$400 million in royalties. It's
12 great if KIA will receive that money. Unfortunately,
13 it's very uncertain, the number. That's based on the
14 market with price of the gold at the time; and other
15 commodities will affect the royalties, like the fuel,
16 per se, just to give you an example. The oil materials
17 may go up, will change the number. So KIA would not
18 agree with that number. We're going to make -- they're
19 going to make the payments based on specific factors on
20 the day that they have to make the payment. If we will
21 receive those \$400 million, great. But we would like
22 the proponent to explain how the breakdown of that
23 \$400 million is before I continue to answer the
24 question.

25 Now, for KIA component on how we will do this is
26 going to be based on consultation. The first round of

1 consultation on how that money will be directed to the
2 communities happened this fall. The second set of
3 consultation, the Board is thinking to do it in
4 January, from January to February. They will go around
5 the same communities again and request feedback on how
6 the communities want this money to be invested or
7 expended. And then the third round of questions will
8 be in the fall of 2018. And then a report will come
9 out on how those royalties will be expended.

10 Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 WYNONA GIBBONS: Thank you. I have no more
12 questions.

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you, translators, for
14 translating that.

15 Philippa Aggark.

16 PHILIPPA AGGARK: Philippa Aggark. I am
17 representing our community of Chesterfield Inlet.
18 Thank you.

19 The question that I have is in regards to the
20 closure of Meadowbank. The workers that are working
21 there on the -- and doing on-the-job training, what
22 will become of them? Will they cease to work there?
23 Because they -- as I realize that they're being
24 trained. I am not here to -- not here to judge. I'm
25 just here to get a clarification about employees who
26 are on-the-job training -- or training on the job.

1 Will their time of employment cease, or will they be --
2 continue to take training?

3 I'm very thankful that they are given this
4 opportunity to train. I didn't want to come here and
5 just judge and just to be against whatever Agnico is
6 doing. I want to see -- what I want to see is my
7 children be employed there. I want to see our young
8 people trained. This is a very good opportunity for
9 young people to take training. There are people from
10 our community who are employed at the mine site. And
11 I'm very, very thankful for that, and I'm very thankful
12 for the training that they are receiving. My son is
13 working up there, and he's very happy to work for the
14 company.

15 So what will become of the people that are in the
16 midst of training on the job?

17 MR. BIGUE: Guillaume Bigue, Agnico Eagle.

18 We are currently planning to transfer -- our focus
19 right now is to transfer all the employees to Whale
20 Tail Project. For all the employees at Meadowbank
21 right now, they will be transferred at Whale Tail.

22 In the occurrence where the Nunavut Impact Review
23 Board will not approve the current process, our first
24 objective would be to remain and secure full-time jobs.
25 And, of course, Meadowbank employees would have the
26 priority over some opportunities over at Meliadine

1 when, of course, the -- all the minimum requirements
2 would be met for the employment.

3 For the training programs, we expect to have the
4 same training programs at Whale Tail that we do have
5 right now at Meadowbank. And thank you very much for
6 your comment on that. Many employees enjoy these
7 training programs. And we're planning to have the same
8 kind of training programs for Whale Tail Project.

9 Thank you.

10 THE CHAIR: Elie Kimmaliardjuk.

11 ELIE KIMMALIARDJUK: I am very thankful for the
12 community of Baker Lake and the people of Baker Lake
13 who have been very welcoming to all of us here in
14 attendance.

15 It's very good to see that there's a varied -- a
16 variety of questions being asked, questions that are
17 very interesting to hear. When there was -- I was very
18 pleased with some of the comments that were made and
19 questions that were asked yesterday, about 100 miles
20 from Baker Lake that there are people working at
21 Meadowbank and they will -- that they will be able --
22 and there's apprentices that have trained and have
23 successfully attained their certification and can
24 work -- and will be able to work anywhere in Canada. I
25 am very proud of that. I'm very proud of the young
26 people that were able to attain their certification.

1 I am from Chesterfield. I'm Elie Kimmaliardjuk.
2 The youth of Chesterfield Inlet -- thank you -- there
3 are applications available in our community that they
4 can fill out, but sometimes perhaps they don't get
5 approved to work there. Perhaps it's because their
6 level of education. So I don't know why there's
7 applications in our -- in our community. I think
8 more -- I think the more education a person has, like,
9 that has a Grade 12 education, has more of a chance to
10 work for Agnico; but for those that don't have the same
11 level of education and fill out an application, it's
12 very -- it becomes kind of a burden to almost fill out
13 an application sheet because they feel that they don't
14 have a chance to be able to work for your company.
15 Some youth want to apply, but they become unwilling to
16 fill out the applications.

17 But, again, I want to say the -- you -- the young
18 men and -- or the young people that were able to attain
19 their apprenticeship, I'm very proud of them. There's
20 one person that I know that has a mechanics
21 certification and is from our community. On more than
22 one occasion, the people that work at Meadowbank have
23 told us that they are very thankful to be working with
24 other youth from Baker Lake and are very happy to work
25 for your company.

26 Thank you.

1 MR. VANENGEN: Mat'na for your comments.

2 THE INTERPRETER: He did have a question?

3 THE CHAIR: He had a question about
4 applications.

5 THE INTERPRETER: Yeah, when the kids want to
6 apply for a job and if they have less than Grade 12
7 education, they feel they are not going to get
8 accepted; so they don't apply. Do you hire people with
9 less than Grade 12 education or higher?

10 MR. BIGUE: Guillaume Bigue, Agnico Eagle.

11 Just to clarify, Grade 12 is not a minimum
12 requirement for working at the mine.

13 Mat'na.

14 THE CHAIR: Paul Pudlat.

15 PAUL PUDLAT: Paul Pudlat. I am
16 representing our community of Coral Harbour. I'd like
17 to thank the NIRB for allowing me to attend and
18 represent my community, and I'm happy to see that there
19 are experts in this room. I'm very grateful.

20 I think for the past two days, there was a
21 presentation on wildlife, but I thought maybe we were
22 going to go back to that topic.

23 I apologize. The things that I'm going to talk
24 about is something I would like to see. A lot of
25 people that know -- I tried to bring it to the people
26 that were coming to my community. I know, KIA, we

1 wanted them to know. However, they missed what our
2 meeting was. Because of that, Agnico Eagle and -- with
3 respect to Coral Harbour, they don't seem to hear what
4 our complaints and our comments are and our concerns.

5 We do have wildlife that we hold very dear -- our
6 seals, our bearded seals, our harp seals, and whales
7 and walruses. In our community, there's a lot of
8 people that are hunting; they're trying to catch a
9 bowhead whale. We do feel the ships that are
10 delivering goods from Quebec to -- through Coats Island
11 and between Walrus Island -- this issue is something
12 that we are not very happy with. Our wildlife are just
13 being scared away from that area where they normally
14 are. We would really like to see, us people from Coral
15 Harbour, the ships to go around Coats Island and not
16 between Coats and Walrus so that the sea mammals aren't
17 being affected to -- so that the whales go towards
18 Coral and not the other way. We do not want the ships
19 to go between Walrus Island and Coats Island. We
20 notice that half of our sea mammals are being chased
21 away to the other -- the other way; so we have to go
22 further.

23 It's not just for us. It's for our children and
24 for our grandchildren. It's what we would like to see,
25 our future, to ensure that they're not affected.

26 We've seen the problems when they travel that way.

1 Just for an example, two ships had caught two walruses
2 at Coats Island. That's where we go hunting walrus.
3 It's closer than Coats Island. When we got there,
4 where the walrus are at Coats Island, there was a ship
5 there. And they had Zodiacs; there was a few of them.
6 They were travelling close to the walrus, in between
7 the walrus even. We didn't know that ship was -- where
8 it came from. They thought that it was a Russian ship,
9 and I'm sure that they were tourists. And other
10 tourists that go in the area, they want to go see the
11 walrus on Coats Island.

12 We don't think that this is -- people are aware,
13 but we feel it in our community that the people that
14 are -- the tourists going to go see the island are just
15 chasing away our wildlife. It is something that is
16 very burdensome for us. We would like to see a better
17 outcome. We want to be considered with our concerns.

18 And, again, in Coats Island -- I mean, yeah,
19 Coats Island, the murre are up in the cliffs and
20 there's a lot of them. If they all fly at the same
21 time, it would seem like the cliff would be falling,
22 because that's how many. It seems like the land is
23 moving because of the abundance of the murre. We need
24 to ensure that these things are conserved and ensure
25 that they are not being chased away.

26 I want to say one more. At Coats Island still,

1 our wildlife that I mentioned earlier -- seals, bearded
2 seals, and all of the sea mammals -- they have
3 everything there. Half of them, they've moved south;
4 they've been chased south. It's not good for our
5 community. And we've seen this -- it is our waters in
6 Nunavut. There's hardly any more seals. It seems like
7 it's like a lake now because we know that lakes don't
8 have seals. It's like that now.

9 The ships, the operators of the ships, I want them
10 to hear because it is causing a problem for us. We are
11 concerned. Us people from Coral Harbour, it is
12 something we are very concerned about.

13 While we are here, I would like to say thank you
14 for giving the opportunity. Thank you for the people
15 of Baker Lake. They were told about their wildlife and
16 how they would be handled and managed. And you, the
17 people from Baker Lake, you can speak the -- of the
18 problems that you are facing. In our communities, it
19 is something we are very worried about, why we want you
20 to hear. This is very important.

21 And my final comment: We have considered to have
22 radios at Walrus Island and Coats Island in between and
23 on Coats Island to find out whose ships they are, if we
24 could find out who is creating the disturbance between
25 those two islands. Something that we would like to see
26 dealt with because it is very important to us, even if

1 we get royalties or compensation for our wildlife that
2 are being lost because of the ships travelling through
3 there. We feel it.

4 My comments, I know it's just some of the concerns
5 from Coral Harbour that we have problems with. Thank
6 you for -- I know the experts that are here and us
7 people from Coral, we would like you to feel our
8 comments and concerns. Thank you for giving me the
9 opportunity, because we feel it very strongly. Thank
10 you very much. I was a little bit disappointed that
11 you didn't talk about this more yesterday.

12 THE CHAIR: He has a question on the
13 shipping route, if the shipping route can be changed
14 around Coats Island.

15 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
16 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.

17 I appreciate your comments and passion about this
18 topic. However, just regarding the shipping routes,
19 this concern was addressed to us -- I think it was
20 early, mid-2016. We sent representatives to Coral
21 Harbour with the shipping -- with the shipping company
22 that we use for our activities in Nunavut. We came to
23 an agreement in September 2016 that the shipping
24 company -- the primary shipping lane would be south of
25 Coats Island. We've submitted that in the technical
26 hearing as an exhibit. We can find that document and

1 share that document with everybody.

2 The captain has the overall responsibility based
3 on risks at that time. If he feels there's a risk
4 based on weather or whatever it may be at that time,
5 he'll make that decision.

6 But the primary travel way for our ships, for our
7 materials is the southern portion -- the southern route
8 of Coats Island. So we can dig out that letter and
9 share it with everybody once again. And this is all
10 approved based on Transport Canada and the Coast Guard.

11 So hopefully that addresses your comments and
12 concern.

13 Thank you.

14 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

15 And we have Transport Canada at the table. You
16 have a response?

17 MR. SADOWAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. And
18 very well said by Agnico Eagle in terms of the shipping
19 lanes.

20 I work for Transport Canada, marine safety in
21 particular, and I would just like to say that I really
22 appreciate Agnico Eagle's commitment to try and use the
23 southern routes to help provide an alternate measure
24 for your wildlife and your way of life.

25 I just need to reiterate one or two small things,
26 is that both the Canadian Coast Guard and Transport

1 Canada, marine safety, we have some measures to direct
2 ships on both of our parts that are mainly related to
3 the prevention of pollution, which will also help
4 ensure the continuation of the wildlife of which we're
5 speaking of. We have a couple of problems in this, in
6 the Arctic, and that has to do with the lack of survey.
7 So there's not enough information about the dangers in
8 the water, where the rocks are, the depths of the
9 water, and such things.

10 And with that, there are marine corridors. So if
11 you were to look at a nautical chart of that area, you
12 would see the corridors that go in and through the
13 area. And with respect to Agnico Eagle and the vessel
14 companies and, in particular, the captain, who has the
15 ultimate decision for the safety of his vessel, they
16 are directed to use those corridors where things and
17 these surveys and the information is well known and
18 safe.

19 However, the ultimate decision for the safety of
20 that vessel and the crew working on it is with the
21 captain. So if there is a reason -- be that weather,
22 be that more wildlife in the area -- they will divert
23 on the master's decision.

24 Thank you.

25 THE CHAIR: Thank you for that
26 information.

1 Rita Oosuaq. Is she here? Maybe she's not here.

2 Peter Tapatai.

3 PETER TAPATAI: It tells you how to turn this
4 on.

5 Thank you. I am Peter Tapatai. I am a business
6 owner in our community of Baker Lake. I am going to
7 talk to the business sector.

8 We are in favour of seeing an approval to have the
9 Whale Tail Pit Project to see a green light.

10 As we all know, the community of Baker Lake, a lot
11 of us would be on the welfare line. It's very
12 difficult. When you're in that type of situation, we
13 don't have a voice.

14 We were told there are 160 people working there
15 who are Inuit. I don't think the government has even
16 seen a change. At the moment, we are at the height of
17 our lives because of the jobs that are here and
18 available to us. Our people -- had the mine not been
19 here, the people here would have had nothing, had no
20 jobs. I would like to see that the company be given
21 approval to open the Whale Tail Pit Project.

22 It's even good to see that just by one company
23 alone being here has helped our community a great deal.
24 It's very good to see for those of us that have our own
25 businesses. We have been given contracts. It's very
26 good for us. We'd like to see that continue.

1 If you see people out there, we, as members of our
2 communities, we have seen a lot of Inuit working. And
3 as a company, we are adhering to hiring Inuit first.
4 We have to take -- ensure that Inuit are hired first
5 and given first dibs at -- on jobs.

6 I have phoned this morning. I made a phone call
7 this morning to -- I was talking to a woman, and she
8 spoke about her husband. Her husband had said that "I
9 see people working. I see people that are thinking
10 that they are experts. I don't know what they're
11 experts at. But as a result of that, we have gained
12 wisdom through them. We are standing side by side.
13 Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit has always been here, but we
14 have never really been able to voice our hopes and
15 dreams and the things that we have always carried
16 within us.

17 When IQ is being spoken about, the consultants,
18 the so-called consultants, are making a great deal of
19 money just by collecting this information for -- from
20 us. That hurts. The elders that had helped in
21 collecting this valuable data have not seen one penny.
22 I think we should be able to be paid more than that.
23 We need to see the elders be given an income because
24 they are giving us -- it's our God-given right to give
25 this type of -- to hold this information and then give
26 it. Barnabus had said there are people in this room,

1 like Barnabus, that are the experts.

2 I will now say it in English.

3 Many years ago, an elder came to me and he said,
4 Peter, please do not share this until I pass away. I
5 guess he was afraid that something would be used
6 against him. Barnabus Piryouaq was a very intelligent
7 man; and when he spoke these words, I was quite amazed
8 because he's a unilingual, and he said "biologists",
9 and those are the caribou experts. We all know who the
10 biologists are. He told me a long time ago -- I guess
11 around in the '40s, '50s, and '60s, he said to me, Our
12 traditional values are about the caribou crossings.
13 The people from Baker Lake understand caribou crossings
14 very well because they are sacred, they are what brings
15 caribou from there up to here so that they could end up
16 on the floor of somebody's igloo so that they could
17 eat, so they could survive.

18 Barnabus Piryouaq said to me, Against all things
19 that we always believe in, the biologists came in with
20 their canoes, and they went and ear-tagged caribous at
21 the crossings. The crossings to us are very valuable.
22 We are not allowed to put any kind of garbage or
23 anything. But these so-called (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN),
24 the biologists, went and broke all our laws by going
25 into the caribou crossings and tampered with the
26 caribou. And he said after that, he saw changes in the

1 migration. They started to migrate through different
2 areas because they knew that they were going to be
3 tampered with again. But though they were still
4 followed and though the -- I'm not sure how to tell
5 you, Madam Chair and Board members, but we must
6 remember we are the last of the remaining Inuit people
7 that depend on caribou.

8 I hear really great things, and I am -- I support
9 the concepts of modern technology. Inuit complain
10 about helicopters and all that, but those little domes
11 or, you know, those little drones or whatever they
12 are -- drones? -- I think they're great stuff. We need
13 those things to study caribou because they do not
14 interfere with human contacts or helicopters or
15 anything. We need to learn to be innovative. We
16 should be opening our eyes to these kinds of
17 technologies to improve so that more studies can be
18 done for our caribou. Let's watch what is going on.
19 Compared to those big, ugly collars that caribous carry
20 around, I think these drones and cameras are really
21 great technology. And as Inuit, we got to learn to
22 also adapt and use these things so that the caribou
23 that everybody want to study is studied in a safe
24 manner.

25 I just wanted to comment. The future of what
26 you're going to be deciding in the next week or so, our

1 community is going to be affected by what decision
2 you're going to make. It's about our young people.
3 That's what we all have worked so hard for. I know we
4 have an awful lot of consultants doing a lot of work,
5 but I sure hope those Grade 11 students that sit back
6 there sees that there are possibilities. They need to
7 learn to read and write and do their math. Those are
8 the keys to success. If you can read and understand
9 what you're reading, your mind will foster. I wish you
10 all the best, and I hope there will be a good decision
11 and a "yes" will be done for the Amaruq project,
12 because we need the resources that is so much demanded
13 for. But we have young Inuit that are now taking part
14 in what they do.

15 But, more important, I have to take my hat off to
16 all the single mothers that always show up to work,
17 that are feeding their children and are clothing them
18 and are probably most likely pushing their kids to go
19 to school because there's no one else to look after
20 them. Those single mothers are the ones that I have so
21 much respect for because they get up every day and they
22 make sure that their children are looked after. They
23 have been impacted too. But, remember, when you're
24 going to make that decision, it was most likely a
25 single mother that went to work and those are the ones
26 that we should be looking at that will be impacted.

1 Thank you very much for giving me a chance to
2 talk. I don't expect to be -- do I have any questions
3 or anything? But good luck. Thank you very much.

4 THE CHAIR: Paula Hughson.

5 PAULA KIGJUGALIK HUGHSON:Mat'na, Madam Chair, Agnico,
6 community reps, NTI, KIA, Government of Nunavut, and
7 all the intervenors. My name is Paula Kigjugalik
8 Hughson. Thank you for coming to Baker Lake.

9 My comments or concerns are about caribou too.
10 I'd like to know where the Government of Nunavut
11 caribou biologist was for the region, Kivalliq Region.
12 I'm not sure if he was here or not. From what I
13 understand, he did a lot of work on caribou and Inuit
14 Qaujimagatuqangit. I'd like to know where the Kivalliq
15 Wildlife Board was/are.

16 The study area for the Agnico Eagle Mine project
17 seemed to only be concentrating on Amaruq. We have to
18 include the mines, the Amaruq site, Meadowbank,
19 Baker Lake, the whole region -- 'cause, when you talk
20 about tuktu, they don't just stay in one spot.

21 The caribou data. Agnico was talking about the
22 caribou data. This is collared data. This is maybe --
23 what's your sample size of your collared data? You've
24 got a whole herd of 'X' amount, of thousands; and then
25 you're extrapolating into -- from one or two. There's
26 different herds.

1 There used to be caribou around Baker. At the
2 runway, I remember when we used to -- when I would fly
3 in, there would be caribou on the runway and we'd
4 have -- they'd have to shoo them away. There used to
5 be caribou around town. We don't see that anymore.
6 That's just within my lifetime of being in and out of
7 the community. I've been here now for four-and-a-half
8 years, five years. Before that, I was living in other
9 communities in the region.

10 Also talking about regional things, when you talk
11 about the project, we also have to talk about the
12 project as a whole. Sealift, aircraft, and roads all
13 affect the project, also affect the caribou, also
14 affect the people. The animals, the wildlife, the
15 water, the air. Helicopter work for test pits travel
16 to and from Meadowbank, to and from Amaruq. The
17 planes, helicopters, trucks. Where's the data for the
18 seasons? Or what kind of dust, noise? All these
19 different factors affect the caribou in the area.

20 When you're closing the mine, my concerns are the
21 chemicals used to extract the gold, tailings pit
22 management, your increased load at Meadowbank now
23 because you're going to be -- from what I understood,
24 the gold is more pure from the Amaruq site. Probably
25 increase water use. And yesterday you talked about --
26 I don't know what you call it -- the lake. You called

1 it "Mammoth Lake".

