

MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE INQUIRY

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATIONS BY EACH OF

(a) CANADIAN ARCTIC GAS PIPELINE LIMITED FOR A
RIGHT-OF-WAY THAT MIGHT BE GRANTED ACROSS
CROWN LANDS WITHIN THE YUKON TERRITORY AND
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, and

(b) FOOTHILLS PIPE LINES LTD. FOR A RIGHT-OF-WAY
THAT MIGHT BE GRANTED ACROSS CROWN LANDS
WITHIN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
FOR THE PURPOSE OF A PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE

and

IN THE MATTER OF THE SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL
AND ECONOMIC IMPACT REGIONALLY OF THE CONSTRUCTION,
OPERATION AND SUBSEQUENT ABANDONMENT OF THE ABOVE
PROPOSED PIPELINE

(Before the Honourable Mr. Justice Berger, Commissioner)

**Lac La Martre, N.W.T.
August 12, 1976**

PROCEEDINGS AT COMMUNITY HEARING

Volume 73

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Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3A7 Canada
Ph: 604-683-4774 Fax: 604-683-9378
www.allwestbc.com

APPEARANCES

Michael Jackson, Esq.	for Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry
Darryl Carter, Esq., Al Workman, Esq.,	for Canadian Arctic Gas Pipeline Limited;
John Burrell, Esq.,	for Foothills Pipelines Ltd.;

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1 Lac La Martre, N.W.T.
2 August 12, 1976.

3
4 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT.)

5
6 (FRANCIS ZOE SWORN AS INTERPRETER.)

7 THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
8 Ladies and Gentlemen, I'll call our hearing to order.
9 I am Judge Berger, and I am here to find out what you
10 think about the pipeline and the changes that it will
11 bring with it. Do you want me to continue, or do you
12 want to do that?

13 Now, the oil and gas industry
14 wants to build a pipeline along the Mackenzie Valley
15 that will carry natural gas from the Arctic Ocean to
16 southern Canada and the United States. After that, the
17 Government expects that an oil pipeline would be built.
18 So I am here to find out what you think about the idea
19 of building a gas pipeline along the Mackenzie Valley,
20 and then building an oil pipeline along the Mackenzie
21 Valley after that.

22 Now, I'm not here to tell you
23 that a pipeline would be a good thing, and I'm not here
24 to tell you it would be a bad thing. I'm here to
25 listen to you tell me what you think about it.

26 For many months now I have
27 been listening to people who live here in the North,
28 Indian people, Metis people, Inuit people and White
29 people, tell me what they think about the pipeline.
30 I've been to thirty communities so far, and I'm here

1 | because I want to know what you have to say about it,
2 | because you are the people who live here in the North,
3 | this is your home, and whatever decision is made about
4 | a pipeline is a decision that you will have to live
5 | with. That's why I want to know what you think about
6 | it.

7 | I think I should tell you that
8 | if the gas pipeline is built, it would take three years
9 | to build it, and six thousand men would be needed to
10 | build it. Its clear that an awful lot of those men would
11 | be brought in from the South here in to the North to
12 | build the pipeline, but it's also clear that there would
13 | be a lot of jobs in the pipeline for Northern people who
14 | wanted to work on the pipeline. If a pipeline is built,
15 | we are told that there will be increased exploration for
16 | oil and gas all along the route of the pipeline, and that
17 | would mean that all along the Mackenzie Valley there
18 | would be increased seismic exploration activity and, of
19 | course, wherever oil and gas were found there would be
20 | drilling rigs established.

21 | Now, I want to make sure that
22 | all the people who live here in the North will have a
23 | chance to tell me what they think about all of this,
24 | and I want to know something about the way you live
25 | now, and the way you want your children to live, the
26 | way -- I want you to tell me something about this
27 | village today, and about what kind of a future you, the
28 | people who live in this village desire for yourselves.

29 | Let me just tell you that --
30 | you may have noticed that I didn't come all by myself,

1 | about whether to build a pipeline or not until I have
2 | completed my work here in the North, until I have given
3 | everybody in the North a chance to be heard. So that's
4 | why I am here today to listen to you and then to make
5 | my report to the Government of Canada.

6 | I've talked enough, so I'll
7 | ask you people to proceed. Chief Beaulieu.

8 | (INTERPRETER INTERPRETS ABOVE)

9 | CHIEF LOUIS BEAULIEU resumed:

10 | THE INTERPRETER: First of
11 | all, he would like to say thank you that you people have
12 | come out here to discuss the pipeline with the people,
13 | and he said we're here to do things to help each other,
14 | he said, and to get things straightened out, and that he
15 | wishes that the meeting, or the -- the meeting with
16 | you will turn out the way it should, he said.

17 | Now, he would like to -- also
18 | mentions that you may be aware of the first treaty that
19 | they have, the people have with the Government, but now
20 | he is not going to say anything about this treaty. But
21 | he would like to say something about the people, the
22 | poor people that we live in this North, and how they
23 | lived up to date, from the past and then up to date.

24 | And he also mentions that in
25 | the past, he said that we were poor people. We depend
26 | highly on the land, he said, for the fishing, trapping,
27 | and hunting, and that the people had to help each other
28 | to survive.

29 | He would also like to say that
30 | this is what happened. This is how they lived, he said,

1 North he says, where there's permafrost, four feet
2 down, the ground at that time is about four feet in
3 depth, he says, and that is pretty hard to grow
4 anything like, and that the people here in the North
5 depend on what exist on their land, and that they have
6 to protect their land. He says, they depend on their
7 land for survival, and that they have to protect their
8 land, is what he says.

9 He would also like to mention
10 that during their, the time they are trapping, he says
11 they have a very tough time, he says. And during that
12 period of the trapping, there is hardly anything that
13 they can feed on, he says. The only thing that they
14 could feed on is the fish that they could get, and a
15 few birds that they can kill, and this is the reason
16 why they depend on the land, he said.

