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SELECT COMMITTEE REGARDING THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

Public Hearings: Evidence

Wednesday, September 24, 2014 — 5:00 p.m.

Chair: Patti McLeod

**SELECT COMMITTEE
REGARDING THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING**

Chair: Patti McLeod
Vice-Chair: Lois Moorcroft

Members: Hon. Currie Dixon
Darius Elias
Sandy Silver
Jim Tredger

Clerk to the Committee: Allison Lloyd

Speakers:	Colleen James	Annie Auston
	Werner Rhein	Jan Forde
	Anne Middler	Leslie Kerr
	Mary Anne Lewis	Dorothy Gibbon
	Rob Lewis	Ken Briggs
	Felix Vogt	Bessie Jim
	Michelle Parsons	Sam Smith
	Patrick James	Mike Baerg
	Charlie James	Cindy Allen
	Rozlyn James	Rosemarie Briggs
	Wesley Barrett	Gordon Gilgan
	Edna Helm	Corliss Burke
	Deborah Baerg	Judy Harwood Dabbs
	Reanna Mohamed	Lee Mennell
	Gisela Niedermeyer	Bob Foster
	Theo Stad	Jimmy Borisenko
	Patricia James	Lawrie Crawford
	Corinne Carvill	Kathleen Cranfield
	Charlotte Hadden	Eileen Wally
	Heather Jones	Ulla Rembe
	Frank James	Rene Brouillard
	John Jensen	Ed Lishmaan
	Larry Barrett	Elaine Ash
	Art Johns	Dagmar Liebau
	Elke Huber	Colin Mennell
	Natasha Ayoub	Fiona Seki Wedge
	Harold Gatensby	Mark Wedge
	Peter Huber	Robert Wally
	Liesel Briggs	

EVIDENCE**Carcross, Yukon****Wednesday, September 24, 2014 — 5:00 pm**

Chair (Ms. McLeod): If I can ask people to get settled in their chairs, please. We have a lot of folks we want to hear from today.

Good evening, everyone. I want to thank you all for coming out to the select committee on the risks and benefits of hydraulic fracturing. This is a public hearing. The format is a little bit formal so please bear with us. I'd like to call this hearing to order. This is a hearing of the Yukon Legislative Assembly's Select Committee the Regarding the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing.

Before we get started, I'd like to invite Mr. Ted Hall up to open our meeting with a prayer, please.

Prayers

Chair: I'm going to start with the introduction of the members of the committee. I am Patti McLeod. I'm Chair of the Committee, and I am the MLA for Watson Lake.

Ms. Moorcroft: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Lois Moorcroft. I am the MLA for Copperbelt South. I want to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Carcross-Tagish First Nation. I want to welcome all of you. I also see that there are people here from the local advisory committees for Tagish, Carcross, Mount Lorne, and people from Marsh Lake as well. I look forward to hearing from you this afternoon.

Hon. Mr. Dixon: Hi, my name is Currie Dixon. I am the MLA for Copperbelt North. I am also the Minister of Environment, the Minister of Economic Development, and the minister responsible for the Public Service Commission.

Mr. Silver: Hi, I am Sandy Silver. I am the Member for Klondike and the Leader of the Yukon Liberal Party, and I just want to thank you all for your time tonight. This is the last of our rural community tours, and we have been absolutely blown away by the public presentations so far, so thank you very much.

Mr. Tredger: Good evening. My name is Jim Tredger. I am the MLA for Mayo-Tatchun. I'd like to thank the Carcross-Tagish First Nation for holding this on their traditional territory and thank the community of Carcross for hosting this. I am honoured to be here. I look forward to hearing your voices on this very important topic. Thank you for coming out.

Mr. Elias: *[Member spoke in Gwich'in. Text unavailable.]* My mother is Norma Kassi. My grandmother is Mary Kassi. Her father is Elias Gwatlatyi. My father is Vernon Marion. I'm the MLA for the Vuntut Gwitchin in the Yukon Legislative Assembly. I want to thank you all for coming here. I want to thank each and every one of my colleagues for being on this select committee because I have been on six of these select committees now over my time as MLA, and this is by far the most challenging one. I can say

that I can combine all of the five select committees that I have been on before, and all the work can be combined into this one alone. I want to commend my colleagues for the good work that we are going to continue to do. We are coming to a conclusion here and we're looking forward to hearing from the people of Carcross and surrounding area.

Mahsi' cho for attending here tonight.

Chair: Also with us tonight is Allison Lloyd, to my left — she's the Clerk to the Committee; Dawn Brown, who is at the registration desk and is helping to keep us organized; and, of course, thank you to our sound recording and transcription staff.

On May 6, 2013, the Yukon Legislative Assembly adopted Motion No. 433, thereby establishing the Select Committee Regarding the Risks and Benefits of Hydraulic Fracturing. The Committee's purpose, or mandate, is set out in the motion, and it includes a number of interconnected responsibilities. The Committee has decided to fulfill its mandate in a three-phase approach.

Firstly, the Committee endeavoured to gain a science-based understanding of the technical, environmental, economic and regulatory aspects of hydraulic fracturing, as well as Yukon's current legislation and regulations relevant to the oil and gas industry. Secondly, the Committee pursued its mandate to facilitate an informed public dialogue for the purpose of sharing information on the potential risks and benefits of hydraulic fracturing. The Committee invited experts to share their knowledge over four days of proceedings which were open to the public and are now available on our website.

Finally, the third stage of the Committee's work is gathering input from the Yukon public, First Nations, stakeholders and stakeholder groups. This is the purpose of today's hearing, and of course, it was the purpose of hearings held in almost every other community across the Yukon. After these hearings, the Committee will be in a position to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Assembly.

A summary of the Committee's activities to date is available at the registration table. All of information the Committee has collected, including presentations from experts on various aspects of hydraulic fracturing, is available on the Committee's website.

The Committee will not be presenting information on the risks and benefits of hydraulic fracturing at this hearing, as the time allotted will be devoted to hearing from as many Yukoners as possible.

Individual presentations to the Committee will be limited to five minutes. If there's time remaining at the end of the presentations, presenters may be invited to speak for an additional period.

If you would like to present your opinion to the Committee, I'm going to ask you to double check — I know that most of you have likely registered — but just to check in with the desk so that we can be sure to call your name. Please note that this hearing is being recorded and transcribed and

everything you say will be on the public record and posted on the Committee's website.

I'd like to welcome everyone in the audience and ask that you please respect the rules for this hearing. Visitors are not allowed to disrupt or interfere with the proceedings. Please refrain from unnecessary noise, including comments and applause, and please mute your electronic devices.

I know that we have a lot of people who have pre-registered to speak tonight. Some of you will also be presenting at the Whitehorse sessions tomorrow evening and on Saturday. If we can ask — if you might consider — should we call your name early, that you defer to later in the meeting so that we can hear from the people from this area first, that would be quite beneficial.

So the first person I'd like to call is Colleen James.

Ms. James: Hello everyone. My name is Colleen James and I played that drum to signify the heartbeat of our community, the heartbeat of the globe, the heartbeat of the human nation, in coordination with all of nature.

My Tlingit name is Ghùch tlâ. It means "Wolf Mother". My grandmother was Lucy Wren and my grandfather was Jimmy Scotty James. I welcome you here to our traditional territory that we worked very hard and long to negotiate a final agreement for. I thank you, as elected MLAs, for taking the time that you have to sit on this body to do the best that you can in behalf of all of us Yukoners.

I come to you today to talk about the risks and the benefits of hydraulic fracturing in our Yukon and I come to you saying no. I disagree with hydraulic fracturing in Yukon altogether. I understand we have our energy woes. I also went to the public meeting in Whitehorse to speak as a public speaker against the liquid natural gas generators in Whitehorse. I watched 13 public speakers speak to that body and the generators were okayed and they're going ahead. To me, that's a huge risk, because now we have to keep those generators going, which means we either have to bring in the oil and gas from somewhere else or start making our own. Why would we go dirty up somebody else's backyard for our own energy?