2 But that's another issue too. I've brought this
3 up to KIA or an elder brought it up to KIA before and
4 an elder brought it up to Agnico about using
5 traditional place names. Where is Mammoth Lake? Why
6 are we not using -- why is KIA, NTI not enforcing
7 traditional place names for the areas? It would be
8 like me or us coming to Montreal or Val-d'Or and
9 saying, Oh, let me call this "Mammoth". Nobody else
10 knows what "Mammoth" is other than the people that I'm
11 with. Companies come -- not just Agnico, but other
12 exploration companies come to the region or to the
13 territory, give new names; and then we're disassociated
14 with the place because it's not the name that we know.
15 That's just one way of -- I don't know how you say
16 it -- but making people not know where things are
17 happening, in a way.

18 Agnico talked about the dike breach once the
19 proper water quality is maintained, once the mine
20 closes. What is the proper water quality? Is that
21 water drinkable? Is that water good for fish? Is that
22 water -- would you drink that water after? Are the
23 concentrations going to be accumulating into the mud if
24 it's disturbed? Or a bunch of other questions I have.

25 But the other thing is I went to the Nunavut
26 Impact Review Board website to see who submitted

1 applications and comments to this project. I'm
2 disappointed that the Hamlet of Baker Lake didn't have
3 any submission. This is our community. We're the
4 closest-affected community. I'm not picking on
5 anybody, but I'm just saying the Hamlet of Baker Lake
6 should have submitted something for the people of its
7 residents that voted for council. And it could be a
8 contract that could have been proposed to just give
9 the -- maybe this was done. I don't know. I didn't
10 see it. But as a voter, I'd like to see something that
11 the Hamlet of Baker Lake is showing for the project.
12 I'm not into politics; so I don't see this side.

13 The other part is social aspects of education. As
14 Richard mentioned and as I mentioned back at the
15 Kiggavik final hearing, education is really important
16 for Inuit, both in Inuktitut and English, and to
17 encourage our students to finish school, to just get
18 the basic Grade 12 and move on -- because we can be
19 anything and everything. We can be mine site
20 engineers. We can be electrical engineers. We can be
21 geologists. We can be doctors, nurses, everything.
22 But we have to take the step to keep our kids in
23 school, to teach them how to hunt properly, how to take
24 care of the land. These are all things that are going
25 to be here for us once the mine is closed. We'll have
26 an education. We'll have hopefully lots of caribou to

1 hunt. We have to learn to take care of everything
2 together. Right now, as I see it, each group is
3 fighting against each other; and it's not good.

4 I'm not against the mine, and I'm not for the
5 mine. I'm just wanting to make sure that everybody who
6 are making the decisions are doing it properly and
7 ethically and morally. They are wearing a hat that is
8 both their own personal interests, their own business
9 interests, their own constituents' interests. They
10 have a big role to play. And to learn how to sift
11 through all that -- it needs to be done. There's lots
12 of politics going on here that you may or may not see.

13 And we have to watch out for the future; our
14 caribou, make sure we're protecting them -- 'cause,
15 when the mine closes and there's no more jobs, then
16 people are still going to be relying on the caribou.
17 Are the caribou going to be there? Is the water going
18 to be safe to drink? Is the air going to be good? Is
19 the land going to be clean? The dust from the tailings
20 pits or whatever, if they dry up in 250 years, when I'm
21 gone, are they going to be safe?

22 Agnico's doing a job to make sure they're doing
23 everything right and passing through all the steps to
24 get to an approved project. NIRB's trying to do
25 everything it can to work through the process that it
26 has. Everybody's working on their checklist, but then

1 we have to remember the big picture. We have jobs
2 today, and we'll have jobs tomorrow. Let's make sure
3 we do it right.

4 Thank you.

5 THE CHAIR: Thank you. And, yes, we are
6 trying to stay away from politicking.

7 Okay. So can we keep comments and questions
8 related to Agnico Eagle Mines' application. Thank you
9 for your concerns and your remarks; but we, the Board,
10 need to keep focused. We have a big decision to make
11 in a couple months; so we need your help. Yes, we hear
12 concerns on the shipping route; we hear concerns on the
13 caribou. But can you help us by asking questions on
14 their presentation so we can decide.

15 Before we go on, let's take a short break.

16 (ADJOURNMENT)

17 THE CHAIR: Okay. Shall we proceed,
18 please. People that want to speak, if you have any
19 comments, raise your hands. We'll -- if I don't see
20 you, my other Board members will write the names down.

21 The federal government reps have a deferred
22 response from Health Canada to an earlier question.
23 Department of Justice Responds to Deferred Questions

24 MR. GRUDA-DOLBEC: I'm Simon Gruda-Dolbec for the
25 Department of Justice.

26 So there was a question from a Board member

1 regarding the typical levels of arsenic in recreational
2 lakes. ECCC -- Environment Canada -- and Climate
3 Change Canada deferred the response as it believed it
4 was within Health Canada's jurisdiction. So we
5 received a written response from Health Canada, which I
6 will read right now. So here's the response:

7 (as read)

8 There is no Canadian recreational water
9 quality guideline for arsenic due to
10 insufficient information to support
11 establishing a guideline value. This is the
12 case for most chemicals and recreational
13 waters. A guideline for Canadian drinking
14 water quality for arsenic has been
15 established at a maximum acceptable
16 concentration of 0.010 milligram per litre.
17 That's based on municipal- and
18 residential-scale treatment achievability,
19 and every effort should be made to maintain
20 arsenic levels in drinking water as low as
21 reasonably achievable.

22 In order to assess potential risks to
23 human health from fish consumption, Health
24 Canada would need to be provided with further
25 information on the arsenic levels and fish
26 tissues that are consumed, as well as

1 information on the fish consumption of the
2 various age and gender groups of the local
3 population; that is, species consumed,
4 frequency of consumption, and meal size.

5 So this is a response. Quana, Iksivautaq.

6 THE CHAIR: Okay. Good. Thank you for
7 your response.

8 Next we have is Eva Elytook. Eva Elytook.

9 Community Roundtable

10 EVA ELYTOOK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
11 have three questions. The first one: My question is
12 about Meadowbank and to the Water Board.

13 The Meadowbank has a river to Kedwick [phonetic]
14 to Quoich River from -- from Meadowbank to Quoich
15 River, whether you test the waters down river? I'll
16 ask my next supplementary after this one is answered.
17 Do you test the waters from Meadowbank all the way down
18 to Quoich River?

19 MR. VANENGEN: Ryan Vanengen from Agnico
20 Eagle.

21 And thank you, Eva, for your question. Yes. We
22 test the waters closest to the mine site, and my
23 understanding of the Quoich watershed is that our
24 lakes, as she said, are in the upper watershed of the
25 Quoich which means that they're at the beginning of
26 where the water starts flowing down into the Quoich --

1 is where our mine site is, and then we monitor a few
2 lakes downstream of that. So we monitor in a lake
3 called Tehek Lake, which is a -- is kind of at the
4 outflow of our project lakes, and then the water runs
5 from Tehek down into the Quoich and into Baker Lake.

6 So we're monitoring nearest to our source and just
7 kind of away from that. And what we see is very little
8 change in the water quality, and right now no change in
9 the water quality in Tehek Lake downstream of our mine
10 site at the Meadowbank mine site.

11 Mat'na.

12 EVA ELYTOOK: Thank you, Madam Chair, and
13 thanks for the answer.

14 My supplemental question for Agnico Eagle: the one
15 that you call "Amaruq", when that opens, as you said,
16 they're going to be monitoring the caribou migration
17 movements with cameras; however, the animals -- the
18 foxes, wolverines, wolves, and grizzlies -- always want
19 to bite those cameras; whether they're going to be
20 managed properly if you install those camera to ensure
21 that other predator animals don't disturb them -- gnaw
22 on them, chew on them.

23 MR. VANENGEN: Thank you for the question.
24 We plan to purchase a number of the cameras so that we
25 have what are called duplicates of the cameras. So
26 many of them that -- because we anticipate the same

1 thing, that some animals will interfere with the use of
2 the cameras by knocking them over. You know, there's
3 some curiosity with predators of the cameras. We see
4 that at hunting camps often. So we'll have many of
5 those cameras, and we'll do our best to make sure that
6 the data that they collect is reliable.

7 Mat'na.

8 EVA ELYTOOK: Thank you, Madam Chair.

9 It's not a real question for Meadowbank and Agnico
10 Eagle; it's just a comment, if you can assist. There
11 are two -- husband and wife are working for -- trying
12 to do stuff for themselves, and they try to feed the
13 communities --

14 THE CHAIR: This is not part of the
15 proceeding, so you could ask them at a later date.
16 Thank you.

17 David Simailak.

18 DAVID SIMAILAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good
19 morning. I'm from the (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN)
20 committee, the elders committee in Baker Lake.

21 With respect to caribou, we are concerned -- when
22 I was growing up, I remember when I was young -- a
23 young adult, our elders would teach the youth how to
24 hunt, and they told us not to bother the caribou. When
25 someone is hunting, when the herd was coming through,
26 they used to tell -- tell the youth, You have to let

1 the leaders go through first before you, and it's --
2 today, it's hard to bring that point across, and it's
3 not like that anymore, with our elders saying that --
4 that can say that and scold the youth and -- and teach
5 them not to do that. The people that want to go --
6 quickly go catch the first caribou they see.

7 Whether it's understandable now, I want to find
8 out the road -- when we just finished it -- to
9 Piqunganiugat [phonetic], which you call "Amaruq"
10 now -- the road, when it was finished -- we just
11 finished it -- can you see that caribou that would have
12 passed through that stop -- I apologize right away.
13 I'm sure it was probably a question already because I
14 wasn't here before you had your hearing.

15 So if you understand my question, I just wanted to
16 get clarification, since we finished the road, have you
17 seen any caribou be stopped by it?

18 MR. VANENGEN: Hello, Ryan Vanengen from
19 Agnico Eagle. I was just conferring with Jamie Quesnel
20 on the dates for when the road was -- was -- began
21 construction and then when we completed it.

22 So the road -- the road construction for the
23 Amaruq exploration access road started in March of last
24 year -- we started the construction, and then it just
25 was completed about a month ago. And what we've seen
26 is just like the -- David, were you here for the

1 earlier presentation where we showed some of the
2 caribou movements? Well, we've seen some caribou
3 moving through this fall, which is what we anticipated.

4 An example is, is just last week, I phoned the
5 environmental coordinator on-site, and he had mentioned
6 to me that there were about ten caribou that passed
7 through our roadway. We see -- you know, we have the
8 experience on our Meadowbank all-weather access road,
9 and we continue to see caribou moving through at times
10 on that road, and we're seeing the same trends along
11 our Amaruq exploration access road.

12 Mat'na.

13 DAVID SIMAILAK: Again, the old -- before the
14 access road -- in fact, you -- years ago, people from
15 here used to go caching caribou up in the Meadowbank
16 area and up around there, and the only way they could
17 do it was by going up the Thelon River and then walking
18 inland. And then Hondas, ATVs came around and -- it
19 used to be two-, three-day trip just to get up there
20 from here.

21 With the access road that you have now that we --
22 that we have the privilege of using, it's less than a
23 day now to travel up there, catch all the caribou you
24 want, and bring -- bring -- cache them or bring them
25 back. And we're hearing stories now of some people
26 saying that they can even go hunting up into your

1 no-hunting zone because, It's our land, is the excuses
2 being used.

3 So I'm wondering, is there any discussions with --
4 between yourselves and -- between Agnico and the
5 Hunters and Trappers Organizations about more policing
6 of some sort -- and mainly for safety reasons -- in
7 terms of people hunting? You keep -- we keep saying,
8 Shoot away from the road; get away from the road a
9 mile; get 1 or 2 kilometres at least before shooting.
10 Is there any policing of that going on now, or is there
11 any plans to increase policing when it comes to Baker
12 Lake hunters using the road?

13 Mat'na.

14 MR. VANENGEN: Thank you for the question,
15 David. Ryan Vanengen from Agnico Eagle.

16 The road, as you know, is open to public use by
17 ATVs, so hunters are able to use the road between Baker
18 Lake and then to Kilometre 85. And just to explain why
19 we have an area beyond Kilometre 85 to the mine site
20 is, as you mentioned, for safety reasons; so safety for
21 the hunters that would use that area to make sure
22 there's no collisions, and also for our operators
23 because we know the practices around firearms is --
24 there's risks associated with that. So we've protected
25 our operators as well by having that area blocked.

26 The management of the harvest within that area

1 is managed through the -- alongside with ourselves, is
2 managed with the Government of Nunavut conservation
3 officers. It's their mandate to manage the harvest of
4 caribou. So we work with them and provide access on
5 the road. And we've also recently began discussions
6 with the Baker Lake HTO to have them also work with us
7 to encourage safe practices on the road.

8 The point that, also, I just wanted to make too is
9 we are making an attempt to enforce a 1-kilometre
10 safety zone along our road for all traffic, so that
11 includes the hunters as well. And that's a pretty
12 normal standard practice across Canada, where you -- in
13 a kind of linear way, you have to be well-removed from
14 it in order to -- to hunt off the -- within that area.
15 So we're trying to apply that and work with those
16 stakeholders.

17 Mat'na.

18 DAVID SIMAILAK: Thank you. We are blessed
19 with having the free use of the road for hunting or
20 whatever we want to do along up into that area, and
21 that presents another problem and, again, something
22 that elders always drilled into us, that if you're
23 going to shoot, shoot to kill a caribou -- caribou, not
24 a person, a caribou -- and many of us are no longer
25 doing that. In some cases, I've seen where people are
26 getting very careless where the herds are coming

1 through, and there's a lot of hunters up there at the
2 same time. We are seeing cases of very young children
3 being made to shoot at caribou.

4 And so I guess, again, what I'm wondering is, is
5 there some way that that can be policed more? And I
6 guess this really should be more to the Government of
7 Nunavut wildlife officers. But I'm just wondering out
8 loud here. We're quick to blame the mine traffic, the
9 helicopters, and everything else when it comes to
10 disturbing caribou forgetting what we ourselves are
11 doing to the poor caribou. When the herd is coming
12 through this time a year, we want to be caching
13 caribou. So some are catching as many as they can
14 because it's the winter supply, but at the same time,
15 we are being very careless, and something must be
16 happening on that road to have Agnico put out a public
17 announcement to, Please slow down before an accident
18 happens. So there must be something happening to cause
19 that kind of an announcement to be made.

20 So I guess I'm wondering if there's some way that
21 we can -- between Agnico and our local Hunters and
22 Trappers Organization, who are always very
23 conscientious of all of this stuff -- something that we
24 can do more to make that road safer and the corridors
25 on either side of it safer for hunters. I mean, it's
26 usually a case of "one shot, one caribou", is what our

1 elders always drilled into told us. Today we're almost
2 like having machine guns. So we're getting very
3 careless.

4 I think we need to be looking very seriously at
5 what we are doing as hunters ourselves in terms of
6 disturbing the caribou. I mean, we're chasing with our
7 Hondas. No wonder they're changing their migration
8 routes. It's not just because of the road or because
9 of the mine. We are off the road, and we are chasing
10 them.

11 So I guess what I'm wondering is, is there
12 something -- a bit more that we can do to -- either
13 through the -- our local Hunters and Trappers
14 Organization, with help from Agnico or from the GN, to
15 find ways to drill into us that, Hey, let's be more
16 careful out there? Thank you.

17 THE CHAIR: Yeah. This is a big problem
18 in all of our communities in Nunavut. I am telling
19 the -- so I am telling the appropriate agency to take
20 note and take action. I know the mining company has
21 informed us they are doing their part, so whatever --
22 whatever agency has this mandate, please inform your
23 offices in our communities. Thank you.

24 This is a problem for every community. The people
25 that are responsible for that, the conservation
26 officers, please deal with this and tell your staff to

1 deal with this. I know the mining companies had
2 finished their presentation on how they're trying to
3 help, and I'm giving this topic to the agencies that
4 are in charge of caribou conservation and safety, and
5 work harder.

6 The next one is Harry Aggark.

7 HARRY AGGARK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Harry
8 Aggark, Chesterfield HTO. A very short question: The
9 Amaruq project and Whale Tail -- if you open the Whale
10 Tail Pit, my question is, they're going to go travel
11 the -- the ships that are bringing materials, are they
12 going through the same way, and are there going to be
13 more ships than normal -- what is normal now?

14 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair.
15 Jamie Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.

16 Thanks for your question. Based on the amount of
17 cargo coming to Whale Tail, it would be the same volume
18 of material as Meadowbank right now. So no additional
19 ships. So we'll come offload at Baker, then
20 all-weather access road up to the Vault location, and
21 then towards Whale Tail, so no additional ships related
22 to the Whale Tail Pit Project. So it's the same amount
23 of ships coming to Baker.

24 HARRY AGGARK: Thank you for the answer.

25 Today I think we're going to have the opportunity
26 to present with respect to the ships and the effects

1 that they are having on our community. Thank you.

2 I'll wait for that.

3 THE CHAIR: Yes. This morning will be
4 geared towards questions, and this afternoon we'll be
5 able to present on your community concerns.

6 Levi Quinangnaq.

7 LEVI QUINANGNAQ: Madam Chair, Levi Quinangnaq
8 with the youth for Baker Lake, and also I'm an employee
9 of Agnico Eagle. I've been working for the mine now
10 since 2009. It's not a question that I want to
11 present. It's a statement. I'm sorry. You just had
12 spoken about what -- we have our chance this afternoon,
13 but I feel -- I think it's strong -- it's a strong
14 feeling for me as an employee for Agnico Eagle for the
15 Board and for the rest of the communities to hear what
16 I have to say.

17 So first of all, I'm so -- I'm very excited that
18 the Social 11 students are here right now to witness
19 what happens firsthand with these hearings, and I hope
20 in the future that they will have the opportunity to
21 have a seat with us or even become something else with
22 the mine department -- with Agnico Eagle or even other
23 departments or other employee -- employment
24 opportunities.

25 With Agnico Eagle, I've noticed in the last couple
26 of years they have been involved with our high school,

1 with the junior and senior high students having "TASK
2 week", they call it. And with the TASK week, Agnico
3 Eagle always had -- have different departments going
4 in. They could be -- there -- they were sending cooks,
5 they were sending carpenters, plumbers, and all these
6 other -- other employment opportunities, and I strongly
7 hope that it will continue.

8 And with this Amaruq project, that -- with a few
9 more years added on, I'm sure it will -- they will
10 continue to come to the community of Baker Lake and
11 serve for our youth of Baker Lake to have something to
12 look forward to when they have graduated from high
13 school. On that -- in saying so, that's the youth part
14 that I wanted to present.

15 And on the Agnico Eagle employee side of the view,
16 I've written a statement that I want to present this
17 morning: (as read)

18 So I have been working for AEM for the last
19 eight years and helped construct the road to
20 the mine site in 2006, which took 16 months.
21 For years now, we have read and heard the
22 hunters' side of the stories about caribou
23 migration. Now I think it's time we put our
24 voices in from the employees -- from workers'
25 point of view.

26 During the construction of the mine

1 road, we saw thousands of caribou migrating,
2 and during the migration, we stopped for the
3 herds to cross the road. Since then,
4 companies always have given wildlife the
5 right-of-way, even having road closures for
6 the herds to pass through when they got too
7 close to the mine road.

8 During the construction of the road, I
9 myself in a haul truck had stopped for 45
10 minutes to watch thousands of caribou cross
11 the road without any problems going on. In
12 the last decade, the companies who use this
13 road have been very good to let the herds
14 cross the road when the caribou come. Other
15 than what was said about the 2011 incident
16 this morning, I have not seen or heard any
17 problems with the traffic and the herds. I
18 don't understand why people say that the mine
19 is affecting the caribou migration between
20 the mine and Baker Lake.

21 In the last few years, we have seen
22 caribou isolate themselves around the camp
23 for refuge from wolves and other predators.
24 When they do come close to the mine, the
25 environment department in the mine site
26 informs anyone travelling in the mine site

1 that the caribou are close to the mine site.
2 Last year alone, we had muskox give birth to
3 calves close to the haul road where 777 haul
4 trucks and light vehicles travel daily.

5 For those who know haul trucks, they are
6 huge and loud but had no effects on the
7 females and the newborn calves. They stayed
8 close to the road until the calves were
9 strong enough to walk and keep up with the
10 rest of the herd of muskoxen, which was about
11 a month before they had left the site or the
12 haul road.