17 Now, he would also like to
18 mention that what he means by the poor people, he says,
19 now, is that the people have no income. They couldn't
20 get a plane in here from Yellowknife to Lac La Martre
21 to buy groceries, he said. And you may be well aware
22 that there is no all weather roads here. We do have
23 the winter roads but not all weather roads. And if
24 they don't make money, there is no way they can get any
25 groceries from the store, he said.

26 He would also like to mention
27 something about the education there. Most of the
28 people in -- the young people in the community, he says
29 did go to school, but didn't go any further than Grade
30 Ten, he says. They can see a lot of young people here,

1 he says, but not every one of them has gone over the
2 grade of ten, he says.

3 He would also like to mention
4 that the young people who don't speak the English
5 language, or rather I should say the foreign language,
6 which is difficult for them to understand, he says, nor
7 the ways of the White man, he said. They've been
8 living from the past up to date, they've been living
9 the way their ancient ancients, or the way their
10 forefathers used to live, and they still live the way
11 they used they did a hundred years ago.

12 He also mentions that just
13 recently, he mentions that the reason that he is
14 talking today is that he would like to protect his land
15 What -- the reason that he is saying that is that they
16 depend on the land for survival, and the pipeline
17 destroy it, what exists on the land, they will have
18 nothing, he says, nothing for the new generation that
19 is coming, the future generations.

20 Like you see today that --
21 in this community they do not have -- they depend on
22 the fishing a lot, since there is no caribou around
23 here.

24 THE COMMISSIONER: Since
25 there is no what?

26 THE INTERPRETER: Caribou.
27 And the reason why he is speaking today is that he is
28 trying to protect what they have now for the new
29 generations and the future generations, he said. And
30 the reason he is speaking now is that he is trying to

1 | protect what he has on his land for the future
2 | generations, and that what he is telling you, he's
3 | asking you, is that for you to report back to the
4 | Government so that perhaps you can help the people.

5 | The things that he just
6 | mentioned now are not something that he is just talking
7 | about which is false. He is talking about something
8 | that is true, he says. This is the way they have lived
9 | before, and this is the way they are going to live in
10 | the future. This is what he is saying.

11 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

12 | JIMMY RABESCA resumed:

13 | THE INTERPRETER: This is
14 | Jimmy Rabesca who is speaking now. He would like to
15 | say that now that you came to the community, that you
16 | have been hired by the Government to get the reports or
17 | the information from the people so that you can report
18 | back to the Government, he says. And he would like to
19 | say a few things to you.

20 | And he also says that we, he
21 | says, we Dene, we are poor, he says, and that we depend
22 | on the land very much, he says, and whatever exists
23 | like -- the things that exist like animals that they
24 | kill to feed on, he says, is the thing that they feed
25 | on. So this is why they say that they depend on the
26 | land, and once these things are destroyed, they have
27 | nothing to live on, he says.

28 | He also says that we depend
29 | on the things that exist in our land, he says, like
30 | fish, caribou, rabbits, ptarmigan, and so forth. He

1 JOE ROAMIE sworn:

2 THE INTERPRETER: The fellow
3 speaking is Joe Roamie, and he would like to take the
4 time in saying this here.

5 He said, I have lived on my
6 land up to my age now, he says; up to my age now, he
7 says, and that he would like to say a message to the
8 Government with this speech, he says.

9 He is not only talking for
10 the people who do exist now, he said. He is talking --
11 he is speaking for the people that -- a future
12 generation who will also depend on the land, and that
13 the people, the Dene people who are Treaty, all the
14 Treaty people depend highly on the land, he said.

15 He also says that the people
16 that are living on the land now, he says, we people who
17 are living on our land now are poor people, he says.
18 He says during the past they have been brought up very
19 poor, he says. They depend highly on the land, and the
20 animals that they kill, which they use as food, and
21 they have been brought up through their past life up to
22 their age, this is how poor they were, and that they
23 depended highly on their land. This is the reason why
24 they are pleading for their right to say that they
25 don't want the gas pipeline or the pipeline. This is
26 why they are trying to protect their land. When they
27 make a speech, these are the words that they have to
28 mention to protect their land, he says.

29 He said, these are a few things
30 that the old generation used to live -- this is how they

1 are poor people, who were brought up poor, up to date,
2 and that we depend on our land, and this is why we are
3 pleading that the Government will take pity on the Dene
4 people, and to help the Dene people to struggle for
5 their right.

6 He also said that you may
7 have visited all the communities, he said, all the
8 Treaty communities, he said. From this end, from this
9 community, he said, you may have visited other
10 communities where people made speeches. They wouldn't
11 know what they have talked about, he said. Nor the
12 Mackenzie, wherever you were visiting the people, like
13 Mackenzie. They wouldn't know what we are talking
14 about today, he said. This is the way the situation
15 is, he said. In each community the people don't know
16 what other communities are talking about. And this
17 seems not so right, he says, since you are getting
18 information from every individual communities. And you
19 don't know what's been said in this community, and then
20 the next community, this is what has been said, we
21 don't know.

22 Perhaps the whole -- he said
23 there is -- like you mentioned that there is thirty
24 communities that you visited. We don't know if the
25 people all agreed to the one thing. It would have been
26 better, he said, if we only had the whole -- officials
27 of each community together and then discussed things
28 together before giving you any information. This
29 should have been done, he said, and this should have
30 been the right way for this to be done.

1 | and we will leave it at that for now.

2 | THE COMMISSIONER: Okay, so
3 | we want to stop now.

4 | MR. ZOE: We want supper now,
5 | yes.

6 | THE COMMISSIONER: And come
7 | back at 7:00?

8 | MR. ZOE: Yes.

9 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
10 | Ladies and Gentlemen, I gather that the Chief and all
11 | of you think it would be a good idea to stop now and
12 | come back after supper, so we'll just stop now and have
13 | supper, and come back here, and I certainly invite you
14 | all back here at 7:00 o'clock. Do you want them to sit
15 | at 7:00, or --

16 | (INTERPRETER INTERPRETS ABOVE.)

17 | THE COMMISSIONER: Okay, well
18 | then, we'll all come back at 7:00 o'clock and you can
19 | collect your thoughts in the meantime and we'll hear
20 | all of you that wish to speak at 7:00, and we are
21 | staying here tonight, so we're not going anywhere.
22 | We'll stay as long as you want tonight.

