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1 (PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 1:19 PM)

2 Opening Remarks

3 THE CHAIR: Good afternoon. My name is

- 4 Lootie Toomasie. I'm the chairman of Nunavut Water
- 5 Board, and I'll be chairing -- I'm chairing this public
- 6 hearing since yesterday. I'm glad that we are able to
- 7 make it back here from Rankin Inlet.

8 But, anyway, welcome back to Nunavut Water Board

- 9 hearing for the Hamlet of Arviat water licence renewal
- 10 application. As we have several members of -- the
- 11 community members here, let's resume with any members
- 12 of the public asking a question about the application.
- 13 Please step up to the microphone and ask your question.
- 14 Community members, open up for you. Thank you. Go
- 15 ahead.
- 16 Teresa, go ahead.
- 17 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
- 18 So maybe just a reminder of kind of what the
- 19 application is that the Water Board is considering
- 20 right now. It's the municipal application from the
- 21 Hamlet of Arviat, and it applies to the sewage
- 22 treatment plant. It applies to -- or sewage treatment
- 23 generally. It applies to the drinking water reservoir,
- 24 and it applies to the landfill or where garbage --
- 25 municipal garbage is placed.
- 26 So if you have any questions about the

- 1 application -- the Applicant is the Government of
- 2 Nunavut, Community and Government Services, in the
- 3 Hamlet of Arviat. So if you have any questions about
- 4 the application or questions for the Board with respect
- 5 to the application and this process, please feel free
- 6 to step up to the microphone right there.
- 7 And if we can get you to just state your name for
- 8 the record and then ask your questions, we can direct
- 9 it to any of the people that are here or -- the people
- 0 on Zoom are from Environment and Climate Change Canada
- 11 or Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- 12 Canada. So if you have any questions, please feel free
- 13 to step up to the mic and ask right now.
- 14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
- 15 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- Applicant, you may want to do some briefing a bit.
- 17 MR. CHALMERS: Elan Chalmers, GN-CGS.
- So the application includes a new sewage lagoon
- 19 because the current one is quite small, and it needs to
- 20 be emergency pumped out each spring, and it's
- 21 overtopping visibly.
- So we have requested the ability to construct a
- 23 new larger lagoon to support the community for the next
- 24 20 years based on the population projections. This
- 25 renewal is also encompassing the fact that a new raw
- 26 water reservoir was constructed.

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- So we're requesting to withdraw the amount of
- water that -- the amount that the cells can currently
- 3 hold because currently it's not compliant with the
- 4 amount of water that had been in the previous licence.5 So those are the primary pieces of infrastructure
- 6 that are part of this application. Thank you.
- 7 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Applicant.
- 8 If the public have any questions or comments
- 9 related to the application that have been filed here by
- 10 the community government services and the Hamlet of
- 11 Arviat, you may -- you are free to take a microphone
- 12 and state your name.
- 13 Questions/Comments from the Community
- 14 MS. CURLEY: Hi.
- 15 THE CHAIR: There. Yeah. Okay. You got
- 16 it.
- 17 MS. CURLEY: Hi. This is Angie Curley.
- 18 I have a question regarding the application from
- 19 the hamlet to the Water Board. It's a common question.
- 20 Did hamlet had to pay for the Water Board licence?
- 21 Thank you.
- 22 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- 23 Water Board Staff.
- 24 MR. KHARATYAN: Karen Kharatyan, Water Board.
- 25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
- The application fee, which is \$30, is paid by any