13 This I read from a recent article in
14 recent weeks: The Baker Lake Hunters and
15 Trappers Organization echoed that, saying the
16 local hunters have complained that the
17 presence of the Meadowbank project has forced
18 caribou to stay further away from town.

19 If the people of Baker Lake are saying
20 the migration is affected, maybe the HTO or
21 KIA should implement a hunting ban when the
22 herd of caribou is close to the road so that
23 the herd can possibly come closer towards
24 town.

25 In cases like this, I feel my job is
26 threatened by people who accuse the mine of

1 wildlife being scared away from the work at
2 the mine when it's not the case. We need
3 the -- we need the mine to create jobs for
4 the Inuit and help the local contractors to
5 create jobs within the community as well.
6 Without the mine, even some local jobs would
7 have not have been available today.

8 In the Kivalliq Region, we have 321
9 employees working for Agnico Eagle. In the
10 community of Baker Lake alone, we have 159
11 people working for Agnico Eagle Mines that
12 would have a significant impact with any
13 delays of this project. With many Inuit
14 getting loans and mortgages, it would be
15 harder to pay for them with the cost of
16 living being so high in Nunavut, even with
17 employment insurances.

18 We need -- we will have to make
19 sacrifices on food or bills. Please consider
20 our point of view as employees of the mine,
21 as well as local contractors, that this
22 project and future projects are needed for
23 the prosperity of our people.

24 Mat'na.

25 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

26 Sara Amrniq.

1 SARA AMRNIQ: Thank you. I have a few
2 things to comment about -- about the environment and
3 the area where the company docks -- the company
4 hauls -- hauls fuel up to their mine site. I think
5 that there should be a better preparation so that there
6 are no accidents or spills. Perhaps at times, we can
7 see traces of fuel spills, perhaps, because the haul
8 truck drivers are driving too fast. I think by now
9 they should be more careful and be -- they should
10 install speedometers because when they start to go up,
11 they don't -- they don't hesitate. They don't stop
12 anywhere. They just keep going because that's their
13 goal, is to keep going and to deliver their goods,
14 and -- but I believe that there should be speedometers
15 installed into the vehicle so that there's no accidents
16 or malfunctions along the roadway on the haul road.
17 I'd like to see a company install speedometers. So
18 that was a concern of mine.

19 I also want to speak to -- we -- we value our
20 land. We don't want to see any oil spills happen
21 because to -- to clean up an oil spill -- it takes up a
22 lot of money to clean them up. I just wanted to voice
23 my concern and to ensure that this does not happen.

24 And another thing, when there was a -- in your
25 presentation -- I would like to see -- the equipment
26 that are being sent back down south from Meadowbank,

1 that's a lot of money that is being used to ship them
2 all back down. I'm happy to see that they are cleaning
3 the area from the mining company, especially -- when
4 you see that, it's heartening when you're working hard,
5 listening to us to clear the areas to ensure that the
6 land is not affected. I just wanted to mention that.

7 Because of that, we watched, as Inuit from the
8 community, and I'm going to see one of our elected
9 officials. I hope that what you saw -- that you
10 learned from it. Our community -- there's a lot of
11 people in Nunavut are the same. They could clean up
12 their communities, and you can apply for funding from
13 the federal government. There's money available with
14 the Government of Nunavut, as well, that can help the
15 communities with these types of things, to clean up.

16 I hope the people that are elected -- to ensure
17 that the community and outside of the community is
18 clean. It's something that we could learn from. What
19 Agnico Eagle's doing right now, we could do the same to
20 ensure that our community is safe and clean.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Have a
22 good day. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIR: Questions or comments
24 regarding the speeding of the vehicles?

25 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
26 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.

1 The way I understood the question was speeding
2 relating to the haul trucks. The way that occurs at
3 the site, the -- it's all based on -- through dispatch.
4 So that's tracked through dispatch, when the trucks are
5 loaded; and the operator of that truck gets directions,
6 if it's waste rock or ore and also what type of waste
7 rock, if it's clean material or dirty material; then
8 they're directed to go to those locations.

9 So dispatch has a time log of start time of
10 dispatching that vehicle, and then also the -- the
11 finish time, once he would go to that location and get
12 directed back to either one of the pits or maintenance
13 if it's a crew change. So that's all tracked through
14 dispatch. So that's -- the time is calculated.

15 And also we have speed restrictions on-site, and
16 the trucks are -- when they're heavy, they're coming
17 out very slow speeds out of the pit, maybe 4 kilometres
18 per hour, and there's maximum speeds on the haul roads
19 to those locations. So those are the controls we have
20 in place. Hopefully that answers your question.

21 THE CHAIR: Her question was about fuel
22 trucks from Baker Lake to Meadowbank.

23 Philippa Aggark. (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN) No.
24 Okay.

25 Julia Pingushat.

26 JULIA PINGUSHAT: Julia Pingushat. (LOST

1 TRANSLATION) the federal government -- my question --
2 the federal government -- if I am understandable -- I
3 apologize beforehand. The jobs for our youth, I'm very
4 proud of that because our youth are proud of me. I'm
5 proud of the youth working. When they're working for
6 the mining companies, their children's allowance,
7 they say they're being spent. They don't want to work
8 anymore because of that, even though it's a good job.
9 I'm -- if I'm mistaken, I apologize.

10 Our elders, our youth -- they're watching the
11 elders, and we are watching the youth. The monies that
12 is being used -- if it's going to continue or is it
13 going to stop? I'm trying to say this properly.

14 Their rent goes way up once they get employed, and
15 that's one of the reasons why they don't want to work
16 anymore. With respect to their rent, it goes way up
17 because of the wages that they make, and they spend
18 their money for rent and for their children, and it's
19 harder to provide for their children when their rent
20 goes up.

21 My question -- if I made a mistake, I apologize
22 before you, and I thank you for giving me the
23 opportunity to come to Baker Lake. I'm an elder for my
24 community, and they selected me. Thank you.

25 THE CHAIR: Okay. Comment to the
26 Government of Nunavut.

1 Agnes Turner.

2 AGNES POKSIK TURNER: (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN)

3 First of all, I feel very -- I feel very honoured
4 that I've been invited to come to a very important
5 hearing. I really appreciate that the elders were
6 included from each community. It shows respect and a
7 desire to work together with the elders.

8 At the beginning of -- the time the first
9 commissioner started coming to different communities, I
10 had requested -- I had requested that the elders be
11 included because they are the ones that knows about
12 what's going on on the land, but they are our strength,
13 our background. They have survived out on the land
14 with nothing, practically nothing. They created
15 knives, snow knives so that there could be shelters.
16 They created a way of hunting with bow and arrow from
17 bones, from the caribou bones, and all that kind of
18 thing. It's the history.

19 I mention because it was changed from their way of
20 life, their traditional way of life, their survival
21 skills. To me, they're already a known geologist,
22 anthropologist, whatever you call them. They have
23 unwritten rules. They have unwritten education. I
24 have greatly admired them for many, many years --

25 THE CHAIR: Are you going to have a
26 question? Ask your question.

1 AGNES POKSIAK TURNER: I have a question. The reason
2 why I'm mentioning them is because -- are they going to
3 be included in advisory committees when you're making
4 decisions for the future of Meadowbank? That's one of
5 my questions.

6 MR. VANENGEN: Thank you. Thank you for the
7 question, Madam Chair.

8 Absolutely. The elders will be part of our
9 decision-making. In particular -- and a great example
10 of that -- is that we had some elders representing us
11 for decisions around caribou as part of the terrestrial
12 advisory group. They attended, at least on one
13 occasion, our workshops, and we'll look to include --
14 continue to include them on decisions around caribou.

15 And there's other examples of that as well, but we
16 look to include elders in all of our decisions.

17 Thank you.

18 AGNES POKSIAK TURNER: The second one is -- I
19 really thank Meadowbank for having -- for training the
20 employees about this work readiness program because
21 it's preparing the younger generation and our young
22 people how to work in workplaces. I'd like to know if
23 the IQ principles -- Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit -- are
24 also included in those and if they're being taught by
25 those who truly understand them? Because they come
26 from elders to teach all about respect for each other,

1 respect for the land, and for keeping our areas clean.

2 There are mingled together, the eight principles.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. RAMCHARAN: Candace Ramcharan from Agnico

5 Eagle. Yes. The work readiness program was designed

6 in part with the Nunavut Literacy Council, so Inuit

7 Qaujimajatuqangit -- sorry -- principles were

8 incorporated. They're also taught by -- right now

9 they're being taught by First Nations representatives

10 from Quebec and from northern Ontario, Cree teachers,

11 but we have had Inuit teachers in the past as well; so

12 often people can relate to the teachers, as well as to

13 the principles.

14 Mat'na.

15 AGNES POKSIAK TURNER: Yesterday the HTO had included

16 in their proposal that the council, mental health

17 workers, social workers, and others were hired to work

18 with the employees of their -- the ones that have been

19 traumatized. Because having been traumatized give you

20 insecure feeling, and it make you stop from wanting to

21 do more. And I have seen some young people very shy

22 and are too shy to -- to try and get ahead in life, and

23 they're worried that they're not going to do anything

24 so they just quit. They just might -- they're not sure

25 that they -- they will just keep going and continue to

26 work or if -- if they should just quit and go home.

1 So for those kind of people who are very unsure of
2 continuing to work to provide income for their
3 families, for their children, have you hired
4 counsellors to work with these employees?

5 MR. BIGUE: Guillaume Bigue, Agnico Eagle.

6 Our employees can refer to the employee support
7 program at all time, which is a confidential service
8 that we offer. As well, we have registered nurse
9 on-site that can be -- that employees have the chance
10 to consult, and we also have elders coming on-site --
11 on the -- on the frequency on-site, and employees have
12 the chance to discuss with elders as well of their
13 problems, if there's any. I hope that helps.

14 Mat'na.

15 AGNES POKSIAK TURNER: Thank you. The constant
16 complaint -- I don't want to bring any complaints to
17 this table, but I'll bring it out. I've been hearing
18 people from Arviat and Whale Cove that really wants to
19 go back to Meadowbank and work -- continue to work, but
20 after their second week of being at home's done, they
21 will be -- they want to return and are ready to come
22 back, and they're all packed up and ready to come, and
23 then they call for a taxi, and a taxi doesn't come to
24 pick them up, and then they're too late for the flight.
25 And they have said that, I am fired because I didn't go
26 to -- go to work on time. So can this be resolved in

1 the near future?

2 MS. YIP: Mat'na, Iksivautaq. Karen

3 Yip, Agnico Eagle.

4 I hear what you're saying, Agnes. We've had some
5 difficulties getting people to the planes, and it's
6 been especially apparent in places like Whale Cove and
7 Coral Harbour where it's a long distance to the
8 airport, and we're currently working on ways that we
9 can address that with the Hamlets of these communities.

10 AGNES POKSIAK TURNER: Thank you very much, and
11 thank you for now.

12 THE CHAIR: If you could please say in
13 advance -- please keep your comments to a minimum. We
14 cannot hear lengthy stories, but please keep your
15 comments to a minimum and/or questions. This is our
16 last final day of the hearing so keep that in mind.

17 Okay. You can use traditional knowledge. We
18 understand the language.

19 Martha Hickes.

20 MARTHA HICKES: Thank you. I know there --
21 this was a question that was answered in Rankin for a
22 number of students. Will that be for all of Kivalliq
23 who funds it, and were they getting paid, and will
24 there be more training put on?

25 MR. BIGUE: Guillaume Bigue, Agnico Eagle.

26 Yes. We do offer some opportunities for students to

1 come work on the mine at the summertime, and this is
2 open to all the Kivalliq students.

3 Mat'na.

4 MARTHA HICKES: Who was funding it, and were
5 the students being paid?

6 MR. BIGUE: Guillaume Bigue, Agnico Eagle.

7 Yes, students will be paid for their work at the
8 mine, and Agnico Eagle funds it. Thank you.

9 MARTHA HICKES: And out of the 150 workers
10 that are going to be created for Whale Tail's pit, how
11 many are entry level and how many are supervisory?
12 Were positions that Inuit workers that are qualified
13 can get higher paying -- can they get higher paying
14 jobs?

15 MR. BIGUE: Guillaume Bigue, Agnico Eagle.

16 Yes. Out of 150 positions, we're expecting to
17 have a minimum of 75 openings for local employees.
18 And, yes, there will some opportunities for employees
19 to grow inside their positions through our career
20 paths, which is a well-established program that we have
21 at the mine and that all the employees are well
22 familiar with.

23 Mat'na.

24 MARTHA HICKES: Under public participation,
25 there was no consultation in these communities on the
26 paper here, in Coral, Naujaat, Rankin Inlet, and Whale

1 Cove. Why is that?

2 MR. VANENGEN: Just so I understand --
3 Madam Chair, just so I understand the question, is that
4 referring to the table that has a list? Okay.

5 My understanding is that in the communities that
6 you mentioned, we hosted -- maybe it wasn't documented
7 well in there, but I believe there were at least
8 community meetings, right, that were documented; is
9 that correct?

10 MARTHA HICKES: There was no meetings in
11 Naujaat, Coral, Rankin Inlet, and Whale Cove.

12 MR. VANENGEN: So when I look at this table,
13 we hosted what we -- what we completed for Coral,
14 Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove were community sessions. So
15 we did a presentation. We announced that those
16 meetings were going to happen. And during those -- we
17 call them "public meetings". During those meetings
18 that was hosted, I think -- was that in June? Sorry.
19 I'm not sure on the dates again, but we hosted,
20 basically, a -- what we called a community tour, and we
21 made it available to the public. And in those
22 meetings, we opened up a space that we could receive
23 questions, receive IQ, and receive any information and
24 concerns on our project, and we also shared our project
25 in those public meetings.

26 So in our view, we've met with all of the

1 communities on a number of occasions. Mat'na.

2 MARTHA HICKES: Thank you.

3 LUDOVIC ISSUMATARJUAQ: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
4 have a comment to make to Agnico Eagle. I'm not saying
5 that I'm an expert. I'm just going to comment on what
6 I know. I've got a documented -- I used to work. In
7 1982, I had a job in mining, but beginning in 1982, I
8 used to work -- I used to work for major drilling for
9 23 years -- for 23 years as a labourer, and 23 years I
10 also worked as a blaster. My experience as a blaster,
11 I was a drill -- I was drilling from -- I understand --
12 I began to understand how to work with southerners.
13 Some people were -- that I worked with were French. I
14 was very happy to work with them, and when -- as I
15 began to work longer, I was just thought of as an
16 elder, an old man. They were just using me. I
17 understood that. I know -- understand a little bit of
18 English, so I started asking questions. The people I
19 worked with -- the supervisors to the bosses -- they
20 listened to them; and the bosses, when they're not
21 looking anymore, when we're away from there, you're
22 supervisor -- when the big bosses are no longer around,
23 when they're no longer watching, I understood.

24 Perhaps -- I've seen it myself, someone who did
25 something -- Don't say this to my boss, when he did
26 something wrong, and that's what they kept telling me,

1 and I didn't say, This is my land. This is -- you're
2 working in my country. This -- I used to tell the big
3 bosses what happened. These guys are not working
4 properly. There's a lot of people from the south that
5 used to -- that I used to work with -- used to do
6 things wrong, and then they would tell me not the tell
7 the bosses.

8 I am asking you whether you can push for -- to
9 ensure that the workers are being treated properly by
10 their supervisors and this stuff doesn't happen in the
11 future. Thank you.

12 MS. RAMCHARAN: Candace Ramcharan, Agnico
13 Eagle.

14 Agnico values -- one of our core values is the
15 value of respect, as well as family. So we do
16 everything in our power to make sure that all employees
17 are treated with respect, local people, as well as
18 people from the south. We have a number of ways in
19 which we do that, and we try to enforce that. Through
20 our HR Inuit agents, people have channels of
21 communication with people that they might feel
22 comfortable speaking to if they do have issues with
23 their coworkers or with their supervisors.

24 We also have collaborate -- what's called a
25 collaboration committee where Inuit workers, as well as
26 southern workers sit to discuss potential problems that

1 might be going on in the workplace and what -- those
2 discussions are then fed back to supervisors. And any
3 time there is a serious incident or an accusation
4 made -- somebody might have disrespected someone
5 else -- there's always an investigation done by our
6 human resources department to make sure everybody knows
7 what actually happened and possibly have disciplinary
8 measures if there was something serious that happened.

9 I hope that answers the question.

10 THE CHAIR: Did she answer your question?

11 LUDOVIC ISSUMATARJUAK: Yes.

12 THE CHAIR: Mary Tuktudjuk.

13 MARY TUKTUDJUK: My name is Mary Tuktudjuk from
14 Naujaat representing the HTO.

15 My question: With respect to caribou that have
16 collars and the ones that you're going to put collars
17 on in the future -- I do not want to see collars put on
18 caribou. I would like to see some other way to do it.
19 When you see caribou with collars on, it's not good to
20 see. If you have any other options, we would like to
21 see that. Something I would like to see. No more
22 collars and use something else.

23 THE CHAIR: I agree with you, and this was
24 something I questioned as well. It's the Nunavut
25 Government's responsibility.

26 MR. PINKSEN: Thank you. Steve Pinksen,

1 Government of Nunavut.

2 And thank you for that question and concern.

3 We -- in our research, we use many methods. Sometimes
4 that includes collars, and the reason we do use some
5 collars is that caribou have such a large range and the
6 herds migrate over such vast distances that it's the
7 only methodology we have to follow them over those long
8 distances, and it's important information that we share
9 with all communities, HTOs, and mining companies. That
10 information is shared, and it's used for
11 decision-making.

12 We are also always looking for new methods for
13 gathering that information, and we've been developing
14 new methods over the years. But I would point out that
15 the number of collars that we use is really quite small
16 compared to the number of caribou. For example,
17 there's approximately 300,000 caribou on the
18 mainland -- this part of the mainland of Nunavut, and
19 we have about 50 collars out at any given time. So
20 it's a really small number of caribou overall that are
21 affected by collars, and the chances of hunters
22 encountering those collared caribou, because there's so
23 few, is really quite low. Thank you.

24 THE CHAIR: Kaviq.

25 MS. KALURAQ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Kaviq
26 Kaluraq.

1 There's been several questions about the use of
2 the all-weather access road and harvesting. Does
3 Agnico Eagle, the Government of Nunavut, or the Hunters
4 and Trappers Organization have any statistics about
5 what's been harvested using the all-weather access road
6 as a means of transportation or a transportation route
7 and bringing it into the community?

8 Mat'na, Iksivautaq.

9 MR. VANENGEN: Madam Chair.

10 Thank you for the question. Yes. It's a project
11 certificate requirement for our Meadowbank project
12 certificate to conduct a hunter harvest study, and we
13 collect that information. That information is in the
14 map book provided to you, and it's at the back there.
15 There's a figure there that shows the data that we've
16 collected from harvesters in Baker Lake.

17 And we look to -- over the last ten years, the one
18 thing that we've learned is that the participation
19 rates in the Hunter Harvest study were really quite
20 great at the beginning of it. And what we've seen is a
21 decline in participation over the last few years, and
22 we encourage participation from the Government of
23 Nunavut in the hunter harvest study, as well as we have
24 great collaboration with the Baker Lake HTO, and -- but
25 we look for a more holistic approach to monitoring and
26 collecting data for the hunter harvest study into the

1 future. But we collect those data, is the short
2 answer.

3 MS. KALURAQ: Mat'na Iksivautaq. Kaviq
4 Kaluraq.

5 I'll clarify my question. Do you have statistics?
6 Because people, when they use the all-weather access
7 road, they have to drive in and out of the community
8 past the gatehouse. Do you have statistics that you
9 can share with the participants of how many are
10 harvested -- people passing through the gatehouse, that
11 you have statistics on an annual basis that you can
12 share with the participants?

13 Mat'na, Iksivautaq.

14 MR. VANENGEN: Yes, we have those statistics,
15 and we collect our -- the person at the gate of our
16 Meadowbank all-weather access road collects those
17 statistics, and then, as I said, we also collect
18 statistics on the harvesters -- a sub-sample of the
19 harvesters as well. So, yes, we can provide that to
20 the Nunavut Impact Review Board and participants.

21 THE CHAIR: Thank you. The other two
22 students that wish to ask questions, can you -- is the
23 class coming back this afternoon? Okay. Good.
24 Because I have Jaylene and Carla that wish to ask
25 questions, so if we can have them ask this afternoon.