23 | (INTERPRETER INTERPRETS ABOVE.)

24 | (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED TO 7 P.M.)

25 | (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

26 | (MIKE NITSIZA SWORN AS INTERPRETER.)

27 | (FRANCIS ZOE RESUMED AS INTERPRETER.)

28 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
29 | Ladies and Gentlemen, we begin again this evening, and
30 | I think that many of you were here this afternoon, so

1 all I to say is that I want you to feel free to just
2 come forward and tell me what you think about the
3 pipeline and the changes that it will bring with it,
4 about your community, and your way of life, and about
5 the future as you see it, and I'm sure we will get on
6 very well this evening.

7

8 JOE ZOE FISH sworn:

9 INTERPRETER ZOE: This is Joe
10 Zoe Fish speaking. First of all he mentions that since
11 -- now that we are here to talk about the pipeline, he
12 would like to say a few things regarding the pipeline.

13 The speaker says that as far
14 as we people -- as far as discussing about the
15 pipeline, that we people, we are aware of ourself. We
16 know how we live, he said. We are people who don't
17 have a steady income, he said, and there is no such
18 thing as we people having money in the bank, he said.

19 We all know how the people,
20 the old people used to live, he said, and that's not
21 only talking for ourself, but the future generation.
22 We are trying to protect something that is worthwhile
23 for the people here, he said. And this is the reason
24 why we are all making our speech today, he said.

25 He also says that we people
26 are highly dependent on our -- the things that is on
27 our land, he said, such as the animal that we use for
28 food, and the things we have an income from, he said.
29 We have to go so many miles to get these things, he
30 said. Like for instance, trapping and -- just take for

1 instance trapping furs. Most of the people around here
2 go many miles, like Fort Simpson, Fort Providence, to
3 do their trapping, and they have to go a long distance.
4 And some people from Franklin have to do their trapping
5 to Lac La Martre. They don't reach Lac La Martre but
6 they almost reach Lac La Martre.

7 We are struggling, and that we
8 are trying to get our rights in speaking -- and that we
9 are speaking to get our right for what we want to get.

10 What he is trying to say is
11 this. They don't want the pipeline, and they are
12 struggling for their right to get what they are saying
13 now.

14 He mentions that now that we
15 are talking about this community, now that -- you see a
16 lot of people in here but perhaps none of them have any
17 money here, and they have to depend on the land. They
18 have to do some fishing and hunting to live, he said,
19 which is -the animal that they kill -- most of the
20 animals that they kill are the main source of food that
21 they have. So this is why we say the people are
22 dependent on their land.

23 He also says that the old
24 generation, he said, they used to do hunting, trapping
25 and fishing for their life, he said. This is the same
26 way that it's happening today. It's a traditional
27 thing for the people here, he said. And they live in
28 the traditional way. They still live in the
29 traditional way, and they have their own culture.

30 When they say they depend on

1 JIMMY NITSIZA Sr, sworn:

2 INTERPRETER ZOE: This
3 speaker is Jimmy Nitsiza, senior. First of all he
4 mentions that -- well, the people that just made a
5 speech before me, he said, they are telling the truth,
6 he said. This is exactly the way that we people feel,
7 he said. This is exactly how we feel about the gas
8 pipeline, he said.

9 He said, we love our land,
10 and we like to struggle for this, for this way we have,
11 to oppose against the pipeline, he said.

12 He said today that he is 67
13 years old, he said. I know from the past and from the
14 fact that I went through life trapping and hunting, I
15 know exactly how things are, he said. He remembers way
16 back, he says, when they used to -well, he grew up the
17 traditional way. He remembers that a long time ago
18 there used to be a lot of animals for hunting, trapping
19 and fishing, he says. But now he can see the
20 difference, he said, from the past to this day, that
21 things are getting scarce. The animals are getting
22 less in numbers, and he can simply see the difference
23 he says.

24 He also mentions that before,
25 he says, there used to be less number in forest fires.
26 There was less forest fires and there was more animals.

27 Now, the White people arrived
28 in our country, he said. It simply shows that there is
29 more things destroyed now today than it was before, he
30 said. There is more fire, more forest fire.

1 He sees a lot of people,
2 White people, doing research, exploration, research, et
3 cetera, which are destroying the good area of the
4 hunting, fishing and trapping, and it's simple to show
5 the difference, he said. Ever since the White people
6 started to move in to our country, it's been bad for
7 the people, he said.

8 Now, today, he said, they can
9 see that a lot of things are destroyed on our land with
10 the forest fire, by the forest fire, and now they are
11 talking about the pipeline going through, he said. If
12 it goes through, it will simply make things worse for
13 the people here, he said, especially when he told these
14 people, now that he is 67 years old and he knows the
15 facts, they can see the difference over the years. And
16 if you put a pipeline through, it will make it no
17 better for the people here, he said.

18 The people here now who are
19 present in this hail, not everyone has a regular income
20 or a steady income, he says. So therefore we have to
21 depend on the animal that exists on the land which we
22 use for clothing, food, and money, he said. And once
23 you put a -- and once these things are destroyed, the
24 animals are destroyed, we will have nothing, he said,
25 for the present people and the future people.

26 He also mentions that just
27 before a recent, when he made a recent speech there, he
28 said -- when he said that the animals being destroyed
29 for the present people and the future people, he also
30 said that we would definitely have to oppose the

1 animals that they depend on are like the ones that they
2 trap, hunt and fish for. It's destroying all these
3 things for them.

4 He also mentions that during
5 the summer season, there's a lot of forest fires, and
6 if they put their gas -- the gas or the oil pipeline
7 through, he said, it will become a problem for the
8 people, he said.

9 The pipeline -- well, he
10 feels that the White people are taking a chance of
11 building a pipeline when they know that a forest fire
12 could destroy the pipeline, but still the White people
13 are taking a chance. That's what he says.

14 He's aware that the other
15 people are sitting here waiting to make a speech, so
16 therefore these are a few things that he wanted to
17 mention. As far as he is concerned, he doesn't want
18 the pipeline. So that's all I have to say for now, he
19 says.