So I'm in disagreement of fracking. I've been reading a number of research documents, one of which was a list of the harms — a number of families and workers across North America that suffer today from fracturing next to their homestead or within their areas.

I'm not sold that it's a good thing. I believe that our young people and that our technology — we have solar and water and wind and a number of initiatives and ideas that are coming. We have young people behind us who are very smart. As we grow and learn as the human family, we learn our mistakes. When we look back in history, I can see that we've overused fossil fuel. Fossil fuel is like ancient sunlight. The trees growing today are current sunlight and we're depleting that ancient sunlight and not using as much of the current sunlight as we can.

Also, as humans, because we need more power — again, I believe that we can find those initiatives as alternatives. But

I don't just come and speak on behalf of the human family here — I come and speak on behalf of our brothers, the albatross and the whales, the hornets and the fish, the little water beetles that are ever-present on the side of the lake.

I feel really inundated here from Yukon Energy. We have the concept of raising the levels of the lake, the generators going in and now, should we frack the Yukon or not? I've seen pictures of Eagle Plains and geoseismic activity that has gone on there. I'm not sure where we're going.

I'm very afraid and I just hope that Yukoners stand up and say no. This is our home. I've heard of prophecies of where the last war will be fought in the north and it will be a war of words. I really, truly believe this is it. This is it. We do not want this type of getting oil and gas in our traditional territory. There has to be alternatives. I would be willing to do anything myself to sacrifice how much power we use.

Nationally and globally there are protests. There are all kinds of big stuff going on around the world in regard to this. Yukon holds — what do we have like one percent fresh water in the planet or something? It's all sitting in these mountains around this area. We're at the headwaters. We're in partnership with Yukon River intertribal council. We love our home. We love everything that's around us and it lives with us. Everything is our relation. We don't take anything without giving something back and we're taking too much. I need to let you know that it's love for each other and it's love for that little water beetle and it's love for the albatross and absolute love and gratitude for the water that's going to get us through this — that we don't make more mistakes.

Günilschish for listening to me. Thank you for doing what you're doing and thank you that we do the best we can on behalf of our future generations and all the future generations of the fish people, the moose people, the insect people — all of them. Günilschish.

Chair: Thank you. If you've noticed, I have a little card that at four minutes I'll hold up for you so that you can wrap up your session. Thanks. Werner Rhein, please.

Mr. Rhein: Thank you for speaking up — to have the chance to speak up here. I want to forfeit my time to local people. There are probably a lot more really good speakers here. I just want to make sure that I'm against fracking, that I'm against any oil and gas development, any fossil fuel development in the Yukon. I want to make sure it's not the same happening it was in Watson Lake — that anybody who didn't speak up is automatically counted as for fossil fuels. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Anne Midler, please.

Ms. Midler: I'm also going to forfeit my spot. I am a resident of Tagish, but I would go back to the end of the line so that people in this area can speak before me.

Chair: Thank you very much.

Ms. Midler: I'm having also a traumatic technical difficulty — a catastrophic fracking technical difficulty here that is also in addition to that — wanting to. Anyway, I'll just try to wing it. My name is Anne Midler. I am a Tagish

resident. I've been following your progress closely over the last year. I wanted to highlight one of the best presentations that I saw during the proceedings of all the people that you brought up to speak about fracking, and that was the Fort Nelson First Nation.

The Fort Nelson First Nation Lands director, Lana Lowe, and the Chief, Sharleen Gale, presented to you about their experience of fracking in their traditional territory. They called it an environmental nightmare and a Pandora's box, which in Greek mythology is a small box that, when opened, released all of the evils of the world. They talked about the opportunity that they have had to sustain themselves in their traditional manner being removed since the boom in shale gas development in the Horn River Basin in their traditional territory. They are no longer able to sustain themselves because of the intense development in their territory.

The reason why I wanted to talk about their experience so close by in a neighbouring jurisdiction with this industry was that here we have an opportunity to keep that box closed. We know that there are alternatives for economic development and for jobs. The very few people that I talked to who are in support of fracking want jobs and they want economic development. The people who are opposed to fracking want jobs and economic development too. That is some common ground.

We know that there are alternatives for economic development, for local energy and for jobs that do not degrade our natural environment — that do not squander the natural capital that we have here in the Yukon that we are tasked with protecting for current and future generations.

I just look forward to hearing everybody else as well. Thank you so much for your work.

I want to also express my gratitude to the Carcross-Tagish First Nation for their leadership in ratifying a motion to ban hydraulic fracturing in their territory. Günilshish. I hope that you will recommend and that the Yukon government will do the same. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Mary Anne Lewis, please.

Ms. Lewis: I am Mary Anne Lewis. I think that this is an incredible show of people in Carcross. I was prepared to go to Whitehorse tomorrow and Saturday. I am prepared to speak at the end of the session if there is still time today. I am also prepared to speak tomorrow or Saturday. I am against fracking. I want us off fossil fuels for the sake of our grandchildren, soon.

Chair: Thank you.

Rob Lewis, please.

Mr. Lewis: Hi, my name is Rob Lewis. I am strongly opposed to fracking. You, as a committee, are here to listen to our views on the risks and benefits of hydraulic fracturing. In my view, the risks of fracking far outweigh the benefits. This debate is happening all over the world and more and more governments are declaring an outright ban or a moratorium on fracking. Why? Because it hasn't been proven to be safe. There are just too many unknowns — too many risks.

To be frank, five minutes is not enough time to describe all the damage that will be done to this territory if the oil and gas industry is allowed to frack. There will be a risk to our water, risk to the landscape, risk to the air, and risk to our health, to our communities, to our roads — the list goes on and on and on.

The oil and gas industry has said that they will only come here if they are allowed to frack. They will only come if they are assured of profit. In fact, they will be the only ones who will profit. Other jurisdictions have found that just the repair costs to roads alone are far higher than any royalties collected. Sharleen Gale and Lana Lowe of the Fort Nelson First Nation described what is happening in their territory with shale gas development as an environmental nightmare. They have found that the B.C. regulations were not adequate, yet Yukon has signed a partnership agreement with B.C. to collaborate on these regulations. Is that wise?

The Fort Nelson First Nation also found that there were no cumulative assessments done and were told by the regulators that that is because there were no baseline studies done. Have we done any baseline studies? Do we want the mess that has happened in the Fort Nelson area for the Yukon? I don't. I want to keep the magic and the mystery in the Yukon. I want to be able to see northern lights, not flare stacks. Let's ban fracking.

There is another risk to fracking that I haven't mentioned yet. Given the fact that over 6,000 people have signed a petition to ban LNG and fracking in the Yukon, I predict that any Yukon politician of any stripe that comes out in favour of allowing fracking in this territory will be committing political suicide. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you. I do hope I do this name justice — Felix Vogt.

Mr. Vogt: It is hard to pronounce. It's Vogt. Good evening, my name is Felix Vogt. I live up on the Carcross Road on Lewes Lake. I've lived in the Yukon for over 20 years. I came here with my wife and children. I hope I will spend many more years in the Yukon. Thank you for the opportunity to present to this Committee and thank you to all who came out and are here today in Carcross.

I just want to address a few points in the Committee's mandate that are important to me. My comments and take-away questions for the Committee are: When you gain a science-based understanding of the technical, environmental, economic and regulatory aspects and the relevant legislation and regulations, what are you doing? What are you going to do with that knowledge you gained?

When you consider the potential risks and benefits of hydraulic fracturing and whether it can be done safely, what exactly do you consider? When you contemplate all the voices at the public hearings — you hear at the public hearings — what do you contemplate? Finally, how do you decide what your recommendations to the Yukon Legislative Assembly will be?