26 Next we have is Charlie Tautuaqjuk.

1 CHARLIE TAUTUAQJUK: Thank you, Madam Chair.
2 Charlie Tautuaqjuk. I'm a -- for KIA as an Inuit
3 Impact Benefits Agreement coordinator.

4 More so a comment and towards -- regards to
5 caribou that we've heard a lot in the last couple of
6 days. In speaking to an eldest elder in our community,
7 one of the big impacts of caribou herd being diverted
8 is muskox, and I was wondering if there's a way of
9 monitoring how many muskox are in our area and -- in
10 between here and Meadowbank and Amaruq project area
11 that would have an impact on the caribou herd
12 migration? And I think it would be worthwhile
13 considering, so it does have an impact.

14 And, secondly, the comment that David Simailak
15 made earlier -- or a question in regards to the safety
16 on the roads. Maybe a consideration as well to have
17 the renewable resources staff or trained staff that
18 can -- out of Hamlet jurisdiction, that can provide
19 some enforcement into means of hunting -- safe-hunting
20 practices, as well as feeding -- all-terrain vehicles
21 and haul trucks on the road or fuel trucks that are
22 travelling on this road.

23 It's certainly a worthwhile recommendation, and I
24 think that the -- I know that it definitely works in
25 other mining areas over in the west and -- and here
26 specifically, when it comes to migration routes, muskox

1 had a huge impact, and if it comes from an elder, I
2 think we should listen to our elders. Thank you.

3 MR. VANENGEN: Madam Chair.

4 Thank you, Charlie, for the question, and we do
5 monitor muskox along the road and around our
6 activities. I think we talked about it in the earlier
7 presentation two days ago. We'll continue to do that
8 for the Whale Tail Pit Project, and at a population --
9 so we monitor muskox near our activities, but at a
10 population level, that, too, is the work of the
11 Government of Nunavut, to monitor muskox within the
12 region. So that's -- I hope answers the first
13 question.

14 And then the second question was about the safety
15 on the roads and the enforcement of hunting on the
16 roads, and I think I've addressed that question
17 already, but I'll just reiterate that we're working
18 with the Government of Nunavut conservation officers,
19 we're working with the Hunting and Trapping
20 Organization to address the safety issues, and we'll
21 continue to do so for the Whale Tail Pit Project, and
22 we include our Meadowbank all-weather access road, as
23 well, in that.

24 Mat'na.

25 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Last one before
26 lunch is Hugh Igkoe:

1 HUGH IGKOE: Thank you, Madam Chair. When
2 we're having this hearing, we're -- what we're afraid
3 of and our concerns are -- there's a lot of them. As
4 hunters -- and our caribou and our fish and our
5 environment is something we're concerned about. I have
6 questions about these things, when you're dewatering
7 the lake; and the -- the other question that was asked
8 sometimes by David -- Richard Aksawnee about the ships,
9 the barges. I think there are three questions that I
10 want to ask because I don't have clarification on them.

11 The first one, from my understanding, the lake
12 that is going to be dewatered, it's a small -- a small
13 portion of the lake. When it's small -- when you start
14 from the shore to the school, when we leave the school,
15 it -- they'll be that far. And from where we're
16 meeting to the next house over there, that's how big
17 the area's going to be. It's a small area, the lake
18 that is going to be dewatered. And us that have
19 concerns about that, it's -- they're making a mountain
20 out of a molehill, it seems like.

21 For -- first, I'd like to say to Agnico Eagle, my
22 question: the lake that is going to be dewatered --
23 the other side is a pretty big lake, and there's a lot
24 of -- whether there's a lot of fish in there or not, I
25 don't know. Or do you know how much fish is in that
26 lake? And how many are you going to remove after --

1 before dewatering? I know when it's a small portion of
2 that, the -- there are -- there are concerns about the
3 fish being affected.

4 Myself, I'm not concerned about it, and they could
5 move to a bigger lake. They can move to a bigger lake.
6 They'll -- going to dilute the water too -- before it
7 goes to the ocean, so I'm not concerned about that at
8 all. How is Agnico Eagle -- it's something I've been
9 thinking about as well.

10 And right now there -- our caribou is our biggest
11 concern, and us, as hunters, when they call and tell us
12 what their concerns are -- and I myself -- when the
13 caribou are moving, migrating, they -- they go through
14 a large portion of our land, and the road, it's not
15 very long. Our (LOST TRANSLATION) large area, and they
16 just move continuously, as we know, from -- you know,
17 from year-round. And when they do migrate, you know,
18 they -- you know, they do cover a really large area.

19 And this road from -- that we're talking about,
20 you know, rough -- in a straight land, it's roughly
21 30 kilometres long, which is about, you know -- you
22 know, 15 miles. So there's many of us that would we --
23 for that -- I don't think it's really going to affect
24 the caribou at all.

25 The caribou are going to go around the area. More
26 of the caribou will go around the area than go through

1 the roads, and I don't think they're going to be --
2 affected them. But when the caribou are migrating,
3 we're not going to stop them; they're always going to
4 keep going through. It's something -- I don't think
5 they're going to affect the caribou -- affect them too
6 much because of the -- the things that you have in
7 place.

8 My question that I wanted to ask and wish to put
9 it as -- as I understand in the first one -- a question
10 I wanted to ask -- through my understanding of the
11 ships and the barges that I want to ask about.
12 Companies that do come up like the ships and the -- and
13 the barges that -- my understanding is that even if
14 there's a minor or catastrophic, you know, accident,
15 that it is their responsibility and not Agnico Eagle
16 who would be responsible for -- for a cleanup on -- you
17 know, whatever necessary, you know -- you know,
18 emergency measure that might need to be taken. I have
19 not really, you know -- you know, clearly understood
20 that.

21 If that's the case, that it is entirely up to the
22 shipping companies, you know -- you know, if there
23 was -- if there was an accident on -- the part of the
24 question then is -- if that's the case, I had an
25 incident about three weeks ago where there was one
26 tugboat that was at the -- at the dock on -- and the

1 wind was coming from the east, from that side, and
2 there was some kind of sheen that was coming out of the
3 tugboat, and, you know, it actually spread from that
4 tugboat all the way to the -- in this lake, and -- and
5 I was wondering about it.

6 So, obviously, you know, there was something
7 coming out of that tugboat, and I couldn't get ahold
8 of -- the problem was that I couldn't get ahold of --
9 you know, who do I get ahold of? And so then my
10 question to this, if it's the shipping company's
11 responsibility, you know, how do we get into these
12 people? You know, you -- I don't think -- you know,
13 you haven't seen any -- any place or who -- or who we
14 are supposed to phone.

15 So, you know, eventually what happened was, you
16 know, I did -- you know, I did get ahold of a
17 conservation officer, and I, you know, did mention it,
18 and he did go down and -- a conservation officer, you
19 know, went down and checked it out, and he replied back
20 to me later on, you know, at some point and said that,
21 Well, it was the fish. Originally, that was their, you
22 know -- you know, that -- their reply, and I know it's
23 not the fish because it's just more, you know -- you --
24 for 4 kilometres.

25 And so that's -- you know, that's really just, you
26 know -- you know, the second is that who do we -- you

1 know -- you know, who do we -- you know, where do we
2 phone, you know -- you know, in case -- you know, in
3 case we do see, you know, we feel that might be, you
4 know -- you know, some sort of a contamination that's
5 coming out of a -- these shipping lanes?

6 And the third part of this question, then, is --
7 you know, my understanding, then, is that if that's
8 the, you know -- you know, my understanding is that
9 both Oceans and -- Oceans and Fisheries and the Coast
10 Guard do not have any monitoring vessels, just a -- at
11 the Baker Lake that -- that's the other question that
12 I'd like to know, and if that the case, you know, it's
13 obviously not -- you know, probably not your
14 responsibility. But, you know, would that be true
15 that, you know, there is -- you know, there's basically
16 no Coast Guard to monitor these ships and barges that
17 are coming in and out. Thank you.

18 THE CHAIR: Thank you. I'm sure -- the
19 information -- the questions. We'll break for lunch
20 and then come back with your response. Okay. Let's
21 break for lunch. 1:15.

22 (LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT AT 12:04 AM)

23 (PROCEEDINGS RECOMMENCED AT 1:19 PM)

24 THE CHAIR: Okay. Let's get started with
25 the hearing again.

26 The plan for today, there are some deferred

1 responses from Agnico Eagle, from DFO, and Government
2 of Nunavut, which we'll go right into; few more
3 questions from the communities; and then after the
4 questions, I'll decide what time we'll get into closing
5 remarks.

6 So from each community, like, for example,
7 Baker Lake, pick one speaker that will give you -- give
8 us ten minutes for closing remarks. Repulse Bay, pick
9 one person that will speak on your behalf, comments.
10 What do you think about the proponent? Yay, nay?

11 After the closing remarks, we'll do closing
12 remarks from registered intervenors and, lastly,
13 closing remarks from the proponent.

14 That is our plan for today. See how today goes.
15 We could be done by late this afternoon -- or in the
16 morning.

17 Next we have Jaylene Ukatiku and Carla. Are you
18 both going to speak together or one at a time?
19 Community Roundtable

20 JAYLENE UKPATIKU: Hi. We have five questions.
21 Can you guys hear me?

22 On one of the maps, it shows a grave site very
23 close to the Whale Tail Pit. What will happen to the
24 site, to that grave?

25 MR. VANENGEN: Ryan Vanengen from Agnico
26 Eagle.

1 Could you repeat the question? Sorry. I missed
2 that.

3 JAYLENE UKPATIKU: On one of the maps, it shows a
4 grave site very close to the pit. We were wondering
5 what will happen to the grave.

6 MR. VANENGEN: Thank you for the question.
7 Ryan Vanengen from Agnico Eagle.

8 The grave site is located about 1.5 to
9 2 kilometres from our operations. It's an upland kind
10 of location, and it will not be disturbed as a result
11 of our mining activities, and we'll make sure that it's
12 protected.

13 Mat'na.

14 JAYLENE UKPATIKU: Thank you.

15 CARLA KAAYAK: Our other question is what
16 will happen to the road going to the camp if it's not
17 approved by NIRB?

18 MR. VANENGEN: Thank you for the question.

19 The Meadowbank all-weather access road -- if the
20 Whale Tail Pit Project is not approved, then the
21 Meadowbank site will begin closure. We would start the
22 closure process for the Meadowbank mine site, which
23 would take quite a few years. But after the closure of
24 the Meadowbank mine site, we've -- we would have to
25 close the road as well, which means that we would
26 scarify the road and meet all of the objectives of the

1 Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada for guidance on
2 closure.

3 Mat'na.

4 JAYLENE UKPATIKU: You mentioned summer jobs and
5 TASK week at the mine. Are there any opportunities for
6 youth interested in work at the mine?

7 MS. RAMCHARAN: There are opportunities for
8 youth. The minimum age to work at the Meadowbank mine
9 is 18 years old. There's a summer students program
10 every summer. Those are usually advertised in April,
11 May, June. And any other position is open to people
12 aged 18.

13 Candace Ramcharan, Agnico Eagle.

14 CARLA KAAYAK: On one of the maps, we saw
15 that there are muskox near the Whale Tail Pit, and we
16 want to know what will be the impact with the muskox
17 when and if they -- if the pit gets approved?

18 MR. VANENGEN: Mat'na. Ryan Vanengen from
19 Agnico Eagle.

20 The muskox around our site will be -- that are
21 interacting with our project will be protected, and we
22 have a number of ways that we'll do that, and we'll
23 follow the same caribou monitoring and mitigations
24 procedures that were presented yesterday to ensure the
25 muskox are also protected.

26 Mat'na.

1 CARLA KAAYAK: Thank you.

2 JAYLENE UKPATIKU: We were wondering how deep the
3 pit will be and will you be -- will you go deeper than
4 the permafrost? And what will be the impact on the
5 land if you go deeper than the ...

6 MR. VANENGEN: Thank you. We were just
7 conferring on how deep -- or Ryan Vanengen from Agnico
8 Eagle.

9 We were just conferring on how deep the pit is,
10 and the pit will be 130 metres in depth, which means
11 that it will be surrounded by permafrost. What we
12 expect will happen is that, when we're mining, the
13 permafrost will -- or I guess there will be some
14 thawing of the permafrost near the pit. So there will
15 be some changes in the permafrost around the pit. But
16 under a closure scenario, most of the area will return
17 to being within permafrost because it's not below --
18 it's all within permafrost.

19 Mat'na.

20 JAYLENE UKPATIKU: Thank you.

21 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

22 Basil Kayavinik.

23 BASIL KAYAVINIK: Thank you, Chairman. My name
24 is Basil Kayavinik. I am from Baker Lake. I first
25 want to welcome you all to Baker Lake. I am going to
26 speak only Inuktitut. If I try to speak English, I am

1 just going to swallow and choke on my words.

2 My question, maybe it's for Department of
3 Transport. With respect to the ships and the barges,
4 where does the ship originate from? And who operates
5 it? Who is in charge of the ship that is being used?
6 And where does it originate from before it comes here
7 to Baker Lake? That's my question.

8 The freight that is being brought, whether they
9 are inspected before. And when it's windy out, whether
10 you end up having to anchor and dock for the safety and
11 wait for the weather to clear. That's my question.
12 It's my only question.

13 Thank you very much. I would like an answer for
14 that, to my question. Thank you.

15 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
16 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.

17 The ships come from the south shore of Quebec, Bay
18 of Becancour, Quebec. And the shipping route is coming
19 through and south of Coats Island, then up through
20 Chesterfield to Baker.

21 I think -- oh, the shipping company is Desgagnes.
22 They have the location in Quebec and also in Churchill.

23 Thank you.

24 THE INTERPRETER: He did ask about the weather.
25 When there's bad weather, do you dock and hold off
26 until the weather clears off when it's too windy out

1 for the ship to be safe?

2 THE CHAIR: We didn't hear that, but I
3 assume Agnico Eagle heard. Was that another question?

4 Okay. Go ahead.

5 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
6 Quesnel.

7 Based on bad weather, the captain will make that
8 final decision. So there's a few different options,
9 depending where they are. So they can dock or move to
10 a different location. But they're always tracking the
11 weather related to that. So it's a judgment call by
12 the captain based on those risks at that time.

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

14 Phillip.

15 MR. KADLUN: Thank you, Madam Chair.
16 Phillip Kadlun, Nunavut Impact Review Board member.

17 The Board member Kaviq brought up the issue of the
18 sound level travelling at certain distance. For my
19 clarity, I think, the type of the weather, it's
20 important because the sound will travel quite
21 differently on the very clear, calm days as well
22 cloudy, windy days and so on. I'm wondering whether
23 those numbers you gave us yesterday are taken at what
24 kind of weather, whether the weather was taken into
25 consideration to come up with the decibel level at
26 certain distance from the mine site and/or haul roads

1 or wherever you did your studies.

2 Thank you, Madam Chair.

3 MR. VANENGEN: Ryan Vanengen from Agnico
4 Eagle.

5 The information that we shared yesterday with the
6 modelling that showed at 7 kilometres the noise would
7 be back to background. That information that we shared
8 assumes a clear and calm day. So it's the worst-case
9 scenario. 'Cause you're absolutely right, under
10 certain weather conditions -- like, snow is an
11 absorbant to noise. So that means that this is a
12 conservative estimate. And wind, as you mentioned, is
13 going to allow noise to travel farther. So under these
14 scenarios, we believe this is a conservative estimate
15 or the worst-case estimate for noise.

16 Mat'na.

17 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

18 Guy.

19 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Guy
20 Alikut, NIRB Board member.

21 The thing that you talked about earlier this
22 morning, the people that need counselling by the
23 elders, as you said, there is someone there at --
24 on-site to help with mental health issues. Have they
25 been there forever? Or do they go there only once a
26 year or once a month? That's my first question.

1 MS. RAMCHARAN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

2 Candace Ramcharan, Agnico Eagle.

3 Elders are brought onto site about once a quarter
4 to the Meadowbank site for counselling.

5 The registered nurse who is trained to assess some
6 mental health issues is available 24 hours a day, every
7 day. As well as the employee assistance program,
8 that's also a 24-hour helpline. So if somebody needs
9 assistance, they can also call that line at any time.

10 Through our Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement on-site
11 working groups, we will also have elders visiting the
12 sites also once a quarter for different reasons, but
13 they'll also -- our employees will have access to those
14 elders for counselling needs as well.

15 Mat'na.

16 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you for the answer.

17 And we hear often that mining company at
18 Meadowbank, the Inuit, whether they complain, they just
19 get fired. I've seen that myself personally. Why is
20 it like that when they're not even understood what
21 their problem is? If you could answer that question.
22 How do you view that? When you're from the community
23 and they complain, they are not allowed to work there
24 anymore, they get fired, and they don't work anymore.
25 Even if they try to reply, and they get fired. I've
26 been told twice as just a person, and I heard it.

1 These are things that I've heard. I'm sure people
2 around here have heard the same thing. Why is it when
3 they need help they don't get the help they need? It's
4 not a good place to work for if it's like that and you
5 don't want to work for a place like that. How do you
6 view that?

7 Thank you.

8 MS. RAMCHARAN: Candace Ramcharan, Agnico
9 Eagle.

10 We have processes in place for Inuit -- for,
11 actually, all employees to complain, including seeing
12 our human resource Inuit agents or their supervisors or
13 calling what's called "Speak Up", which is an anonymous
14 call-in place where they can complain and then those
15 complaints are investigated.

16 An employee might be fired for other reasons, but
17 they should not ever be fired because they've
18 complained about something. Some of the ways that an
19 employee might get fired is if there's been repeated
20 disciplinary actions, so their supervisors have
21 intervened for their behaviour multiple times for
22 absences and no-shows. An employee usually has about
23 six chances before they might be dismissed. In more
24 severe events than absenteeism, there's multiple
25 chances, between two and four.

26 So, normally, an employee should not be fired for

1 complaining. And if they are, they should contact our
2 complaints hotline, tusaajugut, or "Speak Up" or come
3 see a human Inuit agent -- sorry -- human resource
4 Inuit agent to have that situation addressed and
5 investigated.

6 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you. You almost
7 answered my question. However, we hear it often what
8 you're saying and we hear it from the side from the
9 public, and it's hard to believe. Maybe the Inuit that
10 are working, if you keep them informed when things are
11 happening to them these are places where you can go
12 complain to.

13 Some of them, their supervisors yell at them, and
14 it's like they're not worth anything. And it's hard
15 to -- hard to listen to these types of things. And not
16 from you, but this is something that needs to be
17 addressed. We want our future to be able to work and
18 get trained and get educated. We want them to work
19 because if -- you know, if it's a good place to work,
20 they -- it'd be a good place for the youth to gain
21 employment and education. If there's a place that they
22 are informed, if the supervisor doesn't like them,
23 they -- it's the supervisor too that should be looked
24 at, not only the employee. It's just something that I
25 just wanted to get clarification on because we hear it
26 too often.

1 Thank you.

2 THE CHAIR: Executive director, Ryan.

3 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan
4 Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.

5 I appreciate Guy's concerns. We've heard them. I
6 know Guy has heard them from community members many
7 times. I thought it might be helpful for Agnico Eagle
8 if they could perhaps touch on how far their own
9 policies for complaints, things like this, also extend
10 to their contractors and their subcontractors. Because
11 sometimes when we hear these complaints and people say
12 generally they work at the mine site but they may not
13 be employees of Agnico Eagle; they may be employees of
14 other companies that work for Agnico Eagle too. So
15 that clarification could be helpful.

16 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Exactly what I was
17 going to also mention. Are there other companies that
18 have -- smaller companies that have contracts from
19 Agnico Eagle Mines? And does Agnico Eagle Mine pass on
20 these policies to these other smaller companies that
21 work for Agnico Eagle?

22 Thank you.

23 MS. RAMCHARAN: Thank you, Madam Chair.
24 Candace Ramcharan, Agnico Eagle.

25 Very good questions, and it is a challenge for us
26 have -- especially in some cases when we have many,

1 many contractors on sites. All of our policies,
2 including our harassment policy and the complaints
3 lines that exist, apply for contractors as well. It's
4 even in the contractor contracts that they should
5 adhere to Agnico Eagle human resource policies. The
6 challenge is in hearing about some of those. When
7 events might occur with our contractors, Agnico isn't
8 always informed. So we do encourage people to use the
9 public complaints line or to go see an Agnico Eagle
10 human resource agent to help intervene and possibly
11 address any of these issues.

12 Mat'na.

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

14 Martha Hickes.

15 MARTHA HICKES: Thank you. To the proponents,
16 how much in the ten years have you made? And where
17 does money go?

18 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
19 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.