20 (WITNESS ASIDE)

21 LOUIS WEDEWIN sworn:

22 INTERPRETER ZOE: The person
23 speaking is Louis Wedewin. I would like to take the
24 time to say this, the people that just made a speech
25 before me said they are already talking about their
26 land, he said. To protect their land they are saying
27 things that is correct, he said, which is right for me
28 too, he said.

29 He also says this is our
30 land, we love our land, we are born on our land, he

1 animal that exists on the land. We live on it, he
2 said. The land is something that we highly depend on,
3 that we can call it a father. I say depend on the
4 father. The land is almost the same thing which we
5 depend on, he said.

6 And he says now that the
7 pipeline, the White people are talking about -- now
8 that the White people are talking about the pipeline,
9 that they want to construct a pipeline, he said, we are
10 asking not to have a pipeline, he said. The speeches
11 that we are making, he said, doesn't have to be very
12 long, but he only wish that he can get his message
13 across to the Government of Canada. And that's all he
14 has to say for now.

15 (WITNESS ASIDE)

16
17 ISADORE NITSIZA sworn:

18 INTERPRETER ZOE: The person
19 speaking is Isadore Nitsiza, and I would like to make a
20 short speech here, he said. And I think that he would
21 like to speak about, talk about all the things that he
22 has seen in the past, he said.

23 In the past, he said, looking
24 back on Fort Rae, he said, in the past there was no
25 wooden boats, he said. He is talking about the modern
26 boats that they have today like canoes and so forth.
27 There used to be none of that in Rae, he said. And
28 during that time they used to have no motor --
29 outboard motors, nor those modern type of canoes, he
30 said.

1 | speak can do so then.

2 | (INTERPRETER INTERPRETS ABOVE)

3 | (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED FOR FIVE MINUTES)

4 | (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT.)

5 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
6 | Ladies and Gentlemen, we will call the hearing to order
7 | again, and we will hear from those who still wish to
8 | speak now.

9 |

10 | MRS. MARIA BEAVERHO sworn:

11 | INTERPRETER ZOE: This is
12 | Mrs. Maria Dell Beaverho. She said she would like to
13 | make a short speech.

14 | She mentions that people who
15 | made speeches before are talking about the pipeline and
16 | how it is going to take effect with the people, for the
17 | present people in the new generation, she says.

18 | She agree with all the people
19 | who have opposed against the pipeline, and what they
20 | have said is true, she said. This is the way we feel.
21 | These are the things that we have mentioned, and this
22 | is the way we feel about the pipeline, against the
23 | pipeline, she said.

24 | She said, she mentions that
25 | -- she also said that we definitely don't want the
26 | pipeline, she said, on our land. And we are supporting
27 | each other as the Dene people, and that we definitely
28 | don't want the pipeline.

29 | She mentions that she is the
30 | mother of twelve children, and that she is speaking on

1 of the old people, to listen to what has been said. We
2 hear what the politicians say, to pass it on to the old
3 people, in order for them to support and to make
4 decisions.

5 We young people are the eyes
6 of the old people, to see what is happening down in the
7 South, what we read, and can compare what is the best
8 for the Dene people.

9 We young people are the
10 tongue of the old people, to see and to say what they
11 have to say.

12 Since the old people have
13 told us, and seen us, and also show us the old way of
14 life, and we young people brought this yesterday's
15 generation back to the future, with this future
16 development pipeline, and compare it.

17 Now, we will not accept it,
18 accept this pipeline in the North, for the old
19 generation and the way of life which we cannot let go.

20 To us Dene people the
21 resource means the land, a life on the land, by getting
22 the meat from the big game such as the moose, caribou,
23 bear, et cetera, money from the fur pelts, waters, and
24 the fish from the lakes. The land and the earth which
25 is our mother. Our father is the spirit of what comes
26 to protect our mother earth, because the mother earth
27 and us Dene people are the natural things together.

28 Therefore, when we do not say
29 something or do anything to protect it, it will bring
30 us destruction. Therefore, this is the only hearing

1 THE COMMISSIONER: We would
2 like to keep it as an exhibit --

3 MR. ISADORE ZOE: Okay.

4 THE COMMISSIONER: -- and
5 part of formal record of the Inquiry.

6 MR. ISADORE ZOE: Okay.

7 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
8 very much.

9 MR. ISADORE ZOE: Thank you.

10 (SUBMISSION OF ISADORE ZOE

11 MARKED EXHIBIT C-651)

12 (WITNESS ASIDE)

13 JIMMY NITSIZA Jr, sworn:

14 INTERPRETER ZOE: His name is
15 Jimmy Nitsiza, Junior. And he would like to mention
16 that he is not going to make a lengthy speech, but a
17 short speech.

18 He said that the things that
19 people mentioned before him, the people that made a
20 speech before him, he says that what they are saying
21 against the pipeline is true, he said. They are all
22 speaking the true words against the pipeline, he said.

23 The reason why the people are
24 talking against the pipeline is very simple to explain,
25 he said. We love our land. We love our country, he
26 said.

27 And he also mentions that we
28 depend on the land, he said. We are resourceful and we
29 depend on the land, he said. We depend on the big
30 games and the small games, he said, for the food. And

1 | people, he said. We are struggling and supporting
2 | each other against this pipeline, he said. And the
3 | guest speaking is Jimmy Moosenose.

4 | The proposal for the
5 | pipeline, he said, once this pipeline is built, it will
6 | just cause a destruction and create problems for the
7 | people, he said. And that there is no way that we can
8 | support the pipeline, he said. We simply have to go
9 | against it, against the pipeline, he said.

10 | He also mentions that we
11 | simply are trying to support each other, he said. We
12 | are pleading for our right, he said.

13 | This pipeline that we are
14 | talking about, he said, once this pipeline was built,
15 | he said, it can simply create problems, disasters.