I want to talk a bit about the science aspect here. Science in the energy field seems to be caught in kind of a crossfire

these days. On the one hand, science is a major tool currently driving the extraction of non-renewable energy and driving the associated short-term economic benefits. On the other hand, science is equally used to produce environmentally sustainable energy. So without the use of science and technology, we definitely wouldn't have the energy we need. However, science and technology are only tools and nothing more. So are legislation and regulations. These things don't make the decisions or come up with recommendations. It's the people who make decisions and recommendations on how to use those tools. It's our social, political and cultural values that dictate decisions and recommendations on what technology we use, what risks we accept, which benefits we seek — short-term, long-term — and what opportunities we pursue and how we regulate our energy policy.

So when you, the select committee, deliberate whether hydraulic fracturing can be done safely in the Yukon, I urge the honourable members of this Committee to remember that, for key areas like energy resources, decisions can't be based only on political expediency, like the prospect of potential short-term economic benefits or job creation. Rather, what is needed is a vision of the world we want to live in, a vision that looks generations ahead.

For that reason, I ask the Committee to listen carefully to what you hear and to use a long-term vision and careful deliberations of all facts to come up with a final recommendation. Your recommendation is a big responsibility you carry. It not only impacts us or our children or grandchildren, it impacts many more generations to come. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Michelle Parsons, please.

Ms. Parsons: Good evening, my name is Michelle Parsons. I'm a Daklaweidi of the Carcross-Tagish First Nation. I'm also the senior government official for the Carcross-Tagish First Nation. As you've already heard — and someone will read out the resolution later — the Carcross-Tagish First Nation government is strongly opposed to any fracking on our traditional territory.

I brought a book today to remind us that we are not alone. This book, which was written in 1977 and signed off by all the Yukon First Nations, tells us that we are not alone. So just to give voice to those ancestors who fought so hard for this land that we now own, I will just do a short reading from this.

I will apologize in advance for some of the terminology — certainly not as politically correct as we use today, but here we go. Under "Economic Development for Yukon Indians": "Two races have occupied the Yukon — the White and the Indian. A comparison of their methods of operation brings no shame to our ancestors, who for thousands of years lived on, by and with our land; shelter, food and clothing were taken from the rivers, the lakes and the plants and the animals of the forest. Those who have lived in the Yukon realize that only an industrious and intelligent people could have stayed, generation after generation, surviving bitter weather and combatting disease with the assistance only of nature's gifts.

In all of this, we did not deplete the forests, or the rivers, or the animals, nor did we pollute or despoil.

"The White Man's role over a short one hundred years has been somewhat different. Minerals have been taken and the river valleys choked with gravel; lands have been flooded and fishing eliminated to provide power; fur-bearing animals are being destroyed through the poisoning of wolves to protect white Guide-Outfitters' horses turned out to forage during severe winters; food animals are now shot for sport by hunters using guides, helicopters, airplanes, and pack horses; garbage is dumped into waterways while raw sewage pumped into the rivers will bring pollution and kill fish. In short, the White Man's role has been one of simple exploitation, taking and wasting, but adding nothing.

"Indians find it very difficult to change the White Man's way, even after one hundred years. But we can look after ourselves if we have a chance to start businesses and learn to run them ourselves."

"...Because of the Indians' love for the land, it seems likely that most employment should be in renewable resource and support industries rather than in those of extractive nature such as mining. Also, industries must be encouraged which will employ Indians in the construction of many works which will be required as programs develop."

Under this section, it talks about tourism, trapping, prospecting, fur ranching, fishing, ranching, forest industry, handicrafts, recreation, agriculture, construction. So I do understand the need for economic development, as did our ancestors but none of it should be destroying the land that we have fought for.

Günilschish.

Chair: Thank you.

Patrick James, please.

Mr. James: Good evening. My name is Patrick James; my Indian name is Koolsin. I'm a member of the Daklaweidi clan. I'm also a co-chair for the Carcross-Tagish management board and I also sit on the Carcross-Tagish Renewable Resources Council. One of the things I've mentioned earlier today, you know, is that I've been involved for many years, not only with the First Nations but abroad too as well.

As most of you know, I've been involved with the Southern Lakes caribou herd for some 23 years. As you know, the herd was in danger of being depleted and the numbers were about 280-something, and now it's 1,973. Today it numbers quite a bit. Actually, it was a miracle, and I know everybody took — you know, pat themselves on the back — but the biggest one that suffered was the Carcross-Tagish First Nation, because their education went down, their traditional lifestyle, the educating of our young people for their culture and teachings all went downhill.

So it's not that we are just here and we don't give up nothing. We give up and we've been giving and giving for many years, you know, and we're still doing it today.

I mentioned earlier today, you know, we have salmon trails over to Marsh Lake, where our salmon fish camps used to be at one time. They don't exist anymore because industry

has taken over the lake and dammed the lake and flooded all of those — that's what's been done.

So, like I say, we've been giving, you know. Industry is the one that benefits; that is all. They've been taking and taking and taking for many years, you know. But I do know some of us — we have to give and take. But the one thing I'd really, really like to stress here is that the Carcross-Tagish First Nation general council passed a resolution to ban fracking within the Carcross-Tagish traditional territory, and I am here supporting that ban. I'd just like to save some other room for other people.

I'd just like to thank the members of the Committee, too, for being here and hearing us and doing what you have to do. I know it's not an easy task. I know it's very challenging, but thank you. Thank you. I'd like to thank all the people that showed up from Tagish and Carcross. It makes me feel good, that we are here together in support of the land, the wildlife and all of its resources. Günilschish.

Chair: Thank you.

Charlie James, please.

Mr. James: Good evening, everyone. I thank the Committee for being here. My name is Charlie James. I am the Daklaweidi leader of the CTFN. I spoke to you guys on the Committee today. I might as well say from the start that I am opposed to hydraulic fracturing — the reasons being, number one, I have an adopted sister that lives in Alberta, and she tells about the horror stories about hydraulic fracturing and she talks about the drinking water that they can no longer drink.

I'm not here today because I am the Daklaweidi leader. I am here for my future generation, for my grandchildren and their great-grandchildren. If we are going to protect this land, government needs to know that CTFN, as a government, has laid down the foundation saying that we do not want hydraulic fracturing within our traditional territory. I think today I said that I will fight this until the day I die, and I will do that. I think that government needs to understand that we in the Carcross-Tagish area here are opposed to hydraulic fracturing and we will not let industry come in and dictate to us what needs to be done.

Günilschish.

Chair: Thank you.

Rozlyn James, please.

Ms. James: My name is Rozlyn James. I am a member of the Daklaweidi clan. I'd like to start off today by reading you the Carcross-Tagish First Nation mission statement: "The Carcross/Tagish First Nation is mandated to protect the environment, health and wellness, education and aboriginal rights of our citizens; to continue to preserve and protect our culture, traditions and languages; to protect and develop our natural resources and strengthen our economy and the Carcross/Tagish First Nation government for our future generations."

Our future generations — how are they going to do anything if we let fracking in? I am totally opposed to it.

Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Wesley Barrett, please.

Mr. Barrett: I am Wesley Barrett. I am clan leader of the Ganaxtedi clan. I also work for the heritage, lands and natural resources department. I am opposed to fracking.

In our final agreement, it speaks to the protection of quality, quantity and rate of flow through our First Nation land. It doesn't mention underground water or aquifers. We heard that we're 20-plus years away from land use planning. Where does fracking fit in with that? What is compatible land use adjacent to our lands?

In our final agreement, there are other boards, teams and committees that could need or do need the same information as the select committee in front of us here today. They include the Yukon River Watershed Management Working Group, our renewable resource committee, a salmon subcommittee, and the Yukon River inter-tribal watershed working group. We don't even have a regional economic development plan.

In the past 10 years since I have been in Carcross, I have felt four earthquakes. During the gold rush time, there was a 7.1 magnitude earthquake near Black Lake. It would be kind of interesting to see what that would do to a well structure.

I have a lot more to say, but I think most of it has been covered already. Thanks for your time.

Chair: Thank you.

Edna Helm, please.

Ms. Helm: Good evening, everybody. I won't take up too much of anybody's time. I just want to say no to fracking. I think everybody else who has spoken and will speak will be speaking on my behalf on this subject. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Deborah Baerg.