20 Thank you for that question. As we're a public
21 company, all that financial information is public. We
22 can provide the last annual report with all the
23 financial information. And, also, just based on the
24 type of business we're in, with Meadowbank
25 specifically, I think it was 2013 we had to write off
26 over \$600 million based on the Meadowbank operation.

1 But, overall, the information based on the company's
2 financial performance is in the -- that annual report,
3 and we can provide copies.

4 Thank you.

5 Oh. So definition of "a write-off", it's a loss.
6 So we had to write that down. So we did not make any
7 profits. We had more money to pay than we made. So it
8 was a write-off based on that.

9 Hopefully that explains and answers your
10 questions.

11 MARTHA HICKES: Thank you.

12 And I was looking at this linking traditional to
13 Agnico value and policies under -- wait -- pijitsirniq.
14 You guys leave Chesterfield out; and I'm just wondering
15 why, 'cause the ships go through that area, and I think
16 they should be a part of this program.

17 MS. RAMCHARAN: Candace Ramcharan, Agnico
18 Eagle.

19 There will be a Chesterfield Inlet Family Days.
20 It is an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement
21 requirement. We are hoping to organize it for this
22 year, but for sure in 2018 there will be a Chesterfield
23 Inlet Family Days.

24 MARTHA HICKES: Yes, that's all I have.

25 THE CHAIR: Rita Oosuaq. Somebody help
26 her adjust the mic.

1 RITA OOSUAQ: Thank you for allowing me to
2 voice myself.

3 I went up to the site on August 27 to see the
4 Agnico Meadowbank site. I went to go see the land
5 where our grandparents used to walk on, and it really
6 tore me up inside. Our grandparents, where they
7 treaded on, once again it's going to be impacted. We
8 will not -- we will not see even \$50 that we could
9 maybe use. I think that would be a lot for us. Even
10 if we were given \$50, that would mean a lot.

11 That's all I have.

12 THE CHAIR: Wynona.

13 WYNONA GIBBONS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

14 I have a question with regards to at
15 Kilometre 85 -- starting at Kilometre 85 that you said
16 that that was going -- after that is going to be a
17 private road. As for myself, I know that "private" is
18 a term used by the company. Is there another private
19 area that we won't be able to access? It's sort of
20 almost like an area where people shouldn't go. To me,
21 the word "private" is -- it's very -- it's like almost
22 a word taboo, because we don't speak in those types of
23 terms. The land belongs to everyone. We know what
24 "private" means. It's almost we can't access that.
25 And is there going to be another area? Is there any
26 other areas in your program that are private that we

1 need to know of?

2 And that's my question.

3 MR. VANENGEN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

4 Thank you for the question.

5 So the term "private" is more meant to mean that
6 it's not safe to go in that area for land-users.

7 Excuse me. It's not safe to go there for land users,
8 traditional land use, because of all the heavy traffic.

9 That being said, it is your land and the land
10 around that area is for use for traditional land uses;
11 and that's why we have -- on the haul road that we're
12 proposing, we have traditional land-use crossings
13 because the traditional land use -- the Inuit
14 Qaujimaqatugangit workshop suggested that the -- or
15 told us that the travel routes were from Baker Lake
16 north, through our site, and then towards Gjoa Haven on
17 the Meadowbank river. And the traditional land use
18 crossings will still allow for that land use along the
19 Baker Lake road to Kilometre 85 and then around our
20 project activities -- to protect the traditional land
21 users. And then they would cross our haul road and
22 keep going north to Gjoa Haven.

23 So I hope that helps answer. And you're right;
24 it's a term that we use, "private". But it's really
25 just meant to say that we're trying to protect the area
26 because of the safety concerns. I hope that helps.

1 MARTHA HICKES: Yes, you answered my question.

2 The Whale Tail Project, if it's approved, in
3 Inuktitut and in English and in roman orthography, the
4 things that people need to know, they'll have signage
5 up for our youth to understand these types of things.
6 I would like to see signage in those three --
7 syllabics, English, and in roman orthography.

8 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

9 I keep forgetting there are deferred responses
10 that I was going to get to right away, deferred
11 response from Agnico Eagle Mines and also a deferred
12 response from DFO and a deferred response from
13 Government of Nunavut.

14 So, Agnico Eagle Mines, you may start.
15 Agnico Eagle Mines Limited Responds to Deferred
16 Questions

17 MR. VANENGEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ryan
18 Vanengen from Agnico Eagle.

19 So the deferred questions were the questions, I
20 believe, from Hugh. Is that right? Okay. Thank you.

21 So the first question was related to the size of
22 the Whale Tail Lake, and we would like to refer the
23 participants to go look at the scale, the 3-D model
24 scale, which has Baker Lake. The scale of Baker Lake
25 and the scale of our project is all the same on that
26 3-D model. So that will give a really clear idea to

1 everybody here what the size of Whale Tail Lake is.

2 And we estimate that there will be -- the other
3 question was how many fish are in Whale Tail Lake? And
4 using the information that we've collected from the
5 previous fish-outs -- so the fish-out of -- at
6 Meadowbank, the fish-out of second Portage Lake, of
7 Bay Goose basin, of Vault Lake, as well as Phaser
8 Lake -- we estimate based on the size of Whale Tail and
9 the volume of water in Whale Tail that we will have
10 3,346 total fish that will be moved from the north
11 basin to the south basin. And that will be about 1,000
12 lake trout; a few Arctic char, like 60 Arctic char;
13 375 ground whitefish; and then quite a few small fish,
14 like sculpin and stickleback as well. So I hope that
15 helps answer the question.

16 My colleague Jamie will respond to the other ones
17 around transportation.

18 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
19 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.

20 Just dealing with the transfer of fuel from water
21 to land at the fuel farm in Baker Lake, so if someone
22 sees a machine or if there's -- appears to be a spill,
23 they can contact the Baker Lake office and see if
24 that's our ship or if there's something we can help
25 with. So we can -- that would be the first point of
26 contact related to that.

1 We do have -- with our shipping companies
2 transferring fuels, we have spill contingency plans.
3 We have training. We just completed training of Rankin
4 Inlet where the hamlets were invited for that
5 additional training. Last week in Baker Lake, we had a
6 mockup. That's when we pretend that we have a spill
7 and we work out all the details, have a
8 lessons-learned; what worked well; what did not work
9 well; how do we improve? Also, we have a mutual
10 assistance MOU with the Baker Lake Hamlet's search and
11 rescue and also the fire departments. So we had that
12 opportunity for everyone to work together.

13 And, also, this is also related to the
14 transportation of our fuel from Baker Lake to
15 Meadowbank with the fuel trucks. Their trips are
16 timed. So when they go to the first gatehouse, they
17 have an amount of time to travel to Meadowbank. So if
18 they're a little bit late, then there's communication
19 along the road but also to ensure the safety of that
20 vehicle. But if they're a little bit under that time
21 limit, then there's a discussion just based on speed.
22 So we track that. And, also, on these trucks, they
23 have spill kits; and we have at certain locations
24 containers with emergency spill kits.

25 And possibly it may be good, just based on that
26 discussion with ships, maybe Transport Canada and

1 possibly DFO, with the relationship regarding fish and
2 such, maybe they can speak and add a few more details
3 related to that, if you wish, Madam Chair.

4 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

5 Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

6 Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Transport Canada
7 Respond to Deferred Questions

8 MR. D'AGUIAR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Mark
9 D'Aguiar with Fisheries and Oceans.

10 I'm assuming the deferred response is relating to
11 the shipping question, and this will be a joint
12 response from Transport Canada and DFO, and I'll be
13 giving that response on both of our behalfs. And this
14 relates to the discussion that Jamie was talking about
15 regarding the tugboat right before lunch and the sheer.
16 So if a ship is connected by hose to a tank farm, so an
17 oil-handling facility, then Agnico Eagle or the
18 proponent and the vessel are responsible to clean up
19 and both have cleanup materials available. If there's
20 no connection from ship to shore, then only the ship or
21 the vessel is responsible for that cleanup.

22 The Canadian Coast Guard with Fisheries and Oceans
23 Canada, they monitor the responses of ship-to-source
24 marine pollution in the Arctic. If the polluter is
25 unwilling or unable to respond or it is unknown who the
26 polluter is, the Canadian Coast Guard will take the

1 lead in responding to ship-to-source pollution on
2 behalf of Government of Canada. Transport Canada
3 conducts the compliance inspections and will take
4 appropriate actions based on those results.

5 Madam Chair, I also would like to maybe address --
6 we weren't directly asked a question earlier, but there
7 was a comment about Zodiacs between Walrus and
8 Coats Island, disturbing, I believe, walrus and marine
9 mammals. I did look -- take the opportunity to look up
10 the regulation that that falls under for the
11 communities to know what they can do if they notice
12 marine mammals being disturbed. May I respond to that?

13 THE CHAIR: (NO VERBAL RESPONSE)

14 MR. D'AGUIAR: Thank you.

15 So under the Marine Mammal Regulations of the
16 Fisheries Act, it is actually a prohibition such that
17 no person shall disturb a marine mammal except when
18 fishing for mammals under the authority of these
19 regulations. So pretty much, unless you have Inuit
20 rights to fish for marine animals, no one can do that;
21 it's a prohibition. If there are concerns about marine
22 mammal harassment, please contact the Canadian Coast
23 Guard's number from Iqaluit. I can provide the number
24 later to the Board. And that's where you'd want to go
25 with that.

26 Thank you.

1 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

2 Deferred response from the Government of Nunavut.

3 Government of Nunavut Responds to Deferred Questions

4 MR. PINKSEN: Thank you. Steve Pinksen,

5 Government of Nunavut.

6 Madam Chair, we were asked have there been changes
7 in demand on services from the Government of Nunavut
8 since the start-up of the Meadowbank mine? So there's
9 been two noticeable changes.

10 One, as I mentioned already, was an increased
11 demand for services from the health centre, and that
12 was timed -- the increase in demand was timed with the
13 start-up and ramp-up of the Meadowbank mine.

14 The second change that was noticed was a decrease
15 in demand for social assistance. That timed at the
16 same time as the Meadowbank mine was ramping up. So
17 that was a decrease that lasted for a few years, and
18 then the levels went back to normal.

19 It's a complicated matter, and we can't say for
20 sure that these changes in demand were due to the mine,
21 but those changes did happen during the time the mine
22 was starting operation.

23 Thank you.

24 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

25 The increase in health centre, that's -- you can't
26 say if it's accidents?

1 MR. PINKSEN: Thank you. Steve Pinksen,
2 Government of Nunavut.

3 We don't have the specifics of the type of
4 services that were requested, just that there was an
5 increase in request for service.

6 Thank you.

7 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

8 Those were the deferred responses. One more.

9 MR. BARRY: Thank you, Madam Chair, Ryan
10 Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board staff.

11 Agnico Eagle had indicated that they would be
12 coming back with data about the number of harvesters on
13 the road. They were going to come back after lunch
14 with those numbers.

15 MR. VANENGEN: Yeah, thank you. We're still
16 working on that, just to summarize it. So we're still
17 working on that. We'll have that shortly or, I should
18 say, by the end of -- before dinner, I'll say. Thanks.

19 THE CHAIR: We could be done before
20 dinner.

21 MR. VANENGEN: We're working on it. As
22 quickly as possible, we'll get it to you. Mat'na.

23 THE CHAIR: Okay. We'll get it soon.
24 Phillip.

25 Community Roundtable

26 MR. KADLUN: Quana, Madam Chair. Phillip

1 Kadlun, Nunavut Impact Review Board.

2 Today we've heard about the registered nurse being
3 at the worksite. My question is -- it's relating to
4 mental health issues. I know that employees will be
5 from within various communities in Kivalliq. And
6 having two weeks in, two weeks out, month after month,
7 especially in a year you're away from home for six
8 months, that's equal to six months in one year -- now,
9 that will have an impact on the worker. The worker and
10 his young family may have -- a person may have a young
11 family at home. Those families even at home will need
12 some sort of mental health worker to help them cope
13 with social problems that may arise from being
14 separated from one another, especially if you have
15 children and very young employees that are at worksite.
16 We have seen it in many communities in my region as
17 well.

18 My question is whether there will be professional
19 mental health workers at site or in the communities to
20 address the mental health issues that may arise from
21 being away from home for such a long period of time.

22 Thank you, Madam Chair.

23 MS. RAMCHARAN: Candace Ramcharan, Agnico
24 Eagle.

25 There are some programs and help available to help
26 cope with mental health. In particular, there's a

1 program called "Making It Work", coping with
2 fly-in/fly-outs, and this program brings the spouses of
3 new employees or of employees of Agnico Eagle to the
4 Meadowbank mine site so they can better understand what
5 their spouse is doing when they're away for half the
6 year at work. And that also -- that program is also
7 designed to help create peer support groups in the
8 communities for those spouses who are left behind while
9 their significant other is gone.

10 Through our community coordinators, which is now
11 established in every hamlet, we will be training them
12 to be able to receive mental health issues and then go
13 and get extra help where they need it. So they might
14 be able to refer a person to a trained psychologist
15 where needed or maybe an elder in the community.
16 Whatever help they might need, they will be trained to
17 be able to kind of be that frontline help in each
18 community.

19 As well on-site there are peer counsellors who are
20 available; the human resources Inuit agents; the elders
21 who occasionally come to site; as well as clergy
22 members, specifically from Baker Lake, who come to
23 Meadowbank to help support employees' mental health
24 while they're at work, as well as while they're back
25 home in their communities.

26 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

1 Guy.

2 MR. ALIKUT: Thank you, Madam Chair. Guy
3 Alikut, NIRB Board member.

4 Yes, that's very good to hear. It's very
5 concerning sometimes. Do you work hand in hand with
6 the GN to -- because you alone cannot be the sole
7 people that will handle problems whenever they arise.
8 I think maybe the GN could help out with mental health
9 workers, to set up mental health workers -- workplaces
10 in each community. Do you work with the GN? Maybe we
11 can look at it as a larger picture so that we can have
12 mental health workers in each community, irregardless
13 of the mine. If the mine goes, we still would need
14 them.

15 Thank you.

16 THE CHAIR: We'll let Agnico Eagle respond
17 before Government of Nunavut.

18 MS. RAMCHARAN: Candace Ramcharan, Agnico
19 Eagle.

20 We work in partnership with different communities
21 of interest. So for the coping with fly-in/fly-out
22 training, we worked with -- the Kivalliq Inuit
23 Association, I believe, was involved in that as well as
24 the Nunavut Literacy Council. We work with the
25 Government of Nunavut in terms of promoting some of the
26 services and awareness that already exist with the GN.

1 We promote that on our sites. And through the
2 socioeconomic monitoring committee, we work with the GN
3 in terms of raising what issues we're seeing.

4 Also, two days ago, Agnico Eagle signed an
5 agreement, a memorandum of understanding, with the
6 Government of Nunavut to tackle ten priority areas,
7 including health, infrastructure, community well-being.
8 So these areas, we will work closely in collaboration
9 with the GN to help improve social issues in all
10 communities and not just at the mine site.

11 THE CHAIR: Government of Nunavut.

12 MR. PINKSEN: Thank you. Steve Pinksen,
13 Government of Nunavut.

14 The Government of Nunavut is responsible for
15 health services delivery and social services delivery
16 in all Nunavut communities. There's a health centre in
17 every community which provides or has access to provide
18 mental health support and services. As well, through
19 the department of family services, they have support
20 for families and children provided through the children
21 and family services offices in various communities,
22 including Baker Lake.

23 Thank you.

24 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

25 I just noted when you were showing your map why --
26 is there a reason why you posted an area where it says

1 "place of spirits" or that it's an haunted area? Is
2 there a reason why you posted that?

3 MR. VANENGEN: The reason, Madam Chair, the
4 reason why we put that on the figure was we were being
5 objective with the information that was provided to us.
6 So that was indicated to us as a spirited area; so we
7 objectively put that on the map.

8 Mat'na.

9 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you.

10 Any other questions?

11 Agnes.

12 AGNES POKSIAK TURNER: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
13 just want to make a comment. I'll speak in English.

14 From my experience, when you've been traumatized,
15 you don't trust anyone anymore. You're at the bottom
16 of your life. It's like that. You seek people whom
17 you feel will understand to finally express your needs
18 and to get back up. You look for a rope to climb back
19 up again. And when there seems to be no hope, then
20 somebody will think about suicide, and the clients will
21 want to talk to the people at -- who will understand
22 them when they're expressing their needs.

23 But I believe that if you're going to think about
24 hiring a mental health worker, somebody, you might have
25 to think about getting an interpreter or somebody.
26 Because when you've been down at the bottom of your

1 life, it's hard to express yourself. You really want
2 to bring it out, but then you're stuck with the
3 language barrier, in any language.

4 So I just wanted to mention that. And thank you.
5 Mat'na.

6 THE CHAIR: I think we all get a general
7 idea of your concerns, your comments. So as a Board,
8 we will gather all this information. We will include
9 your comments, your questions.

10 So now is the time you're going to be selecting a
11 speaker for your home community as -- to represent --
12 to present to us.

13 We'll be back with closing remarks from community
14 representatives from each community. Let's take a
15 15-minute break.

16 (ADJOURNMENT)

17 THE CHAIR: Okay. Shall we get back to
18 the hearing, please. Before we go into closing remarks
19 from communities, Andrew Panigoniak had a question, and
20 I'm sorry I missed his -- I missed when he raised his
21 hand. You may proceed.

22 ANDREW PANIGONIAK SR.: I'm Andrew Panigoniak from
23 Arviat. I have just a small comment.

24 At -- first of all, I'd like to thank the -- my
25 community members who told me to represent our
26 community. I was -- through this, I was able to see my

1 relatives here as well, and I'm very thankful for that.

2 My first question is to Agnico Eagle -- and my
3 question is not really directly to Agnico Eagle, but my
4 first question to Agnico is I heard that there was
5 going to be chemicals -- what chemicals are going to be
6 used? Are they going to be in form of liquid, or are
7 they powder? I have no clue.

8 Also, with regards to birds, caribou, wildlife,
9 fish, will these animals be impacted directly through
10 the tributaries and the river systems and freshwater
11 and through air?

12 THE CHAIR: Just before you respond, it's
13 unfortunate that chemicals have no interpretation in
14 Inuktitut, which is very unfortunate for unilinguals
15 who cannot understand this arsenic and acid rock
16 drainage. It sounds scary. So if you can please
17 answer Andrew's question.

18 MR. QUESNEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Jamie
19 Quesnel, Agnico Eagle.

20 Dealing with chemicals, we have -- we use dry
21 chemicals and also liquids. We -- we -- with a dust
22 suppressant that we use on the all-weather access road,
23 which is a product that's part of the guidance document
24 from the Government of Nunavut. It's applied in a dry
25 form and then graded into the -- into the upper portion
26 of the -- of the roadbed. So that's one example of a

1 dry-chemical use, which is part of the guidance
2 document with the Government of Nunavut.

3 We have other liquid chemicals that we use related
4 to our milling process. It's under strict regulations,
5 and also we have a lot of vessels to protect the
6 material. The other chemicals related to arsenic and
7 such, those are natural metals in the rock, just like
8 iron or red colour, and arsenic is a natural component
9 of mineralization of the rock. So that's a natural
10 chemical. However, we use other chemicals that are
11 made in factories, synthetic chemicals, that are
12 provided to us for our process. But everything follows
13 strict government regulations on handling, shipping,
14 and also for storage at the site.

15 So hopefully I addressed your concerns about that.

16 And, Ryan, will you talk about the fish.

17 MR. VANENGEN: Madam Chair, it's Ryan
18 Vanengen from Agnico Eagle. The other question was
19 related to the effects on wildlife and on fish, and
20 it's -- based on the monitoring in our impact
21 assessment, we believe we will have zero harm to
22 caribou that interact with our -- would that -- for the
23 herds that interact with our project. We will continue
24 to monitor and mitigate any effects to caribou, as well
25 as other wildlife that interact with our project. So
26 we'll make sure that wolverines, wolves, siksik birds

1 are also protected, and we'll monitor the impacts.

2 We will also -- related to fish, there will be a
3 temporary loss of fish habitat because of the
4 dewatering of the north basin. That being said, we're
5 going to -- through our fish-out protocols, we're going
6 to transfer as many fish as we can from the north basin
7 that's being fished out into the south basin and create
8 a kind of reservoir for all those fish to live in by
9 raising the water level. And we believe through that
10 offsetting and other measures to offset, we've offset
11 those impacts to the loss of habitat.