16 | And also he mentions that the
17 | people who are constructing this pipeline are taking
18 | chances. The chances is that -- well, the problem that
19 | it would perhaps cause is that -- as you people may be
20 | aware, that there is fire, forest fires, everywhere in
21 | the North. And a pipeline can easily be destroyed by
22 | fire, or any other accident. This is the reason why he
23 | sees the people who are constructing this pipeline are
24 | taking chances.

25 | He also mentions that once a
26 | gas pipeline or the oil pipeline goes through, and if
27 | there is any accident such as an oil spill or a gas
28 | spill, they can destroy a lot of things that -- since
29 | we depend on this -- since we are a resourceful people,
30 | he said, we depend highly on the games. We depend

1 HARRY ALEXIS sworn:

2 INTERPRETER ZOE: He would
3 like to make this speech briefly. The person speaking
4 is Harry Alexis.

5 The people who are making -
6 start making speeches and talking are right, he said,
7 about the pipeline, in discussing it and bringing our
8 ideas against the pipeline is the right thing to do, he
9 said.

10 Harry mentions that he is
11 pretty well aware of how the pipeline is. He is
12 familiar with most of the -- he is familiar with Norman
13 Wells, he said. I have been there, he said. I have
14 seen the oil, he said. I seen the drilling, he said.
15 And I believe he lived there before he moved to Lac La
16 Martre.

17 And he said he has witnessed
18 a few things that was bad, which is birds, like
19 rabbits, and bear. These type of animals which go near
20 the drilling, he said, where there is oil being drained
21 into a lake or something, and once these animal uses
22 this lake, they die, he said. They simply die. And he
23 has witnessed this.

24 And the people who are
25 opposing against the pipeline are definitely telling
26 you the right thing, the Dene people, he said.

27 That example, he said, let's
28 take the example of the birds and the ducks and the
29 rabbits and the bear which died of drinking from the
30 lake where the oil was spilled, he said. The same

1 | pipeline, and they do not wish to see it. There are
2 | other people waiting to make speeches, and that is all
3 | he has to say now.

4 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
5 | very much, sir.

6 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

7 |
8 | CHARLIE PETER NITSIZA sworn:
9 | INTERPRETER ZOE: The person
10 | speaking is Charlie Peter Nitsiza. And he said he
11 | would like to say a few things regarding the pipeline.

12 | And the people that -- the
13 | older people that make speech before him, he said
14 | before me, he said, are saying the right thing, he
15 | said. They are all struggling against the pipeline,
16 | and he do feel that is the right thing to do.

17 | And he also mentions that he
18 | love his land, and once the pipeline is put through,
19 | and the animal that exists that they depend highly on
20 | are destroyed, they will have nothing left to live on.

21 | And he also mentions that as
22 | far as the construction of the pipeline, he said, no,
23 | But he would approve if they would have a railroad or
24 | some sort of a railway for transportation -- for
25 | transferring of these gas and oil across the country to
26 | the South, from the North to the South.

27 | And the people that make
28 | speech supporting against the pipeline, he appreciate
29 | those people very -- the speeches that the people made
30 | very much, and that he also supports that. He simply

1 | said, no pipeline. That's all he has to say.

2 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

3 |

4 | LOUIS MOOSENOSE sworn:

5 | INTERPRETER ZOE: The person
6 | who is speaking is Louis Moosenose, First of all, he
7 | mentions that he would like to make a short speech, and
8 | he appreciate Mr. Berger coming to our community to
9 | discuss the pipeline.

10 | Now, the people that are
11 | talking about the pipeline, he said, the people that
12 | support against the pipeline, he said, I also support
13 | that, and I thank the people, who are supporting, he
14 | said, against the pipeline.

15 | He said, we do not want a
16 | pipeline, he said. And that mentioning things like
17 | destroying our land, the things on our land, the things
18 | that we depend on so highly, if that is going to be
19 | destroyed, there is no way that they can support the
20 | pipeline. They simply have to say no against -- to the
21 | pipeline.

22 | And they are giving their
23 | support not to only the present existing people, but
24 | to the coming generation. And this is all he has to
25 | say.

26 | He is just saying that there
27 | is more people who are waiting to make speech, so this
28 | is all he has to say.

29 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

30 |

1 A long time ago when she was
2 just a young girl, she said she used to help her father.
3 There used to be an abundance of fur animals, big games,
4 small games, fish. All the things that the people
5 depend on. There used to be an abundance of them. But
6 today you see the difference. Things are getting
7 scarce, she said.

8 She remembers a long time ago
9 when she used to help her father, she said. She helped
10 her father with the dogs. She even used to do the
11 trapping herself. And she mentions that she did a lot
12 of work with her father.

13 Her father lived the
14 traditional way and she lived the traditional way, and
15 that in her time she trapped a lot of fur. And she
16 still knows the traditional way of life.

17 She mentions that --
18 regarding the pipeline, that we hear all the people who
19 have made speeches to support and struggle against the
20 pipeline. We are saying this for the new generation,
21 the coming generation, and the present existing people.

22 We hope that the Government
23 would approve not to have the pipeline, and that she
24 will go against the pipeline. And that's all she has
25 to say for now.

26 (WITNESS ASIDE)

27
28 ROSALEE ZOE FISH sworn:

29 INTERPRETER ZOE: She would
30 like to make a short speech herself, Mrs. Rosalee Zoe

1 Fish. She would like to take the time to say that the
2 people that make speeches are the right way to speak
3 regarding the pipeline.

4 The pipeline will effect the
5 new generation, and the present existing people. So
6 this is the reason why we are giving the support
7 against the pipeline.

8 Personally, I have ten
9 children, she said. I love my children. I love my
10 land. I like to save the resource for my children, she
11 said.

12 We depend highly on the
13 animal that exists on our land. And it is simple that
14 we have to give our support against the pipeline. We
15 do not want to destroy the resource existing in our
16 land.

17 It is simple for me to say no
18 against the pipeline, she said. She also mentions, she
19 repeats the word "no pipeline" again.

20 She also wishes that the
21 Government would receive the message from the people
22 here, she said. Once he receives the message, perhaps
23 we can make him aware of the situation that the Dene
24 people are in, and that each individual Dene people are
25 supporting each other against the pipeline. She only
26 knows that -she only wishes that the Government gets
27 this thing in his mind, and that she would appreciate
28 it if the Government would also give the support to the
29 people, if he could.