Ms. Baerg: *[Speaker spoke in First Nation language. Text unavailable.]* My English name is Deborah Baerg and I am against fracking. Günilschish.

Chair: Thank you.

Reanna Mohamed, please.

Ms. Mohamed: Hello, my name is Reanna Mohamed. I have been a resident of the Yukon for 28 years. I love the Yukon. The Yukon is my home. I don't want to see the land destroyed. I am not going to say much more because I want to let everyone else talk, but I am completely, 150,000 percent against fracking.

Chair: Thank you.

Gisela Niedermeyer.

Ms. Niedermeyer: I am going to speak on the two points that the government uses to promote fracking: that it is clean and economical energy. The first time I was confronted, literally, with the issue of power was when I was 18. In the city I studied in, I found myself stuck in a demonstration opposing nuclear energy, pressed against the shields of police in full riot gear. Nuclear was clean energy, the politicians and some scientists argued then. But I knew already then, in all my naivety, that if you stuff your garbage into drawers — a.k.a. mining shafts armoured with cement — you cannot call your household clean. You don't run on clean energy.

I revisited that experience just a few years later when I travelled with my family close to Chernobyl, where the nuclear disaster struck that showed the world that this was not clean energy. People were lining up at the pharmacies — and I mean lining up — long east block, there-is-something-you-need kind of lineups. When my uncle and mom and dad — all doctors — asked why, we didn't get an answer other than that you needed to buy iodine pills because something — nobody knew exactly what — had happened. When we crossed the border back into West Germany a couple of days later, we heard for the first time what really had happened. By this time, most of my friends had left for Portugal, the furthest place in Europe where you could get away from the radiation of Chernobyl, whereas I had unknowingly been thousands of kilometres closer. Clean power?

Ironically, after Fukushima, which showed the world for the second time that nuclear energy was not clean, Germany posted radiation levels daily, whereas this information was impossible to get in Canada, which is, as we all know, way closer to Japan. Most importantly, after Fukushima, Germany now is making great strides, exiting its nuclear-power-fuelled decades and investing in wind and solar farms. If you drive through Germany, you would be hard-pressed to find a road without solar panels, and you would be hard-pressed to drive 10 kilometres without seeing wind power.

My point: just like nuclear energy, energy produced through fracking cannot be called “clean”.

Another story about clean: I remember the first time I swam in a river. I was 22 years old, my first year in Canada. Coming from Germany where rivers were smelly and polluted, I had never known that you could swim in a river, let alone drink its water.

Now I live on a lake in which I can swim half of the year, whose water I drink and whose energy powers me more than the electricity. We can survive without electricity for days, but not without water. How long will that clean water last if we allow fracking?

Fracking is good for the economy. My parents taught me that money is not everything. As doctors, both of my parents understood that having an education was a responsibility to get up at 4:00 in the middle of the night, or leave right when the kids — us — expected Santa to bring presents, to attend to their patients. They taught us the value of looking after people and building community, support people going through sickness and death more than making a buck. They taught us that the motto, “the more the better”, does not hold in the long term and that money divides a community into haves and have-nots, and that this causes disease.

Fracking is already causing disease in many ways in other parts of Canada and North America — skin irritations, cancers — but also, more importantly, it is already dividing communities into people who are panicked over how to defend how they make their money and people who are panicked that the world they know will end. Let's not pit people against people, economy against the environment. Let's power our economy through the environment, through

wind and solar farms. Let's employ people to insulate homes, to invent power-saving strategies to show people that happiness and support is found within the community you grow and not the money you spend.

So, here we are again — a new form of energy — at least a new form to get to the energy — fracking — but not much has changed since the discussion of nuclear energy. People call it “clean” because they shove the garbage — this time the leftover water — to some unseen places and hope to forget about it. That pollution occurred in the production process of that energy doesn't really factor into its cleanness — or does it?

Again, numbers for the pro and con get juggled, discussed — do not add up, so they get manipulated. Again, people think you have to decide on scientific facts only, facts that escape the common mind. I won't get into those facts, those numbers, because you have all heard all those. You will massage them to defend your final decision.

I made my decision based on the following facts: If you do not know all of the consequences, if you cannot rule out human error, if we may affect future life on Earth with this decision, if there are better renewable energy alternatives, if we can do with less, if lack of —

Chair: Excuse me. I see that your time has elapsed, but I see that you have it —

Ms. Niedermeyer: I will be two seconds more.

Chair: All right. Carry on.

Ms. Niedermeyer: If lack of information does not mean lack of risk, if we do not know whose interests are driving our supposed needs, then the answer has to be no. Why the race? What is the point? Why not wait until we are smarter?

I hope that my children will always have clean water to drink. I hope that they will contribute to our human community. I hope that they will always ask the bigger questions. But if you want a clear answer to the narrow question you pose, I say no to fracking. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Theo Stad, please.

Mr. Stad: Hello, my name is Theo Stad. I live just up the way here, at Crag Lake. First, I thank you all for coming to Carcross.

I would like to start out with a point that I find disturbing and frustrating for me — I'm just going to read this: the present Yukon Party government and any of the decision-makers on the LNG and fracking issue, in my opinion, have been wearing side blinders, and so far have eaten only from the hand of the oil and gas industry. My apologies to horses for that analogy. However, in my opinion, way more synapses fire in any horse at any given moment than in any thinking that has allowed the promotion of the LNG and the resulting fracking issue to progress to the stage that it is now in the Yukon.

Take, for example, all the greenwash BS about how clean LNG is. It's a no-brainer. The most common method of getting that gas out of the ground is fracking, and fracking

messes up groundwater. These are big-time groundwater and surface water mess-ups — actual real-time mess-ups that we can see all over the States, Alberta and northern B.C. Does Yukon need this? No.

I request that you do not allow fracking, simply because it messes our water. Yukon is in a great position to say no to fracking. We can push back and keep the fracking mess away. The oil and gas industry spends a lot of money to hide their polluting legacy. They spend big time to influence and lobby governments. They spend big money promoting, without saying so, fracking.

In my mind, the Yukon Party government has no right to make any decision that will result in fracking, because fracking simply messes up our water for the entire future. I feel that the Yukon Party government is trying to cram their LNG fracking agenda on Yukoners during their one term in government. There was no mention of it in pre-election platforms — no government — and so I feel no government, regardless of what corporation is pushing the agenda, has a right to push through some legacy that leaves our water messed, and certainly not this government.

Water pollution from fracking is permanent. It messes up groundwater. To put it another way: government is only elected for a relatively short term and, as such, they do not have the right to make any decision that leaves the water polluted permanently.

I mentioned my frustration, again, with this issue and, as far as I know, YTG has completely dropped the ball when it comes to getting real renewable energy products going in the Yukon. I would like this select committee on fracking to somehow distance itself from the industry-led greenwash that LNG is clean. You have to consider and include the process through which natural gas is extracted before you can label anything as “clean”.

Other provincial and state governments — and, from what I see, the present Yukon Party government — have trouble doing this. Tax dollars have been and are being spent presenting selective and misleading information about the number of jobs, the type of work and the duration of these jobs that will come to fracking. Nothing is ever said about the proven polluting legacy from this fracking industry and the proven fact that taxpayers end up paying for environmental screw-ups when these projects go south.

Please recommend to the Yukon Party government to ban fracking. I would like to see this government get off the gas and oil industry bandwagon. I would like to see the horse blinders removed from the present decision-makers. Water pollution from fracking and the methane gas leakage from gas extraction need to be considered, whether the numbers are four, five, seven or 10 percent of this gas that is leaking. It is all negatively affecting climate change, and it will continue to negatively affect climate change long after the fracking rigs have left, long after the so-called “great jobs” are gone, and, like everywhere else, the mess will be all that is left behind.

From my perspective, we can have jobs — lots of opportunities can be pursued — if the Yukon and Canadian

governments get off their LNG fracking bandwagon, establish renewable energy production and push other initiatives like better insulated houses — and the list goes on — to reduce energy usage.