12 And, lastly, related to water quality, downstream,
13 we'll make sure that we treat the water and put in
14 other mitigation through our water management on-site
15 to ensure that the water quality -- so the water that
16 the fish swim in, as well as the sediment that the fish
17 food survives in is clean.

18 Mat'na.

19 ANDREW PANIGONIAK SR.: Thank you. That was a good
20 answer. The other question that I have is in
21 regards -- I don't know who to direct this to, but I
22 hear that the caribou population is declining. Inuit
23 and Dene use the caribou as a source of food. Some of
24 the river systems that are up north are probably being
25 contaminated. It's not the companies that are -- that
26 are not killing the caribou; it's -- it's because of us

1 hunting them. And I know that for a fact; the caribou
2 are declining. Wildlife and -- and polar bears,
3 grizzly bears, wolves that -- I know for a fact that
4 caribou -- our wolves are part of the problem. They --
5 they do -- they're predators. The river -- and also
6 waterfalls are -- we can -- you see them very easy
7 close to the tree line. There's -- on the other side,
8 there's a lot of caribou herd that are -- and you'd be
9 able to see how many caribou they got. They harvest a
10 lot of them, both people, rivers, waterfalls,
11 predators. Everything. We can't stop that either.

12 Like, the real hunters know -- they'd probably be
13 able to be more eloquent than me. There's a lot of
14 hunters here. That was the only thing I wanted to talk
15 about. Thank you very much, Madam Chairman [sic].

16 THE CHAIR: Thank you. We're going to
17 switch to our last portion of our agenda, so make your
18 presentation short. What your thoughts are about
19 Agnico Eagle's application for Whale Tail Project,
20 whether you agree for it to go ahead or not. Give us
21 ten minutes and tell the Board members what your
22 thoughts are.

23 After your questions and your presentation will
24 give us the indication what your thoughts are, whether
25 it's approved by your community or not, it will help
26 us, everything that you say, for the next two months

1 that we have to agree. All of us have to agree on
2 this.

3 So for the communities -- starting from the
4 communities, what your thoughts are. Are you in
5 favour, are you not in favour, and why? That's the
6 first one -- we'll hear from Coral Harbour.

7 Comment by Coral Harbour Representative

8 PAUL PUDLAT: Paul Pudlat from Coral
9 Harbour. Thank you, Madam Chair.

10 I have a short comment. I know there is going to
11 be training and education. There's no doubt. When the
12 mining companies are no longer here and -- you can't
13 just leave us in the lurch. We do need our future.
14 Not -- not only for mining industry; we have to have
15 education, something I wanted to mention first.

16 I'm okay. I approve. Thank you.

17 THE CHAIR: Mat'na.

18 Arviat.

19 Comment by Arviat Representative

20 WYNONA GIBBONS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

21 Wynona Gibbons, Arviat, from the youth. There's four
22 of us. Three of us don't agree. Why do we feel that
23 way? From the beginning when Cumberland started up to
24 today, it's -- there's problems in our community. Our
25 workers that work at the mine, they are not treated
26 properly, and they are not inform -- they are not

1 informing our communities. And the Hamlet are
2 informed, but us, the people that live in the
3 communities, are not informed of what's happening, and
4 we are not made to understand why things are like that.
5 That's why we don't feel this should be approved.

6 Thank you.

7 THE CHAIR: Whale Cove.

8 Comment by Whale Cove Representative

9 AGNES POKSIK TURNER: Thank you. I'm the only one
10 from Whale Cove. The people that I was supposed to
11 arrive with, they couldn't make it for a good reason.
12 For the community of Whale Cove, I cannot approve for
13 my whole community right now. I really thank them that
14 they are making our youth have jobs and are employed.
15 I'm very thankful, and it sounds like they are working
16 very well.

17 We do hear complaints every now and again, but
18 they are employing our youth. Myself, from Whale Cove,
19 I cannot approve for them and just hear this right now.
20 I'm not -- I'm okay with that. I'm not comfortable
21 with it. That's -- I'm just trying to keep it short,
22 and I can't say yes right now.

23 THE CHAIR: Yeah. There were three others
24 that were supposed to come here, but because of
25 Calm Air and the weather -- I apologize. Thank you.

26 Rankin Inlet.

1 Comment by Rankin Inlet Representative

2 MARTHA HICKES: Thank you. I think -- like to
3 say thank you for being here as well. I'm going to
4 have a short comment. I'm going to speak English.

5 If the Whale Tail Project is allowed to proceed,
6 it would be wise for Agnico to consult with local
7 members -- i.e. HTOs, elders -- to report of upcoming
8 projects and how things are going. The Inuit will not
9 want animal habitats to be disturbed. This is our
10 livelihood. If the Whale Tail Project proceeds, the
11 people that hunt in this area will have to travel
12 further inland and costly to buy hunting necessities,
13 i.e., grass, grub, bullets, and other needs.

14 To minimize the potential negative impacts is to
15 work and listen closely to local HTOs, meet with elders
16 and have public consultation -- i.e., Hamlets -- before
17 starting projects.

18 If Agnico does not abide by local members' rules
19 and regulations, I would encourage the public at large
20 to inform the Hamlets, HTOs, or KIA. The Whale Tail
21 Project will be supported only if Agnico follows steps
22 brought on by local members. Steps needs to be
23 followed, as said by local members, so that both sides
24 are on good terms.

25 Thank you.

26 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Mat'na.

1 Naujaat.

2 Comment by Naujaat Representative

3 ALEXINA NANORDLUK: Alex Nanordluk is my name.

4 I'm from Naujaat.

5 I'd like to say thank you for the mining
6 companies. We do know now -- a lot of us -- or a lot
7 of our community members in Naujaat go to work there,
8 and we see them. They really help their families, and
9 we are in favour.

10 What we heard -- what we heard yesterday and today
11 since we've been meeting, I know it's hard to deal with
12 some things, but other things are dealing with very
13 well, and close to our community, there is exploration
14 company right now right in our hamlet boundaries. We
15 are in support of that as well because they're helping
16 a lot of people and families, and they help people that
17 probably would never have been able to purchase a Honda
18 or snowmobile, but they are able to now. I'd like to
19 say thank you because one of my family members works at
20 the mine, and they buy stuff for their hunting
21 practices. Thank you very much.

22 THE CHAIR: Thank you very much.

23 Chesterfield.

24 Comment by Chesterfield Inlet Representative

25 HARRY AGGARK: Thank you very much,

26 Madam Chair. In the beginning, I'd like to say thank

1 you for the Nunavut Impact Review Board for inviting me
2 here and the -- for -- that I'm with here, that we were
3 invited here, and we were made to feel welcome in Baker
4 Lake by the residents.

5 From the beginning, when the mining company
6 started coming here, Chesterfield has been affected
7 right away through shipping and barges going through
8 the channel. It's something we've been concerned for a
9 long time. Our seals, our fish are being affected.

10 For over ten years now, it's been like -- like
11 that, and we don't seem to mind anymore. We can't say
12 anymore. We've already said it enough.

13 However, from the beginning, once it started --
14 our youth wouldn't have a job today if they didn't open
15 up. They are getting employed, and the training that
16 they're getting that they wouldn't get. Even though we
17 have a government, our smaller communities don't seem
18 to get the help from the government. And we do have
19 educated people with Red Seal now in our community,
20 what they would never have had if he had stayed home.
21 I would like to say thank you to the mining company for
22 that.

23 As well, close to our community -- I know they're
24 not looking for gold, but there's an exploration
25 company that wants to work around our community, and
26 they are helping us, as well, so we're open to them as

1 well today. We want our youth to work and our
2 grandchildren, great-grandchildren that we leave
3 behind. We can't survive on just wildlife anymore, our
4 youth, just looking at them.

5 The mining companies are not going to work -- if
6 they're going to work and work well and try to deal
7 with things properly, then we have no problem with it.
8 I know our waters are going to be affected always. To
9 Baker Lake, there's always going to be ships, but we
10 have asked from the beginning, since the mining
11 companies started, to have a deep seaport in our
12 communities because it's really deep around our
13 community, and it would be beneficial to have a deep
14 seaport. Then you'd be able to offload your ships, and
15 even if the ice is there, they'd be able to deliver
16 those things in November and December.

17 Because it is expensive. I know that. But in the
18 years coming, I know it's not 20; it's not 30; it's not
19 50. If you're thinking way down in the future, you'd
20 be able to set that up. I know the mining companies
21 are always going to want to work in Nunavut, not only
22 for gold. There are diamond explorations. We've met
23 with them. Close to Chesterfield, there is diamonds,
24 one of the most high-grade diamonds in that area, and
25 we're waiting for that.

26 Just to add on to that, just for information, last

1 year a ship from the Baffin -- we had a survey done on
2 the seafloor to -- from the point all the way up to
3 (OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN). They surveyed the seafloor,
4 what it's like and how deep it is. They had videos.
5 You'd be able to see them. And they said that the area
6 where they docked -- or anchor, there's a lot of
7 wildlife, sea life, so we're waiting now. That film
8 that we saw -- or the pictures that we saw, we
9 only fish in the ocean one-and-a-half months in the
10 summer, and we're waiting for those pictures and videos
11 of the seafloor and the survey done.

12 We are thankful for the University of Manitoba for
13 doing the survey on our seafloor. They want to come
14 back next week to do the same. Since they started, our
15 mammals have been impacted. I know the -- our ships --
16 the ships that -- noise that ships make, whether
17 they're affecting our mammals' life, I cannot say. I
18 know they wanted to come last month, but they had
19 problems as well, but next week they'll be coming to
20 our community, and we'll be able to understand what
21 exactly it's like when the ships are going through the
22 area.

23 As I said, our youth are given employment.
24 Thank you very much. As well, my colleagues, they
25 didn't mention too much; however, in the beginning --
26 it's the first meeting for him so he's probably a

1 little bit nervous, but he's learned from this
2 experience. And in final, to say Chesterfield Inlet is
3 in approval. Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: Mat'na.

5 Comment by Baker Lake Representative

6 LENA TAPATAI: Thank you, Madam Chair.

7 And thank you for everybody that came in from the
8 communities; and people that are billeted out,
9 thank you very much for coming here to meet as well and
10 to listen to what the presentations were. People from
11 Baker Lake are affected. People that work are 159 from
12 Baker Lake. If they weren't working at Meadowbank,
13 what would they be doing today? They'd just be waiting
14 for jobs to arrive. 321 are Inuit from other
15 communities: Rankin, Arviat, Coral, Naujaat, and Whale
16 Cove.

17 Over 20 years, the people of Baker Lake were going
18 through a hard time. Half of them are under 24. There
19 was a lot of youth. 71 percent were unemployed in
20 Baker Lake from elders down to the youth. If there's
21 10, only 3 people are working. If there's 100 people,
22 only 30 people would be working.

23 Right now there's 159 that are working. You could
24 see them. They buy hunting equipment, Hondas,
25 snowmobiles. They go hunting because they're Inuit.
26 We have to -- we are affected. It's -- our caribou is

1 our staple food. We're from the land. We're not from
2 the ocean.

3 I said just recently -- when they're going to
4 deal -- my husband was going to go caribou hunting --
5 our ancestors were very wise. Without even looking,
6 they knew where the joints were, how to cut it up, and
7 butcher the meat. They were very good at butchering.
8 If they were doctors, they'd be able to be surgeons
9 because they know how the caribou innards are, where
10 you have to break the bones and stuff, and how to fix
11 them as well. I know you people from the seashore --
12 we have caribou as our staple food. That's the only
13 one, and we are even told, people of the caribou.
14 That's what we were called.

15 However, from 1999, we got Nunavut, and the
16 government started moving -- Qulliq Energy was going to
17 move to Baker Lake, and 15 jobs were going to open. So
18 apply for the job because they're looking for
19 employees. 110 -- or 115 Inuit tried for those 15
20 jobs, and 15 got selected. I wonder where those other
21 people that weren't given a job -- now they have a job.

22 They have to be informed, the Board member,
23 Elders, Youth. If they're included, it would help when
24 you're making decisions in the community. With Co-Op
25 and the Northern and the hotels, they're helping those
26 staff; and they're using the airlines. Everything --

1 they have affected everything in our community, not
2 only to the people that they employ, the stores, the
3 airlines, and every other service that we have in our
4 community.

5 We are in support. I know we're -- not
6 everybody's going to be happy, but at least some of us
7 have a job. I'm not thinking about myself. 159 jobs
8 from Baker Lake are working there. I know they're not
9 my relatives. I know who they -- I know who they are,
10 but I'm in support. I cannot give them money or food
11 as long as they have a job.

12 Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

13 THE CHAIR: Mat'na.

14 Thank you for voicing your concerns, your
15 comments. So we are going to have the burden of making
16 a decision on the comments that you made. Thank you
17 for coming to Baker Lake to come and represent your
18 communities. All the comments that were made will be
19 of use to our decision. There are experts, agencies
20 before they come.

21 (LOST TRANSLATION) -- words to say before we go
22 into closing remarks by our registered intervenors?

23 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

24 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
25 Review Board.

26 Madam Chair, I have three matters to go through.

1 There is a final deferred response that is still
2 outstanding from Agnico Eagle, and we also have some
3 additional exhibits, and then there is a further matter
4 before we go into the closing comments by the
5 intervenors.

6 Thank you, Madam Chair.

7 Agnico Eagle Mines Limited Responds to Deferred
8 Questions

9 MR. VANENGEN: Ryan Vanengen from Agnico
10 Eagle.

11 So the question was related to the number of ATVs
12 that are using the all-weather access road for
13 Meadowbank. And I just want to refer the Nunavut
14 Impact Review Board to our annual report in
15 Section 11.4, and it's related to Condition 33 of our
16 Meadowbank project certificate, and I'll just summarize
17 what's in our annual report. This is an annual report
18 that's publically available, and the Nunavut Impact
19 Review Board have these data as well. And what it
20 shows is that -- that daily records are kept by our
21 dispatch for ATV use, and a summary of the ATV use is
22 summarized as this: In 2016, we had 1,504 ATVs
23 recorded using the road; in 2012, we had 1,456; and in
24 2013, we had 1,958 ATVs; in 2014, we had 1,319 ATVs
25 using the road; and in 2015, we had 2,366 ATVs using
26 the road. So these are recorded by our gate person

1 at -- nearest to Baker Lake.

2 So I hope that fulfills that outstanding question.

3 THE CHAIR: Thank you. That is a lot of
4 ATVs. Thank you.

5 Legal counsel.

6 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

7 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
8 Review Board. So, Madam Chair, the next matter is with
9 respect to the filing of additional exhibits in the
10 final hearing.

11 So, Mr. Armstrong, it's my understanding that you
12 have two more exhibits that you would like to tender to
13 be filed?

14 Agnico Eagle Responds to Deferred Questions

15 MR. VANENGEN: Madam Chair, before we get
16 into that, if I may, there was a response that was
17 provided -- or a question that was provided, I think,
18 two days ago by Margaret Kaluraq. It was a written
19 response. She wasn't able to attend, and we'd like to
20 just -- or written question, sorry, and she wasn't able
21 to attend. We'd like to just quickly respond to that
22 as well. Is that okay?

23 So this is to Margaret: You know, we appreciate
24 her concerns and questions and her written question,
25 and they're certainly very important to Agnico Eagle.
26 We share these concerns as well. These concerns were

1 related to -- these concerns were related to the
2 wellness, well-being, as well as protection of
3 wildlife.

4 And, ultimately, this is why Agnico Eagle has
5 entered into an agreement of a memorandum of
6 understanding with the Government of Nunavut that my
7 colleague Candace spoke to. This agreement says that
8 Agnico Eagle will work with the territory on those ten
9 priority areas, including housing, health, education,
10 economic development, infrastructure, and protection of
11 wildlife. These efforts will be focused on the
12 Kivalliq Region. None of these are directly mining
13 related but are community wellness and health and are
14 absolutely essential to good mining in the long run.

15 Mat'na.

16 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

17 Legal counsel.

18 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

19 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
20 Review Board.

21 So back to where I was. Mr. Armstrong, it's my
22 understanding that you have two additional exhibits
23 that you would like to tender for the final hearing?

24 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes. Thank you, Ms. Meadows,
25 and thank you, Madam Chair. We'll be very brief.

26 The first exhibit is a set of meeting notes dated

1 September 14, 2014, and these are meeting notes which
2 were a meeting between Indian and Northern Affairs
3 Canada and Agnico Eagle, and the meeting notes reflect
4 some agreement on responses to certain submissions of
5 Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in their final
6 submission, and we understand that these responses are
7 satisfactory. So if we could mark that as the next
8 exhibit, those meeting notes.

9 MS. MEADOWS: Teresa Meadows, legal counsel
10 for the Nunavut Impact Review Board. So let the record
11 show that we will be marking this as Exhibit Number 50
12 in this final hearing.

13 EXHIBIT 50 - Indigenous and Northern Affairs
14 Canada, Agnico Eagle Mines Limited, and
15 Golder Associates Ltd. hard copy meeting
16 notes of Golder Document No. 145 dated
17 September 14, 2017 (English)

18 MS. MEADOWS: Your next exhibit?

19 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair.
20 The next exhibit is a set of terms of reference for the
21 terrestrial advisory group. Agnico Eagle, in
22 Exhibit 21 -- it was quite a long exhibit, and it
23 included a list of commitments which Agnico Eagle made
24 to the Government of Nunavut in response to the
25 Government of Nunavut's submissions. Those commitments
26 indicated that -- that there would be additional

1 studies done and recommendations made by the
2 terrestrial advisory group and that Agnico Eagle would
3 adhere to those recommendations in accordance with the
4 terms of reference.

5 So we have had discussions with the Government of
6 Nunavut, the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers
7 Organization, and the Kivalliq Inuit Association about
8 the terms of reference. These terms of reference,
9 which we wish to file, are, as we understand, agreed to
10 by Agnico Eagle and the Government of Nunavut. We
11 believe that they're also supported by the Hunters and
12 Trappers Organization.

13 We recognize that the Kivalliq Inuit Association
14 wanted some additional edits, which we weren't able to
15 agree with, so this -- this document we still wish to
16 tender as one which is agreed to, certainly between
17 Agnico Eagle and the Government of Nunavut, and we hope
18 that all four of these parties will participate fully
19 in the terrestrial advisory group. So if we could mark
20 that as the next exhibit.

21 MS. MEADOWS: Teresa Meadows, legal counsel
22 for the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

23 If I can have legal counsel for the Government of
24 Nunavut appear. Is it your intention to tender this as
25 a joint submission or simply on behalf of Agnico Eagle?

26 MR. ARMSTRONG: We are submitting it on behalf

1 of Agnico Eagle but with the understanding that it is
2 agreed to by the Government of Nunavut, but perhaps
3 they could confirm that as well.

4 MS. STOCKLEY: Madam Chair, Emily Stockley,
5 legal counsel for the Government of Nunavut.

6 Yes, this is our understanding. The Government of
7 Nunavut has agreed to the terms of reference.

8 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
9 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
10 Review Board.

11 So let the record show that that will be tendered
12 as Exhibit Number 51. And, Madam Chair, I have one
13 more matter.

14 EXHIBIT 51 - Agnico Eagle hard copy
15 Appendix A - terms of reference - terrestrial
16 advisory group (English)
17 Farewell to Karen Costello

18 MS. MEADOWS: Madam Chair, it's come to the
19 attention of the Nunavut Impact Review Board that this
20 public hearing is one of the last public hearings that
21 is going to be conducted by -- where we actually have
22 the attendance of Karen Costello from Indigenous and
23 Northern Affairs Canada. And the Board not only wanted
24 to recognize that Ms. Costello has been a stalwart
25 presenting for Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
26 throughout her many years with INAC in Iqaluit, and

1 it's my understanding one of her colleagues would like
2 to do a small presentation to recognize her for her
3 contributions to both INAC and the work of the Nunavut
4 Impact Review Board.

5 So, Mr. Neary, if I can have you come up to the
6 front and pick up the token of your appreciation for
7 Ms. Costello. Thank you.

8 THE CHAIR: And, Karen, can you please
9 come up. We've got a card for you, and Guy's going to
10 start crying.

11 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
12 Teresa Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Impact
13 Review Board. Those conclude all my matters.

14 THE CHAIR: Thank you. We made her cry.
15 Okay. Thank you very much to the community reps.

16 And as you can see, we work very closely, sometimes,
17 with the federal agencies, and they've been a lot of
18 help giving us information and passing on information.