30 She is saying no against the

1 | pipeline, and that is all she has to say.

2 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
3 | very much, ma'am.

4 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

5 |
6 | MARIA ADELE RABESCA sworn:
7 | INTERPRETER ZOE: This is
8 | Maria Adele Rabesca. She would like to make a speech.

9 | MRS. RABESCA: I would like
10 | to make a speech to you tonight about our land and the
11 | pipeline.

12 | We people depend on the land.
13 | When our husbands go hunting -- they go hunting, and
14 | they go fishing, and trapping, us women, well, we stay
15 | home. Sometimes we go with our husbands. And when our
16 | husbands, they get meat or fish or furs, we are happy,
17 | because we know that our kids are well fed. The: are
18 | well clothed.

19 | Last year, like, we had a lot
20 | of money. Like the land is something that is most
21 | precious to us. We are proud to live on our land, and
22 | we do not wish our land should be destroyed.

23 | If there is a pipeline goes
24 | on, many people will be hurt and suffer. Our poor kids
25 | will be suffering, and they will be hungry. And also
26 | what we live on, the wildlife, will all be destroyed.
27 | And we know that our land, and the soil, and everything
28 | will be destroyed. This is why we do not want this
29 | pipeline to go on.

30 | Many people have made a

1 | speech before me and I agree with them. So this again
2 | I say, I hope they will not have a pipeline in our
3 | land. Thank you.

4 | (MIKE NITSIZA TRANSLATES ABOVE TO DOGRIB)

5 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

6 |

7 | ANNIE SIMPSON sworn:

8 | INTERPRETER ZOE: They have
9 | been looking forward to visiting you, Mr. Berger, and
10 | they appreciate that you attend the hearing here, and
11 | they appreciate discussing things with you. And the
12 | person speaking is Annie Simpson.

13 | She said the speech made by
14 | the others are the true words, she said. It is simple
15 | that we have to save the things that we depend on that
16 | exist in our land. We have to save it for our
17 | children, she said.

18 | For instance, our children
19 | could not eat without having to do some fishing or
20 | hunting or trapping, she said.

21 | If the pipeline goes through
22 | and these things are destroyed, the things that we
23 | depend on are destroyed, there is no way we can feed
24 | our children, she said. The things that we depend on,
25 | the animals for food, the games, small games, big
26 | games, the hunting, like the furs, we depend on this,
27 | she said.

28 | We strongly feel and support
29 | each other against the pipeline, she said. And that we
30 | are aware that we depend, we know we depend on this

1 giving our support against the pipeline. We want to
2 save what we have for the new generations. If the new
3 generation are to live in the traditional way, they
4 will depend on fishing, hunting and trapping. So this
5 is the reason why we would like to give our support
6 against the pipeline.

7 And that she wishes that this
8 message would come across to the Government, and that
9 she hopes that the Government will consider this
10 matter, and it is important for the people to get their
11 message across to the Government with the help of Mr.
12 Berger.

13 She also mentions that if Mr.
14 Berger would take kindly to the people and give his
15 support to the people, she will appreciate that.

16 And also again, if the
17 Government will take consideration over the people that
18 they are pleading for their right, and things that they
19 can save for their generation, the things that they
20 depend on, they will not want to destroy what they
21 have.

22 She definitely said -- she
23 said, I definitely would support the people who are
24 against the pipeline, and I would simply say no against
25 it, to the pipeline, she said. That's all I have to
26 say, she said.

27 (WITNESS ASIDE)

28 FRANCIS ZOE sworn:

29 My name is Francis Zoe, and I
30 am a C.E.S. Co-ordinator for the communities, which

1 | means I am working for the people.

2 | I would like to support the
3 | people who have already made a speech. I appreciate
4 | all the people who support against the pipeline.

5 | As far as taking the pipeline
6 | into consideration, the Dene people didn't have a
7 | pipeline before, and they didn't depend on it before.
8 | Now, the White people are proposing a pipeline. Why
9 | will the Dene people want a pipeline? They still want
10 | to live the traditional way. I know we are in the
11 | stage of the development. They do not need the
12 | pipeline. Why would they want a pipeline, especially
13 | to people who want to live the traditional way of life.

14 | When speaking about
15 | employment that it would create, that the pipeline
16 | would create they will not only hire the people in the
17 | North, they will hire most of the people from outside.
18 | They can't get the experts from the North. I'm sure of
19 | that. When they look at a pipeline, it's a large
20 | project. If I understand, it's a three year project.

21 | I'd like to say a few things
22 | regarding education. As far as education goes, we
23 | people, the people that exist in my community, I can
24 | tell, you that they don't have, everyone of them don't
25 | have Grade 10. I know from a fact. They can see in
26 | this country the education, it's a competing thing.
27 | They can see that we are -- even though we have Grade
28 | 12, this is pretty low, I think. They can see the
29 | competition that they have with education. We have
30 | different schools. The outside schools in U.S., the

1 U.S.A., you have different schools there. They are
2 quite competing. And the people out there have a
3 pretty high grade. I can tell you that. We are really
4 low graded people. Sooner or later, in the future, I
5 know that -- for sure that most of the people that have
6 a little education, that exists now, will not hold a
7 job at all.

8 If you are looking at a
9 pipeline -- and as far as I believe, they are looking
10 at a pipeline, the gas pipeline first, and the oil
11 pipeline, then a highway perhaps. Once this is done,
12 who's going to get a job? The outside people is going
13 to get the job, not the people existing in the North.

14 When I say I'll give my
15 support to the -- against the pipeline, I'll give it to
16 them 100 percent. I don't want nothing else.

17 The people now, they still
18 live the traditional way. They depend on trapping,
19 fishing, and hunting. Why should we just switch around
20 and adjust them. They do not understand the foreign
21 ways, which is the White man's ways.

22 Like for myself, I had a
23 little education. I do not know exactly the foreigner
24 way, the White man's way, nor I speak correctly the
25 White man's way. This takes time developing. Like what
26 I mean, you just can't turn from one language to the
27 next language in one night, you just can't turn people
28 around. It is going to take time. We all, know that.