- 1 water licence application in the territory. However,
- 2 the hamlet doesn't pay for water use or right to use
- 3 water. Thank you.
- 4 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- 5 Any more questions or comments related to
- 6 application?
- 7 MS. IRKOK-SULUK: I'm sorry. I'm one of the
- 8 interpreters, but can I ask a question? You know
- 9 that -- the new reservoir, there's a big -- a big pile
- 10 of unused mud or gravel that was used to dig out the
- 11 new reservoir. What's going to happen to it? Can't it
- 12 be used for anything? Because it's just a big eyesore,
- 13 and it's causing problems in the winter and springtime.
- 14 A big pile of snow gathers up, and it covers our
- 15 trail -- a road going up the road. It's becoming a
- 16 problem. Thank you.
- 17 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Qujannamiik.
- 18 Applicant, you may want to answer questions.
- 19 MS. LUSTY: Megan Lusty with Community
- 20 Government Services. Thank you for the question.
- 21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
- So the reservoir project has been completed and was fulfilled to the entire scope of the construction
- 24 project, but that's definitely something that we can
- 25 look into if it's impacting the access to the trails in
- 26 the wintertime due to the snow drifting and if there's

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1 anything that can be done to remove some of that

- 2 material. But it's not currently scheduled to be
- removed right now, but it's something that we can look
- 4 into for sure.

5 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

MS. SULUK: Hi. Joy Suluk. I'd just like

- 7 to ask the -- to which -- the lagoon and the garbage
- disposal area, is this expansion going to need new
- grounds, new location? Because when they chose the --
- 10 the current location, that area used to be abundant of
- 11 big apples or -- there used to be -- they -- it was
- 12 ruined.
- 13 That's where we used to pick cloudberries. That
- 14 was the cloudberry area. Like, you have strawberry
- 15 farms, that was our cloudberry area, and if there's
- 16 going to be relocating of the project, can you point
- 17 out where it's going to be? Is it going to be just an
- 18 expansion, or are you going to look at -- are you
- 19 looking at other locations to build the lagoon and the
- 20 garbage area? Thank you.
- 21 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Applicant, go
- 22 ahead.
- 23 MR. CHALMERS: Elan Chalmers, GN-CGS. Thank
- 24 you for your question.
- 25 It's going to be an expansion at the current area.
- 26 So that area is already contaminated, unfortunately, so

- 1 the idea was to just keep it within that area, not to
- contaminate any more land, and council decided and
- 3 approved that location to move forward. Thank you.
- 4 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Applicant.
 - Any more questions or comments?
- 6 MR. SULUK: Welcome back. My question
- 7 this time is to sewage lagoon. As I mentioned
- 8 yesterday, it's close to the shoreline and the tailing.
- 9 It's not -- and the tailing -- you can see the tailing
- 10 through the shore. It affects all around the shoreline
- 11 very much.
- 12 And now, today, you can see that all along the 13 shoreline is all seaweeds going up all along the shore.
- It never used to be like that. It could've been -- it 14
- could be part of the uplifting of the -- the soil.
- 16 It's getting shallow all around the area.
- 17 In summertime, it used to be we would have a 18 net -- a fishing net. We have seal and beluga coming
- 19 through the -- close to the shore on high tide. Last
- 20 summer I noticed that far -- not far from the shore,
- 21 even on a high tide, it was a murky water much further
- 22 up. So the tailing must -- must have all -- go out way
- 23 out further out into the sea. 24
 - So I think that's a sign of a sewage lagoon too
- 25 close to the shoreline where we fish and hunt seal and

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26 beluga. So it can be a concern to maybe a health

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1 hazard if it affects wildlife and -- or seal, fish, and

beluga. That is all the questions I have.

The area is really clean, and it was really deep,

- 4 but as the environment has been changing, there used to
- be abundant fish, but now there is not fish and beluga.
- 6 And also in the summertime, the ocean used to be very
- clean, maybe from the sewage lagoon. So we just have
- 8 to decide the actual location of the new lagoon because it might be contaminated to the body. Thank you.
- 10 THE CHAIR: Any more questions?
- 11 Oh, sorry. Yeah. Applicant, go ahead. Do you
- 12 want to reply to questions?
- 13 MR. CHALMERS: Elan Chalmers, GN-CGS. Thank
- 14 you for your comment.
- 15 So it's up to municipal council to decide the
- 16 site, and they have decided that the current site will
- 17 be where the lagoon expansion will take place.
- 18 Fortunately, the new lagoon will have enhanced
- 19 treatment compared to what's there now. So you won't
- 20 be seeing flow throughout the spring. It will be later
- 21 in summer when most of the organic materials will be
- 22 taken out by the vegetation. So it will be green there
- 23 for sure. Lots of growth.
- 24 But, yeah, thank you for your comment.
- 25 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- 26 Any more questions?