19 So next we will have closing remarks by registered
20 intervenors. Are we going to put them at the table or
21 just use that -- okay. Closing remarks by registered
22 intervenors, can we start with the Kivalliq Inuit
23 Association.

24 Closing Remarks by Kivalliq Inuit Association

25 RAYMOND NINGEOCHEAK: Hi. Can you hear me now?

26 Thank you very much for allowing us to come to this

1 hearing, Madam Chair. Yes, this is -- will be a very
2 difficult task indeed when you have to make a decision.
3 You've come here more than once to conduct hearings.
4 It's very good to -- that's the first thing that I
5 wanted to comment on.

6 On behalf of the Kivalliq Inuit Association, I am
7 the vice president and the lands director; and Jeff
8 Tulugak has been coming here to attend these hearings;
9 and, also, Charlie, a resident of Baker Lake is also in
10 attendance who works for us, and Jeff Hart. I just
11 wanted to recognize them.

12 Thank you so much for people who are here, the
13 proponent, Agnico Eagle. Thank you for allowing people
14 to -- that you're able to update the communities as to
15 what you propose to do. In the 1970s, the company has
16 been around, and I have been involved in some of the
17 consultation meetings.

18 So to the closing remarks, I'll begin going to
19 closing remarks. If I have any questions, I'd be happy
20 to answer them.

21 Welcome to all the Kivalliq residents and
22 representatives. It was good to hear from each of the
23 communities. It's -- we're not always in agreement
24 sometimes, but that's democracy. So on -- back to my
25 closing remarks. The -- I'm going to talk to -- or
26 talk about the public hearing. I'm going to -- I'm

1 here on behalf of the Kivalliq Inuit Association. I
2 would like to thank everyone who participated in the
3 review process for the proposed Whale Tail Pit Project.
4 It was good to see many community members attending
5 this hearing because it's very important that we, as
6 Inuit, participate in hearings like this, which are
7 designed to protect our interests.

8 The Kivalliq Inuit Association acknowledges the
9 efforts of Agnico Eagle and all intervenors who worked
10 to ensure a strong effective review of this process,
11 proposed project. The Kivalliq Inuit Association also
12 wishes to recognize and thank community members of
13 Baker Lake and organizations who have also participated
14 in the review process, provided us with information
15 which will help the Nunavut Impact Review Board to make
16 an informed decision throughout the consultations that
17 the Kivalliq Inuit Association has conducted.

18 We have been made aware of the concerns of Inuit
19 regarding the health of our families and the health of
20 our environment, especially caribou and other wildlife.
21 The Kivalliq Inuit Association recognizes these are
22 serious concerns, and if this project is approved, the
23 Kivalliq Inuit Association wants to make sure all
24 necessary protections are in place. We will continue
25 to actively monitor and to ensure all mitigation
26 measures are taken. We have been made aware of how

1 Inuit can benefit from employment and training
2 opportunities to the proposed mine.

3 Although it -- Agnico Eagle mentioned a 50 percent
4 Inuit employment target, that is not what we have
5 agreed to. This is a minimum level for Agnico Eagle --
6 is -- is -- to try to reach, and if they don't, there
7 will be financial consequences. We will push for
8 100 percent Inuit employment that Agnico Eagle's
9 president has mentioned to us, although the target of
10 50 percent has not been reached yet.

11 So we will -- again, I'd like to say we'd like to
12 push for the 100 percent Inuit employment, Madam Chair.

13 There will be opportunities for economic benefits
14 through contracts for goods and services that will be
15 needed to support the mine. Agnico Eagle has agreed to
16 preferential treatment for Inuit and Inuit firms to
17 ensure we benefit for the project. There are a lot of
18 needs in our communities, and we need to see that we
19 have a better future. Mental health availability of
20 the adequate health services, police services,
21 education, reaction facilities, and other needed
22 infrastructure are all topics that must remain high in
23 our agendas. These issues must be addressed whether or
24 not the project gets permission to proceed.

25 We especially encourage the Hamlet of Baker Lake
26 to participate in the socioeconomic monitoring

1 committee which will consider these matters if the mine
2 proceeds. Your input will be valued.

3 Again, before I close, there's a -- there was some
4 mention in the hearing about the amount of money that
5 will be paid to Agnico Eagle. KIA does not agree with
6 the figures that Agnico Eagle mentioned. They did not
7 say how they get their figure. The amount that KIA or
8 NTI might receive is highly uncertain because there are
9 many factors that could change the amount that will be
10 received. Agnico Eagle did not break down who will get
11 what amount of money, and they have included the costs
12 which KIA will incur because of our participation in
13 reviewing, monitoring, and participating in regulatory
14 processes, which is wrong.

15 It's unfortunate that Agnico Eagle mentioned this
16 amount of money because it's misleading; however, the
17 Kivalliq Inuit Association will receive monies under
18 the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement, and we will
19 encourage -- we encourage community members and
20 organizations to participate in the ongoing community
21 consultations being conducted by the Kivalliq Inuit
22 Association. We welcome input on how the monies should
23 be spent. We will be giving notice in the upcoming
24 months about the date.

25 We went to each community, and we -- we -- we
26 did -- we did talk about a variety of things. We will

1 be giving notice in the upcoming months about the date
2 of the next round of community consultations on this
3 topic. We will keep being focused on the protection of
4 the people of the Kivalliq, its communities -- its
5 communities, its land, its water, and wildlife.

6 Again, we thank you for allowing us to
7 participate, and thanks to all the parties for their
8 contributions to this process. Please don't say that
9 you didn't contribute. You all have contributed. We
10 are all from a co-climate. We have to find ways on how
11 to create jobs so that we have a healthy economy.

12 Thank you. I can answer anyone if they have any
13 questions.

14 THE CHAIR: That is just your closing
15 remarks, so thank you.

16 Closing remarks from Baker Lake Hunters and
17 Trappers Organization.

18 Closing remarks by Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers
19 Organization

20 MR. AKSAWNEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good
21 afternoon. And the other intervenors, the community of
22 Baker Lake, thank you for coming out this past week,
23 which has been a stressful few months for the Baker
24 Lake Hunters and Trappers preparing and planning for
25 the -- for this final hearing.

26 It's good to see our youth come out and join and

1 take notes during this final hearing. It's good to see
2 the youth come out.

3 Our closing remarks for this final hearing. We
4 want to thank Nunavut Impact Review Board and staff for
5 allowing us to take part as intervenors this past week.
6 And I'm joined here by our Hunters and Trappers office
7 manager, Hugh Nateela and our consultant, Warren
8 Bernauer.

9 As we have made clear, both in spoken comments and
10 in writing, the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers
11 Organization supports the Whale Tail Project. We
12 participated in this hearing to negotiate the strongest
13 possible environmental protection to ensure that our
14 community obtains net benefits from this project.

15 There is potential for a project of this sort to
16 impact caribou migration, and therefore caribou
17 hunting -- in turn, this could impact local food
18 security. This does not mean we oppose the project.
19 This means we have to get the monitoring, mitigation,
20 and environmental protection measures right. The
21 details of a lot of these measures have been deferred
22 to the terrestrial advisory group. The Hunters and
23 Trappers Organization was concerned about this because
24 it is an advisory group. We were worried that Agnico
25 Eagle might not listen to our advice. We were also
26 concerned that we have limited capacity to participate

1 meaningfully.

2 However, we have discussed new terms of reference
3 for the advisory group with Agnico Eagle, the Kivalliq
4 Inuit Association, and the Government of Nunavut. We
5 believe these new terms of reference will ensure that
6 Agnico Eagle will adhere to our advice, especially for
7 the most important issues.

8 Agnico Eagle and the Nunavut Government have also
9 agreed to provide the Hunters and Trappers Organization
10 with the funding it needs to participate meaningfully
11 in the advisory group. As a result, the Hunters and
12 Trappers Organization is comfortable with the plans for
13 environmental protection moving forward. We believe
14 that a framework has been created where we can work
15 together to minimize negative impacts. We are very
16 happy with this collaborative approach between the
17 Hunters and Trappers Organization, government, and
18 industry. Moving forward, we hope this same approach
19 can be used to better address other issues related to
20 harvesting, wildlife management, and the transfer of
21 knowledge and skills to youth.

22 Over the past week, during the technical sessions,
23 we raised a concern, and it was brought to our
24 attention that we are stepping out of our mandate, but
25 the youth in the community is our concern as well.
26 Socioeconomic is a problem in the north, and this is

1 something we want the government to address.

2 In closing, we hope this project moves forward.

3 We recognize that it is an important source of
4 employment for Kivalliq Inuit. I hope everyone has had
5 a pleasant stay in our community, and I wish everyone a
6 safe journey home. Thank you.

7 THE CHAIR: Mat'na. Thank you.

8 Closing remarks from the Government of Nunavut.

9 Closing Remarks by Government of Nunavut

10 MR. PINKSEN: Thank you. Steve Pinksen,
11 Government of Nunavut.

12 I'd like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board;
13 the intervenors; all the community representatives; and
14 the residents of Baker Lake, who clearly have a very
15 high interest in this issue given the high attendance
16 we've seen all week.

17 I'd also like to thank our Government of Nunavut
18 team who put in some very long hours, especially our --
19 Amy Robinson, our talented and hardworking manager of
20 environmental assessment and land use, because on
21 Day 1, I forgot to introduce her, and I feel terrible
22 about that.

23 As noted in our presentation, the Government of
24 Nunavut is supportive of responsible development of
25 mineral resources in a manner that benefits all of
26 Nunavummiut. Such development must take place in a

1 manner that ensures minimal effects on the environment
2 and ensures that impacts on wildlife resources are
3 mitigated as much as possible. We are also very
4 supportive of economic development and note that the
5 economic benefits of the Whale Tail Project will be
6 substantial in direct benefits from employment, as well
7 as in spinoff benefits from contracts and such. We
8 also note that all development has some impacts, and
9 the goal is to mitigate those impacts.

10 When we entered this process, we had a number of
11 outstanding concerns surrounding wildlife and, in
12 particular, caribou. We are pleased to say that in
13 discussions with Agnico Eagle and the Kivalliq Inuit
14 Association and the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers
15 Organization, these concerns have been addressed.

16 Agnico Eagle has committed to a series of terms
17 and conditions that we believe will ensure that impacts
18 on wildlife, especially caribou, are minimized. Agnico
19 Eagle has also committed to a monitoring program to
20 ensure that any effects on wildlife are identified and
21 addressed. Lastly, Agnico Eagle has agreed, as the
22 Hunters and Trappers Organization mentioned, to the
23 establishment of a terrestrial advisory group, a
24 multi-agency group to ensure ongoing cooperation and
25 communication on monitoring and mitigation of wildlife
26 and environmental impacts. This is an important step

1 and a framework for the future.

2 On balance, the Government of Nunavut feels that
3 the benefits far outweigh the impacts. Thank you.

4 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Let's take a
5 ten-minute break, and we'll be right back to finish off
6 closing remarks.

7 (ADJOURNMENT)

8 THE CHAIR: Okay. Shall we get back?
9 We're getting close to the end.

10 Next we have is closing remarks from Environment
11 and Climate Change Canada.

12 Closing Remarks by Environment and Climate Change
13 Canada

14 MS. PINTO: Thank you, Madam Chair. My
15 name is Melissa Pinto, Environment and Climate Change
16 Canada.

17 I would like to thank you, Madam Chair, and the
18 Board members, along with Board staff for allowing us
19 to present and discuss the Whale Tail Pit Project over
20 the last few days. We would also like to thank the
21 elders and other community members for coming and
22 participating in this environmental assessment process.

23 We would like to thank the proponent in working
24 hard with us to address our concerns related to water
25 quality, air quality, and wildlife, as all of our
26 concerns have been resolved.

1 In addition, we would like to extend a big thank
2 you to the translators for their patience and to the
3 community of Baker Lake for hosting us.

4 Environment and Climate Change looks forward to
5 the Nunavut Impact Review Board's report. Thank you.

6 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

7 Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

8 Closing Remarks by Fisheries and Oceans Canada

9 MR. D'AGUIAR: Thank you, Madam Chair. Mark
10 D'Aguiar, Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

11 Fisheries and Oceans Canada would like to thank
12 the Nunavut Impact Review Board for organizing the
13 final hearings for the Whale Tail Pit Project and for
14 giving us the opportunity to present our concerns and
15 our recommendations. We have presented our conclusions
16 on the technical review and recommendations on the
17 habitat, gains and losses, calculations, the
18 proponent's plan to offset impacts to fish and fish
19 habitat, and fish and fish habitat monitoring.

20 Fisheries and Oceans Canada has noted a number of
21 concerns to the Board, most of which involve the need
22 for additional information respecting accounting for
23 potential impacts to fish and fish habitat and the
24 proponent's plans for mitigating, offsetting, and
25 monitoring in relation to these; however, Fisheries and
26 Oceans Canada believes that it will be possible to

1 fully offset the impacts to fish and fish habitat that
2 will result from the Whale Tail Project.

3 Should the project be approved to proceed,
4 Fisheries and Oceans Canada will continue to work with
5 Agnico Eagle, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, and the
6 Hunters and Trappers Association, and other interested
7 parties during the regulatory phase to address our
8 concerns with the proposed offsetting plan and to
9 ensure appropriate mitigation, monitoring, and robust
10 follow-up programs are implemented.

11 Any authorizations issued by Fisheries and Oceans
12 Canada in relation to this project will contain
13 specific conditions to ensure that mitigation measures
14 for the protection of fish and fish habitat are
15 implemented, that any residual habitat loss is
16 identified and adequately offset, and that monitoring
17 capable of demonstrating if impacts have been
18 adequately mitigated and offset is carried out.

19 In closing, Fisheries and Oceans Canada would like
20 to thank the elders and all the participants from the
21 Kivalliq Region and from Nunavut in general. We would
22 also like to give a special thank you to the community
23 of Baker Lake for their incredible hospitality during
24 these proceedings, and, finally, we'd like to
25 acknowledge the Board members, the Board staff, all the
26 interpreters, the court reporters, the sound

1 technician, and those who worked so hard to ensure that
2 the coffee and tea remained full and the delicious
3 snacks were always available.

4 Mat'na.

5 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

6 Closing remarks from Indigenous and Northern
7 Affairs Canada.

8 Closing remarks by Indigenous and Northern Affairs
9 Canada

10 MS. COSTELLO: Thank you, Madam Chair. Karen
11 Costello for Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

12 Firstly, I'd like to thank the community for
13 welcoming us and hosting this hearing. This community
14 centre truly is the centre of Baker Lake, and we
15 appreciate it being available for us to -- for the NIRB
16 to host this hearing. As always, we were well taken
17 care of with tasty coffee breaks.

18 I now have to get into the formal stuff. So
19 Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada has participated
20 in all steps of the Board's process. We provided
21 comments related to the impact assessment methodology,
22 the potential for contamination or deterioration of
23 Crown land, the surface water quality and quantity,
24 groundwater, community engagement and consultation,
25 economic development, and socioeconomic plans.

26 During this process, we received information and

1 commitments from the proponent that addressed all of
2 the department's concerns. Should the project be
3 approved, Indigenous and Northern Affairs will have
4 more work to do. We will be part of the inspection and
5 enforcement of any Crown land authorizations and water
6 licence issued for the project. The department will
7 incorporate any relevant terms and conditions from the
8 project certificate into Crown authorizations.

9 Getting through this process requires dedicated
10 and professional staff. Our thanks go to the Nunavut
11 Impact Review Board staff for the diligence in
12 administering process; to the interpreters, the court
13 reporters, and the sound technician -- love the funky
14 new Bosch system; the NIRB Board for your attention
15 over the past week. We know your work has just begun,
16 and your staff has spent the last few months herding
17 the cats to try and make sure we follow their
18 deadlines, and sometimes we struggled, but we've been
19 able to meet their deadlines.

20 On a personal level, I have to thank the staff of
21 the Nunavut regional office, specifically Rachelle and
22 Julia. They have demonstrated dedication to this file,
23 and they have my thanks.

24 Thanks also to our colleagues with the Government
25 of Canada departments. The Kivalliq Inuit Association,
26 as well, for being available to discuss shared

1 interests. Their contributions are appreciated.

2 Thanks also to the proponent, Agnico Eagle, and
3 their consultants for being available for discussions,
4 often on short notice, on topics that were related to
5 our mandate. The proponent's commitments and responses
6 to us satisfactorily addressed all issues raised in our
7 interventions.

8 Personally, thanks for the sendoff. It was
9 totally unexpected, and I'm deeply touched. If I say
10 anything more, I will be a puddle. I'm already
11 appreciating the fact that there was no video record of
12 this. And who would ever think that Aladdin would
13 factor into the Government of Canada attendance at a
14 NIRB final hearing. Aladdin may have had a magic
15 carpet, but we had Merlin. You had to be there.

16 Thank you all. Safe travels home.

17 THE CHAIR: Natural Resources Canada.

18 Closing Remarks by Natural Resources Canada

19 MS. BESNER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 Rachelle Besner, Natural Resources Canada. Of course,
21 I had to follow Karen.

22 In closing, I would just like to state that
23 Natural Resources Canada has no outstanding issues
24 relevant to our mandate for this project.

25 On behalf of myself and Transport Canada, who had
26 to leave earlier today, I'd also like to thank the

1 community of Baker Lake for hosting us this week, and I
2 would like to thank all the participants, the elders
3 for sharing their comments and their knowledge.

4 I would also like to thank the NIRB, NIRB staff,
5 the technicians, and the translators for all their hard
6 work this week. Thank you.

7 Mat'na.

8 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

9 And now we have closing remarks from the
10 proponent, Agnico Eagle Mines.

11 Closing Remarks by Agnico Eagle Mines Limited

12 MS. GRONDIN: Thank you, Madam Chair and
13 members of the Board. My name is Louise Grondin for
14 Agnico Eagle.

15 So I'd like to start by thanking our host, the
16 community of Baker Lake, for their hospitality this
17 week. I probably gained a few pounds. I would also
18 like to thank the community representatives who've come
19 to these hearings and participated in such a meaningful
20 way, sharing their experience and knowledge to help us
21 develop a better project.

22 We would like to extend our thanks to the
23 community members from Baker Lake who have come and
24 listened to these hearings, participated with questions
25 and comments.

26 We would like to thank the Board and the Board

1 staff for their clear guidance and direction during
2 this review process and for the opportunity they've
3 provided to Agnico Eagle and all intervenors and
4 interested parties to address issues relating to the
5 Whale Tail Pit Project in a very thorough and
6 constructive way. I will return to this note of
7 appreciation again at the end of this closing
8 statement.

9 Agnico Eagle is proud to bring this project
10 forward as a three-year extension of the Meadowbank
11 project. The project provides the opportunity to build
12 on the positive experience of the Meadowbank project
13 and to provide continuity for employment and business
14 benefits. Agnico Eagle is committed to Nunavut and to
15 the Kivalliq Region for the long term. It is our hope
16 that we can bring forward future extensions for Nunavut
17 Impact Review Board consideration in the future. We
18 hope to see you again.

19 Through both the Meadowbank and the Meliadine
20 projects, Agnico Eagle Mines has developed a strong and
21 beneficial relationship with the communities and the
22 people of Nunavut. The approach of the Whale Tail Pit
23 Project continues on this path. As summarized during
24 our presentations, we have consulted broadly and
25 extensively. We have listened to concerns and
26 suggestions and done the best to respond to them

1 respectively and responsibly.

2 The establishment of a collaborative body, the
3 terrestrial advisory group, with participation of
4 Kivalliq Inuit Association, Hunters and Trappers
5 Organization, the GN, is a great initiative that will
6 lead us to a more effective wildlife protection, we
7 believe. We've signed a Inuit Impact and Benefit
8 Agreement for the Whale Tail Project with the Kivalliq
9 Inuit Association. This agreement includes commitments
10 on communications, training, employment, and business
11 opportunities, and it provides significant financial
12 benefits to the Kivalliq Inuit Association and
13 consequently to the Inuit of the Kivalliq Region.

14 In the course of the permitting process for the
15 Whale Tail Project, we've signed a memorandum of
16 understanding with the Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers
17 Organization on various mitigation measures, and we're
18 really looking forward to work collaboratively with
19 them.

20 We also value our continued good relationship with
21 the Hamlets of the Kivalliq Region, and we're thankful
22 for the level of community support expressed today
23 during the final hearing.