Chair: Excuse me — your time has elapsed. Is that in written format that we can have?

Mr. Stad: Sorry — I missed that minute there. I just have this last question for you. The question is — and this concerns me: Is this select committee and this whole consultation thing going to be a repeat of the Peel process? Yukoners have let everybody know their opinion over and over. Before, we’ve had demonstrations, submissions and petitions. So I hope that you are here to listen and ban fracking in Yukon. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Patricia James, please.

Ms. James: My name is Patricia James. I am of the Daklaweidi clan and I am here to speak on behalf of my four-year-old son. I vote no to fracking. I think it would be more of a negative effect than a positive effect on my neighbours, my land and the water. I have been doing some research on it, so all of those, I think, are more cons more than they are pros. I vote no. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Corinne Carvill, please.

Ms. Carvill: Good evening. My name is Corinne Carvill and I’m totally against fracking too. I just think it’s — my heart is heavy. I struggle with why government continues to move forward on these initiatives. I mean, everybody has talked about it over and over again. It’s very sad. Our environment is all we have. For those who can’t speak for themselves — the water, the land, the animals, the winged, the finned — those behind us and those that have gone before us — we need to remember this is all we’ve got — is our Yukon. Our neighbours to the south have come and told us about this a couple of years ago. I hope we listen. Quite frankly, I don’t trust you guys. I’m sorry. I hope it works out. I’m against fracking.

Chair: Thank you. I’m going to invite Charlotte Hadden up and then we’re going to take a short break so we can catch up on some admin paperwork with the speakers.

Charlotte Hadden, please.

Ms. Hadden: Charlotte Hadden here. I think of some of the virtues of our ancestors and that carried those generations up to now. I think of what they passed down to us — *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*. They did not have the education that I do, and yet what they said holds true today.

I want to say no to fracking. I want us also to remember the virtues. I think of you in your position. You know, you’re elected. I think of my position. I was appointed. I’m appointed by the elders in my community to speak on their behalf. I belong to the Daklaweidi clan and they say no. No means no. Günilschish.

Chair: Thank you.

So we'll break for five minutes, please. Please help yourself to something to eat or drink. Thank you.

Recess

Chair: Just a reminder folks that if you did sign up to speak tonight and you are present, we would like you to check in with Dawn at the back registration table, please. Okay, if I can everybody to take their seats who is not dealing with the back table, we're going to get started so we can hear from some more folks.

Heather Jones, please.

Ms. Jones: My name is Heather Jones and I'm here to echo the concerns of my neighbours and community members that I'm against fracking. So I'll keep it short and leave room for our elders to speak. Thank you for being here.

Chair: Thank you very much. Folks, we'll ask you to keep it down a bit so we can hear the speakers. That would be great. Thanks.

Frank James, please.

Mr. James: Good evening. My name is Frank James. I'm a Daklaweidi member. I also represent the voice of my family — my family members who could not be here. I just talked with my oldest brother Norman James and he's the eldest in our family. So I represent their voice when I say that we are against fracking and we vote no.

I would just like to keep things brief because I know there are a lot of speakers. I think it's important to have everyone's voice and to hear that. I would like to express my frustration with the process of having to register. I had to register on-line. I did not hear the comment about having to register again when I came in so that's frustration for me. I think it's just a lot of bureaucracy and I don't like it. Again, I'm against fracking.

Chair: Thank you.

John Jensen, please.

Mr. Jensen: Hello everybody. John Jensen, Yan Yedi clan. I am firmly against this. A while ago, as I sat at the general council, we all overwhelmingly voted against this so I was a little surprised to see this. That's all I have to say. I'm against it.

Chair: Thank you.

Barbara Barrett, please. Is Barbara Barrett here?

Larry Barrett, please.

Mr. Barrett: Larry Barrett, Kookhitta clan, executive for Carcross.

What bugs me with what's going on with voting to see whether we frack or not is a lot of the people who are in the Yukon are outsiders who came up here to get jobs and we know that they're going to be in favour of fracking to keep working. The way the Yukon works, in three months you become a Yukon citizen so you have a right to vote but I'm against that.

The other thing is I'd like to see us save some of our resources for our future generations instead of taking it all out right now and I'd like to see something for maybe 100 years

from now where my great-grandkids and that could have something to work their resources.

I heard on the news the other day that because of the chemicals in the water and that from sewer systems that the male fish are coming out with eggs in them now. If that's the case and we've got 8,000 chemicals that they can't filter out through the sewers and that, how are they going to filter out the chemicals that are coming out in the fracking? It's impossible. I'd just like to say I'm against fracking too. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Art Johns, please.

Mr. Johns: I'm Art Johns, a Yan Yedi, and I'm against fracking. I got a bunch of grandchildren around here — kids — all kinds of them. I'm supposed to be looking after the land for them but we're not doing very good job with all you guys backing the fracking. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Elke Huber, please.

Ms. Huber: My name is Elke Huber and I came to the Yukon almost 20 years ago. It was recently — during my lunch break, I was sitting by the water at Choutla Lake, seeing the waves glitter and dance in the sunlight and realizing the preciousness of water. The water in our lakes and rivers is not only beautiful but it's also a source of life we all depend on.

To consider fracking means to consider a crime against life. They tell us there will be economic growth if we allow fracking, but even though we might have an economic advantage when we rob a bank, we still don't do it because we consider that immoral and a crime.

Using the method of fracking is a crime against life because it consciously accepts that millions of litres of fresh and clean water will be turned into chemical waste and stored deep underground. There is no method to safely dispose or storage this waste water. We would leave this toxic cocktail for our children and grandchildren. This is irresponsible and immoral.

It's about our home, the land and the water around us which sustains us and nourishes us and we cannot accept its ruthless exploitation. Therefore, we are here tonight, showing you politicians our courage and determination to demand a ban on fracking in the Yukon. I want to thank everybody who came out tonight, made time available and speaking for what's right. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Natasha Ayoub.

Ms. Ayoub: Hello, my name is Natasha Ayoub. I'm a resident of Mount Lorne and I work in Carcross in the beautiful traditional territory of Carcross-Tagish First Nation.

I have several concerns about LNG production and hydraulic fracking coming to the territory. This issue is very close to my heart because I strongly believe that the production of LNG through hydraulic fracturing is absolutely the wrong thing to do. The extent of damage and long-term, permanent pollution that this process brings to a landscape is

unjustifiable. There are numerous issues involved with the process. I'd like to list a few.

Hydraulic fracking is a process that poisons all the water used in the extraction process. This poisoning of the water is irreversible. We need to take steps to ensure we protect our water so that we will have safe and clean drinking water for future generations. The incredible amounts of water needed for fracking, which is known to be millions of litres for each wellhead, is ridiculous in a world where we are facing global water issues. These amounts of water cannot be removed from the hydrological cycle without grave consequences to our future. The poisoning of this water cannot take place without grave consequences to our future either.

The air pollution that results from the installation of these wells threatens our community and the future health of our children as well as adding dangerous levels of emissions to the atmosphere. Severe neurological effects on humans and animals have been documented from the air pollutants caused by these gas wells.

The linear disturbance on the landscape will have serious impacts to our wildlife. There are areas in northern B.C. and Alberta where you would be hard-pressed to find a single square kilometre that has not been disturbed by roads and access lines to these types of gas wells. Healthy populations of wildlife rely strongly on the ability to roam freely on an undisturbed and unpolluted landscape.

I have lived here in the Yukon for over 20 years and I really don't want to see what has happened to the landscape in northern parts of our neighbouring provinces. You can't drive down the highway without seeing trails and roads leading to fenced-off areas that have been completely cleared to accommodate gas wells.

The gas flares ruin the night sky and are seen for miles. We live in a place of beauty that offers refuge for fish and wildlife. These types of renewable resources feed our families and fuel our lives. We love them and depend on them and we need to stand up against harmful practices that are threatening their existence.