- THE WITNESS: Peter Arliag.
- 2 I don't have my hearing aid. When I hear somebody
- talking behind a piece of cloth like her, it's hard to
- understand.
- 5 I'm hearing the concern about the waste that will
- be seeping out, which, whoever make the lagoon, try to 6
- 7 make it easier to filter out the dirt that might be
- 8 contained in the water. I hear Luke's concern about
- 9 sea mammal not being around anymore.
- 10 And also when you think about the -- the shoreline
- where the waste will be seeping out, we are concerned 11
- about beluga fishing, whatever is in the water, but at
- the same time, if you try to get away from shoreline 13
- 14 and move it on to the land site, we are going to say
- 15 again that we have a concern about birds or whatever is
- 16 walking on -- on the ground. So I hope the Water Board
- 17 will think hard which side they can really find a good
- 18 place for us to build the lagoon again.
- 19 Right now, as we can see, our lagoons are getting 20 too small. The springtime came in time to slow down
- 21 the overfilling of the lagoon itself, and the town is
- 22 getting bigger, and the lagoons are going to get
- 23 smaller every year.
- 24 And we have a water reservoir, which we have now
- three, and lagoons we have two. But the other one, the 25
- 26 first one right now, is not being used. And the new

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1 one is one that had been overflowing, the one we are

2 using right now.

3 When we are got -- the two sides about concern

4 about sea mammals and land animals, those two have to

5 be looked after carefully by you guys. I just want

6 to -- to bring that out before you walked out of here,

7 and please take your mask off so I can hear better. It

8 sounds like you're -- you have a muffler. Thank you.

9 Matna.

10 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

11 Karen, go ahead.

12 MR. KHARATYAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Karen

13 Kharatyan from Water Board.

14 I would like to just clarify that Water Board

15 licence states some limit for different parameters or

16 potential contaminants that are in the -- that may be

17 seeping from sewage lagoon to the environment.

18 However, the Board is not really dictating the hamlet

19 or GN-CGS that acts on behalf of hamlet about the

20 location of infrastructure. They know much better than

21 Water Board.

22 Water Board staff generally doesn't even go to

23 site to look when we look at the application, licence

24 applications. We don't visit the sites. So it's up to

25 hamlet through its hamlet council and working together

26 with Government of Nunavut, Community and Government

1 Services, to select the right location for their

2 infrastructure. Thank you.

3 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Teresa -- Karen.

4 Maybe we can come up with the map that the site is

5 showing so that we can see it on the screen.

6 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa

7 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.

8 Elan, what side is the -- is the picture? And

9 then we can share it with -- on the screen for

10 everyone.

11 MR. CHALMERS: Elan Chalmers, GN-CGS.

12 So it's on Slide 5. I also have an engineer

13 drawing of where the lagoon will be, but it'll just

14 take me a moment to pull up if you don't mind giving me

15 a moment. Thank you.

16 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Go ahead.

17 MR. CHALMERS: Yeah. Perhaps it'll just be

18 easier to use this so I don't delay anyone.

19 But essentially where the current lagoon is -- I

20 don't know if I -- so that will continue to be used,

21 but it will be upgraded and lined to contain the waste

22 so it won't seep out the way that it does now. And

23 then in the space beside it, a second cell will be

24 constructed here.