29 And in the future I know for
30 sure that most of the people from the South will be

1 | employed. Most of them will get all the good jobs.
2 | The other jobs like labour, and jobs which is not.
3 | very good, is going to the Native people, the Northern
4 | people for sure. And I wouldn't give my support to the
5 | pipeline. I don't want the pipeline. I know that
6 | after the pipeline is built, they are going to be
7 | talking about the highway again. We can see all that.
8 | It's simple. It's development.

9 | I would like to say more
10 | but I think that other people are waiting to say
11 | something, so I'll say thank you. That's all I have to
12 | say.

13 | (MIKE NITSIZA TRANSLATES ABOVE TO DOGRIB)

14 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
15 | very much.

16 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

17 |
18 | MARY ANN JEREMICHICA sworn:
19 | INTERPRETER ZOE: The speaker
20 | is Mary Ann Jeremichica.

21 | THE WITNESS: I am here to
22 | say a few things about the pipeline, which is going to
23 | go through the Mackenzie area.

24 | We Dene people here in Lac La
25 | Martre, we are talking against the people -- the
26 | pipeline to protect our land. We have seen a lot of
27 | damage done to our land and our lives. I have seen
28 | what the White people have done to our life. Our old
29 | people had depend on the land so much for us young
30 | people to make our living.

1 I will say no to the pipeline. And that's all that I
2 want to say, she said, that I wanted to mention to you
3 people.

4 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
5 very much.

6 INTERPRETER ZOE: And also
7 she would like to include this, the pipeline being -
8 destroying the land, the things existing in the lands.
9 They would become a problem to the people, she said.
10 And that she will not -- she would like -- she would
11 not want to see her land being destroyed, and whatever
12 exists on the land.

13 So, she will give her support
14 to the people who are struggling against the pipeline.
15 That's final, that's all she has to say.

16 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
17 very much.

18 (WITNESS ASIDE)

19 THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
20 Ladies and Gentlemen, is there anybody else who would
21 like to speak before we adjourn the hearing?

22 ALPHONSE SIMPSON sworn:

23 INTERPRETER ZOE: The
24 speaker is Alphonse Simpson. Alphonse just mentions
25 that -- he said that there are things that has been
26 discussed here are the right things to discuss, he
27 said.

28 People that make their
29 speeches before me, he said, these people are talking
30 the truth words, and I support them very much who are

1 | pipeline, the people who are opposing against the
2 | pipeline. He will give his support to them. And that
3 | is all that he will say for now.

4 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

5 |
6 | CHARLIE JEREMICHICA sworn:
7 | INTERPRETER ZOE: The person
8 | speaking now is Charlie Jeremichica.

9 | CHARLIE JEREMICHICA: First
10 | of all, I would like to introduce myself that I am the
11 | Co-Op Manager here in Lac La Martre. This is my first
12 | time speaking on this type of meeting. But, first of
13 | all, I would like to say a few things about the
14 | pipeline, land, and the people.

15 | I would like to support my
16 | people about the land. And I'm aware of the pipeline
17 | not to be built up across the Mackenzie area, so that
18 | the land wouldn't have to be destroyed, and also the
19 | animals the wildlife, and other things. A hundred
20 | percent I agree with what the people have said about
21 | the pipeline not to be built up in our land.

22 | We are talking against the
23 | pipeline because we want to protect our land and
24 | wildlife. A lot of things have destroyed -- a lot of
25 | things are going to have to be destroyed if the
26 | pipeline has been built.

27 | But, anyway, the people here
28 | have lived here long enough, but things haven't been
29 | changed yet. But nowadays people live in the
30 | community, they don't move around like they used to in

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes,
2 please, by all means.

3 MR. NITSIZA: First of all, I
4 would like to say thanks to Mr. Berger for coming in to
5 hear from the people of Lac La Martre here. And my
6 name is Mike Nitsiza.

7 I joined in the settlement
8 this year in February. I just moved back here in Lac
9 La Martre to do the maintenance here for the
10 settlements.

11 I am also support those
12 people that are against the pipelines going through the
13 North here in the Mackenzie District.

14 Why am I against the
15 pipeline? Why, it's simple, simple to know that our
16 land has been already been destroyed by fire and by
17 polluting our lakes, our clear water. This is why I am
18 against the pipeline.

19 I guess this is the reason
20 why all these people here are against the pipelines.

21 Those forest fires that I knew
22 from the past, last five years ago, when we had the
23 forest fire about five miles away from the settlement
24 here in Lac La Martre, and we phoned the Forestry, the
25 Fire Department, and asked them to control this fire.
26 And then what they said was that they wouldn't put the
27 fire out because we Dene people were careless about this
28 forest, fire, that's what they told us, but which is not
29 true. We care about our land.

30 Even the last couple of weeks

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, is
2 there anybody else that would like to speak tonight?

3 MARIE TLOKKA sworn:

4 INTERPRETER ZOE: The person
5 speaking now is Marie Tlokka. She would like to make a
6 speech briefly.

7 First, I would like to say
8 that if the pipeline goes through, and if anything
9 happens to the pipeline, it will simply destroy the
10 games that they depend on, the furs they depend on, and
11 the wildlife. If these things are destroyed, there is
12 nothing that they can live on, because they depend on
13 the things that exists in the land. They are
14 resourceful. They do not have any education, and they
15 cannot ask for jobs. And so they rely on these things,
16 And if they are destroyed, there is no chance that they
17 can live.

18 The reason that she supports
19 the people that are against the pipeline is simple.
20 They want to save the land and the life of others
21 before it is destroyed. And you will say no to the
22 pipelines. And that is all that she has to say.

23 (WITNESS ASIDE)

24 THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
25 Ladies and Gentlemen, --

26 LLOYD SIMPSON sworn:

27 INTERPRETER ZOE: The person
28 speaking now is Lloyd Simpson.

29 He mentions that -- he says
30 that we have a beautiful country, and we love our

1 | country. He only wish not to see the pipeline
2 | destroying it. He doesn't want to see the pipeline
3 | destroying what the Dene people have. He will also say
4 | no to the pipeline. He will give his support to the
5 | people who are against this pipeline. And that's all
6 | he has to say.