The main source of my frustration with LNG production and the process of hydraulic fracturing is the fact that we are facing a gigantic global problem at the moment. That's climate change. The effects of climate change are undeniable and the fact that our country is failing to rise to the challenge to do something about this looming problem shames me. There are other countries that are committed to working toward reducing their emissions and are choosing to confront global climate change by investing their time and money into innovative technologies that are proactive and they are committed to reducing these harmful emissions.

As human beings, we have a responsibility to address the issue of climate change that threatens our natural ecosystems—these ecosystems that we innately rely on. Let's take these investment dollars and rise to the challenge to find answers to our energy needs by investing in new technologies that are both renewable and far less harmful to our environment. Climate change may not be reversible at this point in time, but

it is definitely well within our capability to reduce these harmful emissions and put human beings on a path of sustainability. The technology is out there. It exists. We only have to choose to make the leap to renewable energy sources and to turn our back on greedy, unsustainable, dirty, problem-causing energy sources such as LNG.

We do need energy and these needs will undoubtedly increase over the coming decades. But to respond to these needs with unsustainable and problem-causing technologies is wrong. We must commit to a path that finds alternative sources of energy that are both renewable and sustainable. Our work is being done for us, as so many other countries have already chosen this path. We only need now to turn our back on these old-school solutions and embrace technologies that provide us with a safe, clean and sustainable future. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Robert Wally, please.

Mr. Gatensby: I switched places with Robert. Harold Gatensby is my name.

Chair: Sorry. Could you please speak into the mic and state your name?

Mr. Gatensby: Harold Gatensby. Can you hear me? Harold Gatensby.

I came here today to express my concern about our environment. I lived in Carcross for most of my life. My great-grandparents are in the graveyard down here. I'm Kookhittaang Tlingit.

I worked on environmental issues in this community for some years, cleaning up a contamination down here — creosote contamination from White Pass. We asked during that cleanup if that material was carcinogenic and could cause cancer. Nobody ever gave us an answer. I looked into it myself and I found information that says it does and nobody has ever told us. Our community is saturated with it — creosote from White Pass.

We had to clean up out here three oil tanks from the army when the military was here. The White Pass actually — the government forced White Pass to clean it up. Two tanks sat on — I guess what is called "White Pass property." I still wonder how they got it. But two of those tanks sat on White Pass property and one was closer to the lake. White Pass cleaned up those two tanks. There's a third one that's still sitting there waiting to get cleaned up. There are six inches of carbon fuel on top of the groundwater where that tank is sitting. The government said they were going to clean it up.

The government told us they were going to clean it up and when I went and asked the government about cleaning that up, they said: "It's YTG's responsibility." I went and asked the YTG representative and they said: "It's the federal government's responsibility." These kinds of things concern me when we're talking about — I think that one of the things in this land and area here — we've forgotten that all human beings and all of life is 80-percent water. All of us in here are 80-percent water. Our water comes from this land. What you

do to the water, you do to us. When I say “us” I am talking about everybody.

We already carry in us contamination that we don’t even know where it came from. Genetic — antibiotic — we have contamination out here where the sewer — the best thing we can do is put all our sewer out in this one spot and now it’s contaminated with prescription drugs. We don’t know what to do with it now, because it infects the whole environment and apparently it doesn’t go away by itself.

When we did land claims, we got a mountain up here. The government said that there is one mountain you guys can have — not that one, there might be something left in it — not that one. You can have this one over here, because we mined it out. There’s nothing there. There is waste up there from a mill site that is the government’s responsibility. We asked them to clean it up. They buried it and left it for future generations. We worked together to try and create a healthy environment for future generations, but I see already what the government does. They leave the contaminated mess for the next generation. It’s down right by the lake — the old mine and mill site. There is a mill site contaminated waste pit down there. Do you know what the government did to take care of it? They covered it over with gravel. That’s what they did.

So when you guys are making decisions about our health, our environment, our future, my children’s future, I really don’t have much faith in the government anymore. When are you going to do what you said you were going to do — that you told us you were going to do? I want to see that happen here.

The future generations — all of this land here — if you go out here right now, all of it is about looking out for the next generation. All of it. If you took the time to go and take note of it, all of it — but there’s only one now that’s not. There’s only one now on this Earth that’s not looking out for the next generation and that’s the two-legged ones. What happened? We must have forgotten who we are.

My grandmother told me that she used to talk to the animals and they used to talk to her. What the weather is going to be like — they would tell her. Where’s the moose? They would tell her. I thought myself that it was a kids’ story and just fiction, but now I know it’s true. It is real. I am telling you, we don’t have the right as human beings to contaminate this Earth for all of creation. Someone — because we don’t hear it anymore — someone has to speak on their behalf. So I say no to fracking on behalf — like was said earlier — of the moose, the birds, the geese, the bugs, the leaves, the trees — all of it. Somebody has to say that now because human beings can’t hear them anymore. So no, absolutely not.

I don’t know how people could have ever come to this place to consider it to begin with, to tell you the truth. So no.

Chair: Thank you.

Peter Huber, please.

Mr. Huber: Hello. My name is Peter Huber and I live in Tagish. I am against fracking. So this is the public hearing. I just want to remind the public that your intention was to hold only two meetings in Old Crow and Watson Lake. We in

Tagish had to request our public hearing to be scheduled together with Carcross on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. You decided no free speech — registration required for presentation, a time limit to ensure everyone can speak. That was a wise decision, because everybody wants to speak. They chose not to engage with us in conversation. I think public dialogue and consultation should look different. But no matter how many roadblocks you set up, we are here to give our input on your ideas about fracking in the Yukon. Thanks for making an effort and listening to us.

Since I don’t have a lot of time, I can only highlight the impact of fracking. You have heard it hundreds of times and you will hear it again and again. The impact of fracking would be huge and the Yukon will look a lot different. Deposits of land claimed by the industry with access denied to the public, fracking taking place and contaminating millions of litres of water, fracking hundreds of wells over a large oilfield — tremendous impact on the land and on wildlife, with no guarantee from the industry that groundwater and wells will not be affected by fracking, and so on and so on. I just want to keep this short. I’m not touching on the global impact here.

I am not an expert in environmental questions, but I came here 20 years ago like many and I like to live up here. I try to educate myself and I also read articles in the papers. I have found a new icon. It’s in the *Whitehorse Star*. It is new: “Fracking Quakes”, and I quote: “...earthquakes can be triggered more than 30 kilometres from where injection wells operate”. So a frack job in Tagish could trigger quakes in Carcross. I read in the *Yukon News* that the federal government is leaving fracking chemicals off its pollutant list because the industry doesn’t want to provide secret chemical formulas to the public.

You might say, “What about the jobs created?” Well, we currently have an unemployment rate of three percent, so who would you like to employ? You might say, “What about the \$1-million transfer payment we receive from Ottawa each year?” We are a resource-rich country up here. Our biggest resource doesn’t seem to have even been discovered yet. It is water. Look at L.A. Look at Mexico City. They are having problems providing drinking water for their population. Some predict future wars will be fought over water, not over oil.

I can see in the not-so-distant future that our drinking water being exported at a higher price than oil and gas would provide right now. Fracking would close that opportunity forever. Let’s preserve the water and leave the gas in the ground. It’s not going anywhere.

You might say, “These are interesting points, but they are just your personal opinion.” Here is the main point: I am not alone. For awhile there has been a petition going around in the Yukon asking the Legislative Assembly to do the following thing: ban LNG and fracking in the Yukon. We are maybe 100 or 150 people in this room. Most of us are opposed to fracking. Can you imagine a crowd of 6,000 people — 6,000 people signing a petition against fracking? That’s big — it’s really big.

We are opposed to fracking because we care about the land and we don't see a benefit in getting our land and water screwed up for some corporate oil company that wants to sell our gas and oil to China for profit. We talk about fracking in the whole Yukon — that's Northern Cross and Eagle Plains; that's Kotaneelee in Watson Lake; and that's the Whitehorse Trough, where we live — because the moratorium is running out in three years.