And then for the old lagoon cells here, the plan is to repurpose them to expand the solid waste site so

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1 that there is more space. So we'll have more

2 information about that in a few months once we confirm

3 that they can be reused, but that's the plan as it

4 stands out. So it'll be -- the cell will be a bit

5 larger, and then this area here will be the second

6 cell.

7 So it'll be constructed in phases so you can

8 continue to deposit waste in that area, and they'll use

9 the same wetland area. So there will be no additional

10 land that's contaminated. Thank you.

11 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

12 Any further questions or comments?

13 Teresa?

14 Oh, there's another question.

15 MS. SULUK: Hi. I see that you have

16 sampling programs for both the water reservoir and the

17 sewage lagoon. How far -- when you do the sampling for

18 the sewage lagoon, how far do you get away from it?

19 How far do you measure?

20 Because a lot of the vegetation that's growing

21 around that area is new. It's -- the vegetation that

22 grows on waste is growing -- going further down --

23 further down south. Like, do you just take samples

24 just around the lagoon or the whole area?

25 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

26 Applicant, go ahead.

1 MR. CHALMERS: Elan Chalmers, GN-CGS.

Would you be able to pull up that Slide 5 again,

3 please?

4 So to answer your question, we take it at the very

5 end of all that vegetation at the shoreline there. So

6 that green area is part of the treatment process. So

7 the lagoon holds the sewage that let's the settles --

8 the solids settle to the bottom, and the beginning of

9 the biodegradation starts happening in the summertime.

And then towards the end of the summer, you pump

11 it out slowly into that vegetation area so the natural

12 degradation can occur of the organic matter, and that's

3 why you see the plant growth, because the plants are

4 feeding from the organics.

And then all the way at the end of that area

16 before it enters into the marine area, that's where we

17 sample to see how well the treatment has progressed as

18 it moves from the lagoon to the wetland treatment area

19 and to the final discharge point.

20 And so there's limits to what the parameters can

21 be at that point that are set and -- in the licence

22 that the Nunavut Water Board will issue, and so the new

23 facility needs to meet those to demonstrate that it's

24 treating the sewage properly.

So it's just -- it'll be around this area here,

26 the sampling point, and it will also be sampling the

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1 effluent as it comes out of the lagoon to see how the

- 2 treatment has progressed at that point as well as at
- 3 the end. Thank you.
- 4 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- 5 Is there any more questions?
- 6 Teresa, do you want to take the floor for a
- 7 minute?

26

- 8 MS. MEADOWS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa
- 9 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.
- 10 So, Mr. Chair, if there are no further questions
- 11 from the community, the next item on the agenda where
- 12 we left off last night was with respect to the closing
- 13 remarks for the Nunavut Water Board.
- 14 So the Nunavut Water Board Chair will kind of
- 15 advise everybody here about the next steps in the
- 16 regulatory process and in the Water Board's process.
- 17 But if community members continue to have questions
- 18 even after the public hearing is closed, we -- the
- 19 Nunavut Water Board has information and community and
- 20 government services have information with respect to
- 21 the application that's at that table.
- 22 So please feel free to take that information, and
- 23 if you have questions, follow up with the Nunavut Water
- 24 Board even after this time if you -- if you have any
- 25 additional questions that come to you afterwards.
 - So, Mr. Chair, I also note that if anybody -- if

- anybody has any questions that they would like to
- 2 direct -- they have directed them now to Community and
- Government Services, but we also have Environment and
- Climate Change Canada on our Zoom link, and we also
- have Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
- Canada, and they are also on the Zoom link.
- 7 And it's my understanding that possibly a Panel
- member also might have a follow-up question from 8
- yesterday from the technical sessions that she would 9
- 10 like to ask as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
- THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- Hello. This is Sarah Silou, 12 MS. SILOU:
- 13 Panel.
- 14 Yesterday I already asked Karen and Teresa, and
- 15 they explained some, and afterwards I still get more
- questions in my head. Yesterday I did not know how to
- pose the question, but after talking with Karen and
- 18 Teresa, I sort of get an idea. It's concerning that
- 19 shredded metal.
- 20 I didn't quite understand where you were putting
- 21 it. I was thinking that you were putting it into
- 22 the -- on sewage, but then when I read it, there's
- 23 solid waste. It shows on the map what I was -- I guess
 - I didn't quite understand what solid waste was. I
- 25 guess that's, like, garbage.
- 26 So the shredded metal is being put in garbage or