7 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
8 | very much, sir.

9 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

10 |
11 | THE COMMISSIONER: We have
12 | been here since this afternoon, and we have heard from
13 | thirty-one of you older people and younger people, men
14 | and women, who live here in Lac La Martre, and that
15 | certainly has helped me to understand the way you live
16 | and what your hopes are and your fears are for the
17 | future, and those are the things that I have to know,
18 | and those are the things that it is important that the
19 | Government should know.

20 | So, I ant glad that you all
21 | came today. I'm glad that you were prepared to sit
22 | here in public and tell me, and tell your friends and
23 | neighbours, and through me the Government of Canada,
24 | how you feel about the proposed pipeline and the energy
25 | corridor, and the changes that they may bring.

26 | Now, leaders of the Native
27 | people of the North, leaders of the Dene people, come
28 | to Yellowknife to tell me there what the Dene people,
29 | what they think, about the proposed pipeline and energy
30 | corridor, and of course I listen to them and I give

1 | great weight to what they say. But let me tell you
2 | that it helps me to understand how you feel, and how
3 | you think about these things, when I have the chance to
4 | come to your villages, just as I have come to Lac La
5 | Martre today, because when you see the village, when
6 | you have a chance to hear from the people themselves,
7 | it gives you a deeper understanding of why you feel the
8 | way you do, than I would ever get if I just sat in
9 | Yellowknife listening to the people who come there to
10 | talk to me.

11 | I will finish my hearings in
12 | the North at the end of September, and then I will
13 | write my report, and hand it to the Government of
14 | Canada, and after that it will be laid before
15 | Parliament and you will hear about it then. Remember,
16 | all that I can do is make recommendations to the
17 | Government of Canada. It is the Government of Canada
18 | in Ottawa that must decide whether a pipeline will be
19 | built, but you can rest assured that they will be told
20 | how you feel about it, that they will be told the
21 | thoughts that you have expressed here today about the
22 | pipeline and the energy corridor.

23 | Lac La Martre is a beautiful
24 | place and I and all of those who came with me today are
25 | glad that we had a chance to come and to be here, and I
26 | want to thank all of you who attended the hearing
27 | today, and those of you who spoke.

28 | And it is 1:00 o'clock and I
29 | guess I should adjourn the hearing until we reconvene
30 | at Rae Lakes tomorrow. But thank you all again.

1 JIM GREEN sworn:

2 MR. GREEN: Okay, I am sorry
3 for this interruption. I just wanted to --

4 THE COMMISSIONER: Right,
5 fine, go ahead, Mr. Green.

6 MR. GREEN: I wanted to wait
7 until everyone else had spoken, and I don't know why it
8 was, but I have been kind of afraid all night to say
9 what I wanted to say, and I don't know why. I think
10 maybe it's because -- it may be a couple of things,
11 maybe I was going to be the only white guy talking here
12 tonight, or that I was going to be speaking against
13 something that Southern people, where I come from, have
14 devised and made up and were trying to do in the
15 country, in this northern country.

16 But I've been -- I've been
17 vacillating about it all night. I've been going back
18 and forth. I've been afraid of what I was going to
19 say, and I suppose that's why I messed things up, and
20 didn't say it until after everything had closed, or
21 didn't, you know, say I wanted to say anything, because
22 I was sort of afraid to come out.

23 But I had some things I
24 wanted to say, and I wrote them down last night, and I
25 wrote them down before anybody said anything tonight,
26 and 'I just felt that I had to say these things for
27 myself, as well as anybody else, so that I can look at
28 myself tomorrow, And I'm sorry for causing a -- for not
29 doing it when everybody else was talking, but I would
30 like --

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Just take
2 your time, because we've got lots of time. I just
3 thought no one else wanted to speak.

4 MR. GREEN: Okay; I would
5 just like to take this time.

6 THE COMMISSIONER: We are all
7 right where we were twenty minutes ago, so carry on.

8 MR. GREEN: Really, okay.

9 THE COMMISSIONER: Carry on.

10 MR. GREEN: I am obviously
11 not Dene. I don't have a Dene language, a Dene mind,
12 or a Dene education.

13 When I was a young boy, I
14 used to wish I was an Indian, and I saw myself riding a
15 horse and shooting lots of buffalo, and being a real
16 big guy. I don't do that anymore.

17 I am a White man, and I found
18 that I can live with being a White man, and I can
19 accept that. I am a White man. I am a transplanted
20 European White man, but I was born in this country. My
21 father was born in this country, and my father's father
22 was born in this country. Canada is my home; no place
23 else. This is my home.

24 And we are here today to talk
25 about a pipeline. We are also here to talk about
26 people. And I think one of the reasons that I have
27 been able to -- and I don't know why I was so afraid to
28 talk now that I've started talking -- but I think one
29 of the reasons that I've been able to talk is because
30 I've heard so many people tonight talking that I've

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
2 Mr. Green.

3 (WITNESS ASIDE)

4 INTERPRETER ZOE: Chief
5 Beaulieu would like to say something.

6 CHIEF BEAULIEU.: Okay.

7 THE INTERPRETER: Chief

8 Louis Beaulieu would like to take the time to say that
9 he would like to say thank you to you, Mr. Berger, and
10 the people, all the people who attended the meeting
11 here.

12 It is good to have you here
13 to listen to what the people have to say, and the
14 feeling that they have against the pipeline.

15 Now that you have listened to
16 the people, the speeches the people has made, from this
17 you can perhaps see or understand how the people feel
18 about this pipeline, which will effect all the Dene
19 people.

20 Our people, they are
21 pleading, he said. And they are trying to say things
22 with their own heart, he said. And the people wishes
23 that you will also support them when you present the
24 papers to their Government.

25 So, he would like to say
26 thank you for everybody that attended the meeting, and
27 that the meeting is now adjourned.

28 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
29 Chief.

30 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED TO AUGUST 13, 1976)