A government that is facing so much opposition from its own population does not have the social and it does not have the moral licence to put our resources up for sale and allow fracking to happen in the Yukon. We say you can't drink the money. We need the water.

Chair: Excuse me, are you close to wrapping up or can we have your written submission?

Mr. Huber: I am close to wrapping up here. I want to say that we need politicians with a vision. I want to address you singularly — Mr. Tredger, Ms. Moorcroft, tell the public what an NDP government would do to attract, regulate or prevent oil and gas development in the Yukon. Mr. Silver, you are the only one responding to a request from my side. We met, but I want to ask the Liberal Party again: where do you stand about fracking? Do it now — make it clear where you stand. Now for —

Chair: I am sorry but the Committee is not in a position to answer questions like that.

Mr. Huber: You are not. I am just addressing my concerns here. I just want to wrap up here. I leave the Yukon Party out.

I urge the Committee to recommend a ban on fracking the Yukon. An oil company might miss out on some profit but recommending a ban on fracking in the Yukon would be good for you because you listened to the people. It would be good for us, it would be good for other sustainable economies, but most importantly, it will be good for the land, the animals and future generations. Thank you very much for listening.

Chair: Thank you. Just a reminder for folks: if 5 minutes is not enough for you — and I understand that it may not be — the Committee will take all written statements by e-mail, by fax and by letter up until September 30. So this is just a reminder. Thanks.

Liesel Briggs, please.

Ms. Briggs: My name is Liesel Briggs. I have lived more than 40 years in the Southern Lakes. My children were raised here and I have grandchildren also in the Yukon. I am sad. I'm scared. Why? Because it doesn't feel to me like the Yukon government is listening — is thinking. You are thinking, yes, of money. You are thinking of going to the bank for the Yukon and making lots of money.

About 100 years ago, First Nations in particular lost land to us white people. You had a tough time and for that I'm very sad as well. We raped, we pillaged, we brought in alcohol, and we brought in residential schools. You know it: social issues. You know what? I see that happening again with fracking, with LNG, with our absolute and complete thought only of money.

Have any of you ever heard a child cry because they have open sores because they went in a river to bathe and the river was polluted? Have any of you smelled a river or lake because it was so polluted a rat could walk across the lake? Is that what we want?

I see people in the Yukon losing their self-worth now, in the future and now for our children's future. For our environment — I see it disappearing, as have so many before me have spoken. We will be looking at fences, at poison gas signs, but we're not going to be looking at the northern lights. We are not going to be looking at a beautiful Yukon.

They say "benefits" — you know, cracked up as dollars and cents, royalty payments, high jobs. They outweigh the dangers, don't they? We are told, "Don't worry; it's safe. There will be lots of fuel." They say, "Don't tell us the dangers each well needs." What are the dangers? Each well needs 40,000 gallons of chemicals like lead, like mercury, carcinogens, toxins — even radium and formaldehyde. That's not very bad, is it? That's great. That's fantastic. They don't tell us it needs eight million gallons of water per fracking hole. They don't tell us what is left behind in contaminants.

I mean, we are just told about — you are going to have money, a job, you can buy a new Ford pickup or maybe a Dodge Ram. They don't tell us about the groundwater and they don't tell us about the air. So we get acid rain. What about our children getting sensory, respiratory or neurological damage? How would you like your grandchildren to be shaking, to not be thinking, to have respiratory problems? So what's left behind? It's not biodegradable.

Water wells do become polluted, you know. Seventeen times as much pollution is in a water well that's close to a frack hole. There's toxic chemicals in it. Therefore, I ask you, the Committee: What kind of a legacy do you want to leave for your children? Money won't buy you a green Earth. It will be gone.

I thank you for coming. I thank the Carcross-Tagish First Nation for saying no. I ask all Yukoners to say no. I pray that you will see and understand that this is not a game. It's a game, all right, but you won't be the winner. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Annie Auston, please.

Ms. Auston: Good evening. I wasn't expecting to be sitting up here tonight, but I wanted to say no to fracking. I am Annie Auston. I was born across the river over here. When I was born, it took two days to go to Whitehorse, so I was born at home. As a child, I used to fish — jig herrings off this bridge — and the herrings used to be so black, like a big black blanket. We were allowed only just an ice cream bucket full because there was so much herring. The pollution was what killed it all.

For me, I am Deisheetaan. I sit on the executive council for the elders. My emblem is the split-tailed beaver. My Tlingit name is Saeek, and it means "one with many brothers".

In my younger years, I used to love to travel. I travelled a lot. My sister and I used to go on government group tours over to Europe. When in our travels — you know, you hear about

the blue Danube — the river, the blue Danube. Anyway, you put your finger in that water for one minute and it will come out beet red because of the pollution in the water there. I couldn't drink the water in Europe because the water was all a yellowish colour. I just didn't like it and I couldn't drink it. When Louise and I went over the Isle of Capri, they were selling bottled water. I told Louise, "Thank God we can drink — we still can drink our Yukon River water." But look now what's on the table: bottled water — and it's from Alberta, oh wow. I know all of everything is really going.

I like to look out and see the blue sky. In the evening I like to see the stars, the big dipper and the constellations. I like to see the northern lights. In some countries they don't have that. They can't see it because of the pollution — the pollution that is in the air. Some people have to wear masks for heaven's sake, because they can't breathe the air.

You know, like, in the Yukon now, we look at our — I look at our trees and that. Our trees are like filters for the air. And even the leaves and that — the worms and things are starting to come. Like Harold was saying, the animals used to talk to the people. Well you know, they still do — they still do. The birds come and they tell you things, but you have to pay attention to them — because this is one of the things that I wanted to do when I retired — was to tell some stories, because I have told stories in the school to the kids, but I was just so busy. I've been retired 11 years and I've been so busy, I haven't had a chance to do it yet, you know. But the animals and that, they still communicate with people, but you have to know what they're saying, you know.

Like for an example, I'll tell you a little story — can I tell you a story? I don't know — I haven't got five minutes. I tell the story to the kids in the school. It's when I was about, oh, 15 years old, I guess. We were up on the trapline — Millhaven Bay — and I came in from outside to my mother, and my mother told me, "Annie, you'd better go out and bring in the clothes off the line because it's going to rain." So I went outside and I thought, how in the world does Mom know it's going to rain? Because the sky was blue, there were no clouds around, the sun was shining.

When I came in, I said, "Mom, how you know it's going to rain?" She said, "Well, you listen to those chickadees. You go to the door and listen to them" — because the doors were open, both sides. I did, and I heard those chickadees, and those chickadees, the sound that they were making was "min, min, min." That's for rain. I thought to myself, my goodness, I've got to pay attention to this now. Sure enough, that evening it clouded over and it rained. So now that's the chickadees telling you it's going rain. There's other birds — my brothers, when we used to go out hunting — we used to know when they got a moose because the birds told us. The camp robbers told us. My brothers said, "That's not fair, we wanted to tell you that we got a moose." But the birds told us ahead of time, so we knew.

So the animals still tell you things, and this is why I like to see our country still stay the same. You know, the mines and everything, they did their damage to the Yukon River.

The fish is not the same anymore, all down the line, right up into Alaska, and we have to try so hard — and it's true for the future generations — to have good, clean water, good, clean air and everything for the future, you know.

So anyway, this is what has been crossing my mind, so I thought I'd better just let it go and tell you all. Thank you for listening to me.

Chair: Thank you very much.

Jan Forde, please.

Ms. Forde: Hi. That was great hearing from Annie, and I think it just underlines how divorced we've become from the natural world — at least the dominant culture.

To begin — well, I guess I should explain. I start from a premise that I think has been central to environmental and other progressive movements for a number of decades, and that is — you've all heard this before — we have to think globally and act locally. I don't think it's ever been more important than when we approach the whole issue of oil and gas development.