24 Over the last seven years of operation at
25 Meadowbank, we've developed measures to minimize
26 effects on air quality and, in particular, dust-control

1 measures. Our air emissions will continue to meet air
2 quality standards. We will continue to apply our
3 adaptive management plans to minimize dust at the mine
4 site and on the roads. We will also continue to
5 monitor dust levels and cooperate with the Kivalliq
6 Inuit Association and the Baker Lake Hunters and
7 Trappers Organization on this matter. We're confident
8 that our management will successfully minimize dust
9 emissions.

10 Our approach to the protection of the freshwater
11 environment was summarized by my colleagues Ryan
12 Vanengen and Erika Voyer in the presentations. We have
13 designed the Whale Tail Pit Project to minimize impact
14 on both water quality and fish habitat. In terms of
15 water quality, we have proposed water quality limits
16 that are consistent with the Metal Mining Effluent
17 Regulation under the Fisheries Act and with the
18 Canadian Water Quality Guidelines. We will achieve
19 water quality that is protective of the lakes and
20 streams and protective of aquatic life.

21 After the final hearing, we will continue the
22 hearing before the Nunavut Water Board towards a water
23 licence that will include water quality guidelines and
24 other detailed measures for the protection of water
25 quality. Our closure plan includes breaching the
26 temporary dikes in Whale Tail Lake and Mammoth Lake and

1 restoring the natural water flows when mining is
2 completed in 2022.

3 In terms of fish habitat, we have put forward a
4 compensation plan to the Department of Fisheries and
5 Oceans, and we're confident that we can reach agreement
6 for an authorization that will maintain fish habitat
7 and productivity. Also, as required by the Nunavut
8 Agreement and the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface
9 Rights Tribunal Act, we will reach a water compensation
10 agreement with the Kivalliq Inuit Association.

11 Again, we're confident that we can construct,
12 operate, and ultimately close the project in a way that
13 respects and protects water quality and fish
14 populations.

15 Through our operations at Meadowbank and our
16 experience at Meliadine, we've developed extensive
17 measures for caribou protection and preservation.
18 These measures were developed in consultation and
19 collaboration with the Kivalliq Inuit Association, the
20 Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization, the
21 Government of Nunavut, and Inuit elders. These
22 measures are documented in our terrestrial system
23 management plan. Through the Whale Tail Pit permitting
24 process, we have continued to make additional
25 commitments that have further strengthened the caribou
26 protection measures.

1 The road connecting Whale Tail Pit with Meadowbank
2 has been designed with easy slopes on the shoulders,
3 both for the safety of trucks when they pull over but
4 also to provide a low profile for easy crossing of
5 caribou. Caribou have the right-of-way on all our
6 roads. We monitor for the presence of caribou so that
7 we are very aware of their position and movements.

8 As outlined in the presentation by Jamie Quesnel,
9 Ryan Vanengen, and our consultant Corey De La Mare, our
10 caribou protection measures increase progressively from
11 normal operations to Levels 1, 2 and 3, depending on
12 the presence of caribou. Level 3 provides for
13 suspending the ore trucks transportation, particularly
14 in the presence of caribou during their spring and fall
15 migration. Our caribou protection measures have been
16 effective in protecting caribou crossing the
17 all-weather road from Baker Lake to Meadowbank, and
18 we've added more protection under the Whale Tail
19 Project.

20 Based on our experience operating in Nunavut,
21 we've included in our plan a contingency of 28 days
22 where we assume that the haul road would be closed,
23 either do due to blizzard or to caribou migration. It
24 is our goal to design and operate our projects in a way
25 that protects the safety of the caribou, and we're
26 confident that there will be no significant effects on

1 the caribou herds.

2 In terms of the marine environment, it is
3 important to remember that the volume of shipping to
4 Baker Lake remains consistent with current shipping
5 operations. All shipping is done in open water with a
6 maximum of nine shipments per year, the nine being when
7 we are under construction when we have more material
8 coming in. We will follow our shipping management plan
9 and all regulations. We've been shipping supplies and
10 equipment to Meadowbank now for almost ten years, and
11 that will continue for Whale Tail.

12 In response to concerns expressed by people of
13 Coral Harbour, we responded by routing our shipping to
14 the south of Coats Island to minimize effects on marine
15 wildlife.

16 We have consulted carefully with respect to
17 archeological and heritage sites. We've made
18 adjustments and met requirements of the Nunavut
19 department of culture and heritage. During the public
20 session, we heard that we should have consulted the
21 elders about the names of the lakes in the project
22 area. We agree completely with that statement. We
23 will make sure that we do that from now on.

24 We have consulted regarding traditional land use
25 and incorporated that information in the project
26 design, and we are confident that the project will not

1 cause significant changes to the use of the land for
2 hunting, fishing, or other activities. The project
3 will provide continuity of employment and business
4 opportunities as the Meadowbank mine completes its
5 production from the Portage, Goose, and Vault deposits.

6 There will be approximately 150 new jobs created
7 by the mining of the Whale Tail Pit to feed the
8 Meadowbank mill, and we will strive to fill as many of
9 them with Inuit employees as we can with a minimum of
10 50 percent as our goal. As was mentioned by the
11 Kivalliq Inuit Association, our current goal is a
12 minimum of 50 percent, but our long-term objective is
13 to have a mine with 100 percent Inuit, run by Inuit.

14 As suggested this morning by Richard Aksawnee and
15 meeting with the youth today, I have increased
16 confidence that we can have one day geologists,
17 engineers, biologists, trades from Nunavut in all
18 scales of pay. Pastry chef as well. I met a young
19 lady that wanted to do pastry chef, so ...

20 Our project provides significant financial
21 benefits to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated through
22 mineral royalties to the Government of Nunavut through
23 taxes and to the Kivalliq Inuit Association through the
24 commercial leases and Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements.
25 When we acquired the Meadowbank project, we inherited
26 the Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement that had been

1 negotiated by Cumberland, and it did not include
2 significant financial benefits. By contract, the new
3 Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements negotiated by the
4 Kivalliq Inuit Association for the benefit of the Inuit
5 of the Kivalliq Region will provide substantial
6 revenues.

7 In our estimation, with the life of mine of the
8 Meliadine and of the Whale Tail Pit Project -- if it is
9 permitted, based on our estimates, over 400 million in
10 royalties will be paid to Nunavut Tunngavik
11 Incorporated and to the Kivalliq Inuit Association, the
12 majority of which to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated,
13 approximately 250 million. I would like to
14 acknowledge, in agreement with the Kivalliq Inuit
15 Association, that these are estimates, and they're
16 based on projections. They're based on a number of
17 factors -- metal prices, mine life, other factors. But
18 these are our current estimates.

19 The Impact Benefit Agreement that we have signed
20 for Whale Tail Project also provides for employment
21 training and business opportunities. We take pride in
22 what we've been able to achieve in supporting and
23 encouraging Inuit training, employment, and business
24 development through our many programs.

25 One of the most important objectives of the Whale
26 Tail Pit Project is to move forward on a timely basis

1 to minimize the gap between the end of production of
2 Meadowbank and the commencement of work at Whale Tail.
3 To do that, we've asked for your approval to commence
4 predevelopment activities in advance of a decision on
5 the full Whale Tail Project. The predevelopment
6 includes, in summary, delivery of materials,
7 construction of service roads, expanding the width of
8 the existing haul road, and some other quarrying and
9 construction activities. If we can have permission to
10 proceed with the predevelopment activities, it would
11 help us keep a large proportion of our Inuit and local
12 Meadowbank workforce and contractors employed while we
13 are awaiting the decision on the full Whale Tail
14 Project. This will help keep some benefits flowing to
15 the community and to the region as mining activity at
16 Meadowbank slows down. It would also enable us to
17 begin construction of the Whale Tail Project quickly,
18 if that project is approved.

19 We recognize that approval of predevelopment
20 activity does not suggest that the Nunavut Impact
21 Review Board will approve the project, and that is a
22 risk that we are willing to take. The predevelopment
23 works would be used to support advance exploration in
24 any event; and once they are no longer needed, they
25 would be fully reclaimed in accordance with federal and
26 Kivalliq Inuit Association requirements.

1 We understand and respect the responsibility that
2 the Board has in determining whether our project should
3 be allowed to proceed. We've worked hard, along with
4 our team of professional consultants, with the Inuit
5 organizations and communities and with government
6 regulators to address all the environmental and
7 socioeconomic issues. Again, we acknowledge the
8 Kivalliq Inuit Association's support for the project
9 and look forward to working with you through our Impact
10 Benefit Agreement.

11 Madam Chair, we appreciate the Baker Lake Hunters
12 and Trappers Organization's support for the project and
13 exception application. We also look forward for
14 continuing work closely with them and with the
15 full-time Hunters and Trappers Organization monitor
16 that we will have on-site.

17 We also appreciate the Government of Nunavut's
18 conclusion as stated on Slide 23 of their presentation.
19 I quote: (as read)

20 We believe that, through collaborative and
21 comprehensive mitigation and monitoring
22 plans, the potential impacts associated with
23 this project can be effectively managed.
24 We agree and we are committed to following the
25 mitigation and monitoring plans we've developed in
26 collaboration with the parties and to adapt these plans

1 as necessary throughout the mine -- the life of the
2 project.

3 The federal agencies including Indigenous and
4 Northern Affairs Canada, Environment and Climate Change
5 Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources
6 Canada, and Transport Canada all have indicated that
7 they are satisfied that the project can be approved and
8 can move forward to the regulatory stage.

9 Taking into account the design of the Whale Tail
10 Pit Project and the mitigation measures we have
11 committed to, we are confident that we can construct,
12 operate, and ultimately achieve closure and reclamation
13 of the Whale Tail Pit Project in a way which does not
14 result in significant adverse environmental or
15 socioeconomic effects. We request that the Board grant
16 approval subject to necessary and reasonable terms and
17 conditions.

18 For Agnico Eagle and for the Whale Tail Pit
19 Project team, it is at the same time the end of a long
20 process and hopefully the first step for the Whale Tail
21 Pit Project to become the Whale Tail mine.

22 In closing, Agnico Eagle would like to thank the
23 chair and Board members for conducting this final
24 hearing with fairness to all parties.

25 We would also like to thank all the participants,
26 including each of the seven Kivalliq communities, for

1 their presentations, their questions, and for sharing
2 some of their experience with us.

3 Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the Board.

4 That completes our closing statement.

5 Closing Remarks by the Chair

6 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

7 That concludes the final hearing for the Nunavut
8 Impact Review Board's review of Agnico Eagle Mines
9 Limited, Whale Tail Pit Project Proposal, NIRB File
10 Number 16MN056.

11 As I noted when we started this final hearing, the
12 Nunavut Impact Review Board has considered numerous
13 written submissions. We heard evidence, asked
14 questions, and listened to comments and concerns
15 regarding Agnico Eagle's assessment of the potential
16 effects of the proposed Whale Tail Pit Project.

17 While focusing on the specific issues that the
18 Minister had requested the Board provide additional
19 attention and consideration to, we have thoroughly
20 discussed a full scope of the proposed project to
21 ensure the Board's assessment is as comprehensive as
22 possible.

23 On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the
24 proponent and all the intervenors for their
25 participation leading up to this final hearing and
26 their presentations, comments, and questions provided

1 to us over the course of the past four days here in
2 Baker Lake. The Board is grateful for your
3 participation, for your advice and responses to
4 questions.

5 We recognize the significant contribution of the
6 community representatives who attended this hearing and
7 helped to make the community roundtable a success.
8 Thank you very much. We have written everything down,
9 and we will not forget the words that you provided us
10 and for sharing your knowledge on Inuit
11 Qaujimajatuqangit.

12 We recognize that a great many of us experienced
13 significant travel delays on our way here to
14 Baker Lake, and the Nunavut Impact Review Board would
15 like to sincerely thank all those individuals who
16 endured some inconveniences. Unfortunately, some
17 representatives couldn't make it to Baker Lake.

18 We would also like to thank the community of
19 Baker Lake for hosting us during this week. I hope
20 that everyone enjoyed the time spent here in
21 Baker Lake, and we wish everyone safe travels as you
22 return to your communities.

23 I will now turn the mic over to our executive
24 director for some specific thank-yous.

25 Final Comments by the Nunavut Impact Review Board Staff

26 MR. BARRY: Thank you very much,

1 Madam Chair.

2 It takes a lot of effort by a lot of people to
3 make an event like this public hearing happen,
4 especially, as Madam Chair said, to adjust to things
5 like travel delays, weather, and other complications as
6 they come up. So on behalf of the Nunavut Impact
7 Review Board, we do have -- we'd like to offer our
8 thanks to a number of individuals and groups: first, to
9 the community of Baker Lake, as Madam Chair has said,
10 for welcoming all the visitors to town so warmly these
11 past few days. The Board has been here many times in
12 the past, many times thanks to Agnico Eagle, to some
13 other proponents, and it's always a pleasure to return
14 again.

15 A special thanks to the many individuals who
16 helped the Board plan this final hearing months in
17 advance and assisted with our logistical needs as they
18 came up.

19 We'd like to thank the Northern store for the
20 wonderful food and catering support they provided
21 throughout the week and to the staff of the community
22 centre here for their fantastic job with keeping the
23 building tidy and clean. I think their pride in this
24 building is very self-evident.

25 Thank you as well to our staff members Stephanie
26 and Talia and their helpers Sophie and Joan for helping

1 coordinate our community reps, for getting everyone to
2 sign in, and ensuring we had plenty of coffee, tea, and
3 snacks laid out for each and every break.

4 As you are no doubt all aware, the Board places a
5 great deal of importance on respecting and promoting
6 Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, and all indigenous languages.
7 We appreciate the efforts made by the proponent and by
8 all the intervenors to demonstrate their respect for
9 Inuktitut and for local community members throughout
10 these proceedings by providing translated materials and
11 by trying your best to pronounce important terms like
12 Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit or "-geet" or "-dugeet".

13 We would also like to say thank you to our
14 environmental technician, William, for managing this
15 shiny, new audio system; for our court reporters, Sara
16 and Elizabeth; and, of course, our interpreter, Josie
17 and Louis. Each of these individuals helped to ensure
18 that everyone that spoke could be heard and understood
19 and their words recorded on the public record. That's
20 never an easy job. We kept very long hours trying to
21 catch up on our agenda and were often discussing very
22 technical topics. They demonstrated continued patience
23 and professionalism throughout these long days, even
24 when many times we accidentally used abbreviations or
25 acronyms; when we spoke too quickly, too far away from
26 the mic; or when we might have talked a bit longer than

1 we may have intended to. So, please, everyone join me
2 in thanking them with a round of applause.

3 In turn, I've been asked to pass along the thanks
4 of our court reporters and interpreters to all of you
5 for taking the time to spell out your names, for
6 speaking slowly and clearly each time you spoke, and
7 for helping with spellings from time to time so that
8 they could make sure that the hearing record is
9 complete and accurate.

10 Thank you to all the government departments, the
11 organizations and other groups who have participated
12 throughout this assessment and this final hearing.
13 We've seen a tremendous amount of effort undertaken by
14 all participants in this assessment; and your
15 submissions, comments, and advice have been greatly
16 appreciated throughout. Please know that the Board
17 will carefully consider all the evidence that has been
18 provided to it.

19 We recognize always that this assessment is one of
20 many that you might be involved in. We recognize it
21 can be difficult to sometimes keep up, but we hope that
22 you can appreciate how important the assessment of a
23 major development proposal like this one is for
24 Nunavummiut and how they must be conducted as
25 thoroughly as possible until all the issues have been
26 addressed.

1 We appreciate that many of the hearing
2 participants had to travel great distances from home in
3 order to attend these hearings in Baker Lake and, as
4 we've noted, that many experienced stressful flight
5 delays and other complications along the way.

6 We hope that, by being here in person, you'll be
7 leaving with a greater appreciation for the land and
8 the people in this region. By participating in these
9 proceedings, you will have witnessed firsthand the
10 importance of public engagement, talking to elders and
11 youth alike so that their views are heard and
12 respected, and ensuring the traditional knowledge in
13 Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit are given very prominent
14 consideration in the Board's assessment.

15 We recognize as well that the community
16 representatives also had to take time out of their busy
17 schedules to be here to join us. In addition to the
18 importance of providing your advice to the Board on the
19 record, hearing from you in person really does help us
20 all to better understand your perspectives and
21 concerns, and it helps the Board to ensure that all the
22 people that live with the effects of a project have the
23 chance to hear from and ask questions of everyone
24 directly before any approvals are given.

25 Also, on an administrative note, I would ask that
26 any out-of-town representatives please check in with

1 Stephanie at the front before you leave just to ensure
2 that we've distributed all the remaining per diem and
3 billet payments that are out there.

4 I know it's been mentioned by several that we're
5 very pleased to have the youth delegates and local
6 Baker Lake students in attendance at this hearing. I
7 think we'll all agree it's very encouraging to see
8 these future leaders of Nunavut ensuring that their
9 voices are heard and that their concerns are addressed.

10 Thank you to all the community representatives for
11 your participation, for your perspectives, patience,
12 and support.

13 Thank you also to the proponent, Agnico Eagle
14 Mines Limited, for your respectful and professional
15 attitude throughout this assessment and your efforts to
16 answer questions and provide information. The Agnico
17 Eagle representatives have done well to respect the
18 Board's need for transparency, for meaningful public
19 engagement, and for having adequate information to
20 address the questions of the Board, the intervenors,
21 and the public.

22 As executive director of the Nunavut Impact Review
23 Board, I would like to offer a special thanks to the
24 NIRB's legal counsel and staff for their hard work,
25 long hours, and extra days spent preparing for the
26 hearing and ensuring it went smoothly throughout. Our

1 staff and the individuals assisting them have gone
2 above and beyond what was required to make this meeting
3 possible and to make it successful, and they deserve a
4 great deal of thanks for the success of these meetings.

5 Finally, Madam Chair, I'd like to thank the Board
6 members for their guidance and direction. We say this
7 often, but we know that yours is a very difficult job.
8 Your active participation, very insightful questions,
9 again, your patience, your dedication and good humour
10 throughout this hearing are truly inspiring. As staff,
11 we really appreciate the example that you set as well
12 as your continued professionalism on this and all of
13 the Board's assessments. So thank you very much,
14 mat'na, Madam Chair.

15 THE CHAIR: Thank you. And who can forget
16 Qaujimajatuqangit? Thank you for trying.

17 As this is the closing of the final hearing, I
18 will finish my remarks by providing comments to let
19 everyone know what happens next.

20 Firstly, the public hearing record for the Nunavut
21 Impact Review Board's review of Agnico Eagle Mines
22 Limited Whale Tail Pit Project Proposal, NIRB File
23 Number 16MN056, is now closed. What this means is
24 that, unless the panel directs otherwise, no additional
25 evidence may be filed with the Board and the hearing
26 record will consist of the documentation filed in

1 advance of the hearing -- the evidence, questions,
2 comments, and statements provided on the record at the
3 public hearing and the exhibits filed during this
4 hearing.

5 Good. Okay. Although today marks the conclusion
6 of the final hearing, the work of the Board is not
7 finished. Pursuant to Section 104 of the Nunavut
8 Planning and Project Assessment Act, the Board has 45
9 days to submit its report and recommendations to the
10 responsible federal government ministers for review and
11 consideration. When the Board releases its report and
12 recommendations to the responsible ministers and
13 interested parties, it will also be distributed widely
14 and posted publicly on the Board's online registry.

15 And before we adjourn, can I please ask
16 Mr. Raymond Ningeocheak to please give our closing
17 prayer.

18 (CLOSING PRAYER)

19 THE CHAIR: Mat'na. Thank you. We are
20 done. I hope you travel safely. Have a good evening.

21 _____

22 PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED

23 _____

24

25

26

1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT:

2

3 We, Sara Anderson and Elizabeth Royal, certify
4 that the foregoing pages are a complete and accurate
5 transcript of the proceedings, taken down by us in
6 shorthand and transcribed from our shorthand notes to
7 the best of our skill and ability.

8 Dated at the City of Calgary, Province of Alberta,
9 this 11th day of October 2017.

10

11

12

13



14

Sara Anderson, CSR(A)

15

Official Court Reporter

16

17

18

19



20

Elizabeth Royal, CSR(A)

21

Official Court Reporter

22

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EXHIBITS ENTERED

SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

PAGE NUMBER:

EXHIBIT 49 - Margaret Kaluraq's 634
handwritten notes (English)

EXHIBIT 50 - Indigenous and Northern 750
Affairs Canada, Agnico Eagle Mines
Limited, and Golder Associates Ltd. Hard
copy meeting notes of Golder Document No.
145 dated September 14, 2017 (English)

EXHIBIT 51 - Agnico Eagle hard copy 752
Appendix A - terms of reference -
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