1 putting it in lagoon? And is there a garbage metal

- 2 shredder, I mean, like you see on -- you've seen how
- 3 trucks get grounded, but I don't know what kind of --4 is it under, like, the ground where you put the metal
- or on top of the sewage or on top of the garbage
- 6 itself? Like, solid -- I guess you call it solid
- garbage, what we call caught in garbage.
- 8 It's just for clarification to understand -- to be
- 9 able to understand what the procedure is. Thank you.
- 10 And thank you, Mr. Chair, Teresa.
- 11 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- 12 So, Applicant, do you want to reply to that?
- 13 MR. CHALMERS: Elan Chalmers, GN-CGS. Thank
- 14 you for the question.
- 15 Yeah. So solid waste is a fancy word for garbage.
- 16 So yeah. So basically what -- so in the south, they
- 17 pile their garbage, and they would usually cover it
- 18 with granular material, but that's something that's
- 19 kind of difficult to come by up here because it needs
- 20 to be -- it needs to come from quarries, and there's
- 21 not always a surplus of that.
- 22 So what the hamlet did was purchase a metal
- 23 shredder, shred all the old cars that were taking up a
- 24 lot of space at the metal site, and then used that as a
- 25 cover material for the garbage. So it prevents all the
- 26 waste from blowing away or the wildlife from coming

1 into it.

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- 2 But what it also did was compact it all the way
- down, so it actually provided a lot more space and
- capacity at the landfill. So it's going to be useful
- for longer, which is a very clever idea.
- 6 Does that kind of answer the question?
- 7 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- 8 Sarah?
- 9 MS. SILOU: Yes. I had a following
- question, and when you asked me a question, I forgot my
- question, but, yes, basically that. 11
- 12 So on the map, it showed solid waste and -- so the
- 13 new -- the lagoon itself is a sewage, right, sewage
- lagoon? So the wastes are the way they are going to
- 15 be, the way they are continuing to be. It's the waste,
- the sewage waste, that -- what you are dealing with, is
- 17 it? You are dealing -- you are changing -- or I
- 18 understand you're putting a berm. It's going to be,
- like, a berm almost to keep it from going into the 19
- water or not? Like, the land. You know, how the land
- is raised, and they call it a berm or something. Is
- 22 that what's going to happen with the new lagoon?
- 23 Thank you.
- 24 THE CHAIR: Thank you.
- 25 Applicant, go ahead.
- 26 MR. CHALMERS: Elan Chalmers, GN-CGS.

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1 Yeah. I should also mention the dump is right 2 beside the sewage lagoon, so that might've been

confusing too. The metal waste is getting put in 4 there, and then you've got the lagoon right beside.

5 But -- so for the lagoon, yeah, so it's bermed all the way around, and they dig down. And especially with

7 the old lagoon, they're going to dig down, remove all

the organics that have kind of settled there because that's not a lined lagoon, and then they will put a

10 liner in so none of the sewage can get out unless

11 you're pumping it out.

12 And they'll also put a piping system down there to

13 capture any potential leaks, but -- yeah. So

14 everything will be completely bermed. So nothing

15 should be -- if it's operating properly and as

16 designed, nothing should be leaving the perimeter of

17 that -- those berms all the way around. Thank you.

18 MS. SILOU: Thank you.

And thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you very much. 19

20 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you.

21 Qujannamiik.

22 Any further questions? Peter, go ahead.

23 MR. ARLIAQ: Do you understand, Silou? You

24 seem to have two questions about the sewage and the

25 metal. A question for Silou: You were asking about

26 the sewage lagoon. There's a machine for shredding

1 metals. When the metals are shredded, they're put into

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2 disposal. There's two locations, sewage lagoon and

3 landfill.

15

4 The metal that has been shredded is closer to

5 Arviat where the old machines were, and they are piled

up together, and that's where they are. So I don't

know which question you were asking about. It seems

like you were asking two, and they're a separate one. 8

9 Lagoon is farther. Shredder is closer. So you were

talking about two places. 10

11 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Peter.

12 So I think we will come up with questions or

13 comments in answering the questions. So we take at 14 least five-minute break before getting into the agenda.

Teresa, do you want to take the floor for a

minute? Okay. Go ahead. 16

MR. MEADOWS: 17 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Teresa

18 Meadows, legal counsel for the Nunavut Water Board.

19 So, Mr. Chair, if there are no further questions,

20 when we come back after the break, Mr. Chair will give

21 the closing remarks on behalf of the Board to advise

22 everybody what happens next in the regulatory process,

23 and then we will conclude the hearing.

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you.

26 Yeah. Okay. We'll come back, let's say, 3:00.

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1 Yeah. Yeah. 3:00.

2 (ADJOURNMENT)

3 THE CHAIR: Okay. Thank you for having

4 patience here with us with having a break. So I'll do

my closing remarks now.

6 Closing Remarks

7 THE CHAIR: As we bring this public

8 hearing to a close, on behalf of the Board and my

fellow Panel members, I would like to thank all the

10 parties who contributed to making this public hearing

11 and community session a success, especially the

12 Applicant, the Hamlet of Arviat and its representative, 13 Government of Nunavut, Community Government Services;

14 intervenors; Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern

15 Affairs; and Environment Climate Change Canada; and the

16 community members; NWB staff and legal counsel;

17 interpreters, Ben Kogvik, Bobby Suluk, and Angeline

18 Irkok-Suluk; court reporter, Andres Vidal; audio

19 facilitator, Chris Coomber; and all the community

20 members and Elders for their valued participation in 21 this hearing.

22 Thanks to all -- also to the caterers and the

23 Hamlet of Arviat for their outstanding hospitality and

24 their patience with the Board.

25 As we are at the end of the hearing, I will

26 come up -- I will have -- I will make some comments to

let parties know that -- what happens next for the

renewal-amendment application.

3 The Board will now close the public hearing. What

this means is that all evidence with regards to this 4

renewal-amendment application is now before the Board.

and no further information will be considered by the

7 Panel before they make their decision about the

8 renewal-amendment application.

9 Now that the record is closed, the Board will

10 remit the file to the Panel to decide whether or not to

renew or replace this expired licence and grant the

amendments as requested by the Hamlet of Arviat.

Within 30 days to 45 days after the public hearing 13 record closes, the NWB will issue its record of

15 proceeding and decision to the Minister of Northern

16 Affairs. If the Board's decision is to grant the

17 renewal-amendment application, a draft of the renewed

18 and amended Type "A" water licence would be attached to

19 the Board decision for the Minister's approval.

20 That concludes the public hearing comments of the

Nunavut Water Board's consideration of Hamlet of

22 Arviat's application to renew and amend their expired

23 Water Licence Number 3AM-ARV1016.

24 The Board and I wish you all a good afternoon, and

25 safe travels returning home to all the visitors to

26 Arviat. Let's have a closing prayer.

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_		
2	Closing Prayer	
	PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED	
4		
	CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT:	
6		
7	I, Andres Vidal, certify that the foregoing pages	
8	are a complete and accurate transcript of the	
9	proceedings taken down by me in shorthand and	
10	transcribed from my shorthand notes to the best of my	
11	skill and ability.	
12	Dated at the City of St. Albert, Province of	
13	Alberta, this 22nd day of June 2022.	
14		
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19	Official Court Reporter	
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