There was something unsettling to me about the idea of there being both risks and benefits to fracking. When I first heard this, it set off I guess what they call in psychology a kind of cognitive dissonance. How can we approach these two perspectives as somehow equally worthy of consideration? I mean, how is it not clear by now to everyone in this room — and everywhere else, for that matter — that we're facing — as has been said by many — cataclysmic climate change? And that if we don't put a stop to oil and gas development of every kind, and end our reliance on fossil fuels quickly, dramatically, then we're facing destruction of the very biosphere that we all depend on.

I had to ask myself, "How is it possible that any sane individual, at this point, could justify, much less promote, continual development of an industry that is already responsible — through extreme weather events — for, you know, massive extinctions, floods, wildfires, famines and the resulting tidal wave of environmental refugees — something that we're going to hear a lot more about in the years to come?"

So the Yukon government basically comes up with this proposition that, hey, we should cash in on the short-term benefits that fossil fuel development and fracking says it can offer. We can just join the global industrial status quo, reap whatever profits we can while contributing to the ever-rising rate of fossil fuel emissions — which, by the way, have not only undergone no reductions over the many years we've been talking about global warming, but have actually shown a rate of increase that continues to grow. It's almost as though the closer we get to irreversible climate change — if we haven't already crossed that line — the more the industry ramps up its activity.

Of course we're at a point now where incremental change is not even feasible. What's actually required is a series of really drastic measures just to mitigate to some small extent the pending disaster. So why, of all things, would anyone agree to fracking and to the toxification of almost

unimaginable quantities of water, while we're at the same time speeding along toward the destruction of our biosphere?

But you know, as a number of people have said, here in the Yukon we are incredibly fortunate, because we're living in the midst of an area where there's still intact wilderness, where there are still largely unspoiled lakes and rivers, and many vibrant ecosystems. This is a rarity in our world. We have to look at it from a global perspective. I mean, industrial greed and excess have laid waste to vast areas of the Earth. I mean, it's almost unimaginable. You look at the Niger Delta, where there are hundreds of miles of coastline that have been totally rendered useless for generations to come — all because of oil spills that no one's bothered to clean up.

We have a sacred obligation, I feel, to protect what we have here, and it's certainly viewed that way by indigenous people, many of whom have spoken here today. What a different value there is that's inherent in that world view, whereby the land is something that's on loan to us from future generations. So it's our responsibility to protect it, to care for our natural world — and man, have we ever dropped the ball.

So if we have any hope for long-term survival, it rests on our ability to keep our ecosystems intact, as healthy as possible, so that at least parts of them can stand up to the devastating effects of climate change. I know I'm running out of time, so I'm going to just skip to my last point, and that is that, with reference to the initial kind of concern about whether we come down on the risks or the benefits side of fracking, I'd like to propose that a far more meaningful and appropriate response to what we're facing would be for all of you to come here and to ask the really critical question, and that would be: Are you ready for the Yukon government to make massive investments in renewable energy development and infrastructure? Are you ready to really address the challenge of runaway climate change? Are you ready to make the Yukon a model for green energy development and to embrace a completely different value system, one that always puts the health of our land and air and water above all else?

The answer, of course, is yes. It's really a no-brainer. We want a government that listens, that learns, that values the welfare of its people and the health of the planet over the corporate interests of the gas and oil industry, which seems to have co-opted the agenda of both the federal and territorial governments. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Leslie Kerr, please.

Ms. Kerr: Hello. Sitting here like this, I feel like I need a lawyer. There was court in here today. I really want to say that I agree with everything that's been said. I'm totally against the project but I wanted to add on one thing that's only been lightly touched on. If you've ever travelled to a country that has extremes of wealth and poverty, you'll know what I'm talking about.

We are fortunate that we have a middle class — that we're run by the rule of law — but many places aren't. When you have extremes of wealth and poverty, which this kind of project promotes, you end up with a middle class called the

military and it is not a pretty picture. You have masses of people who have no access to education, no access to health care and all of those things, because the few get rich and everybody else gets more poor.

I have seen this happening. You know, I'm 61 years old. I have seen this happening over 20, 30 years gradually in this country and I don't want to see it going any further. This kind of economic development promotes the extremes of wealth and poverty and it should never be permitted. Thank you.

Chair: Dorothy Gibbon, please.

Ms. Gibbon: Hi, my name is Dorothy Gibbon and I live in Carcross. I'd like to thank the Tagish First Nations for allowing me to live in Carcross and hang out with them.

This is the select committee here to get our opinions on the benefits and risks of fracking in the Yukon. Well, let me see — the benefits of fracking could be enormous. I was born and raised in Alberta and wherever you look, there is evidence of what the coal, oil and gas industry has created. We had big new schools with the most up-to-date science labs and the largest gymnasiums; we had huge impressive international airports; our highway systems were the widest, best in the country.

I had the best education oil could buy. My father, Dwayne, worked as electrician at a number of oil and gas facilities the industry was creating. He even worked at the first Alberta tar sands processing facility. Yes, the benefits of the coal, oil and gas industry were evident wherever you looked. So I do agree there are oodles of financial benefits that the hydrocarbon industry could give Yukon people, but at what cost?

Are there risks with fracking the Yukon shale gas reserves? You bet there are. Yes, fracking is harmful to our precious environment, not only causing ground and water pollution, small earthquakes — so far — but also contributing multiple potent greenhouse gases to our life-sustaining troposphere. Many people believe that natural gas — which is usually 90-percent methane — is less harmful for our atmosphere than diesel. That is incorrect, as methane is 24 to 60 times more polluting than diesel as a greenhouse gas, according to Tim Flannery's *The Weather Makers*, a national bestseller found in Carcross' library — a must-read for our mighty decision-makers.

At this time in our Earth's history, we should be moving away from our present coal, oil and gas extraction and usage methods. One company, named EFLO in the Kotaneelee gas field, has a plan called "Yukon gas for Yukon" but, according to the *June Up Here Business* publication, gas produced in the southeast will likely continue to leave the territory for the foreseeable future. The reality is that Kotaneelee is better connected to B.C., Alberta and the Northwest Territories than it is to its home, Yukon.

In order to be burned by Yukon's planned natural gas generators, Kotaneelee's gas would first have to be piped to Fort Nelson for cleaning and sorting, then piped to a liquefaction facility in the south, and then trucked back in a refrigeration unit, and finally transferred to a stationary

refrigeration storage container. As we know, Yukon Energy's current plan is to ship its LNG up from a plant in Delta in the southern tip of mainland B.C.

In the September 19 Yukon newspaper, Samson Hartland, the executive director of the Yukon Chamber of Mines, writes in his article, responsible resource extraction projects provide numerous benefits for communities, citizens and the environment alike. I wonder if Mr. Hartland has taken into consideration the plans of the Western Copper and Gold Corporation to fuel its \$2.5-billion Casino copper and gold mine with LNG. That project is 200 kilometres northwest of Carmacks and would eat up more power than is currently available on the Yukon's entire grid. It would take 11 truckloads of LNG every day to fuel the operation so, at that stage, is Casino mine using unconventional gas? Unconventional gas means that it takes more energy to produce a cubic foot of gas than the energy produced by that cubic foot of gas. This is a serious greenhouse gas-polluting system.

Can you see where this is going? Would this not also apply to the ATCO Electric Yukon LNG plans? Are we addicted to the oil and gas industry? You bet we are. They absolutely adore us.

Last year Premier Darrell Pasloski used his budget speech to boast of the natural gas reserves that could lie in the Yukon's southeast corner. Apache Resources has reported the discovery of one of the largest shale gas deposits in the world, approximately 48 trillion cubic feet in the Liard Basin that straddles the Yukon/B.C. border, he said. Oh my God, do we know what this means? We are rich. That's what it means. We're rich. My mother Mary, the bank teller, said, "Keep it in the bank." So let's leave the gas in the ground where it is, save it for the future when the technology will multiply the riches in a harmless manner.

Hon. Currie Dixon, Minister of Renewable Resources and Economic Development, and the other Committee members, thank you for your time and interest today for our children tomorrow. Absolutely no fracking please. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Ken Briggs, please.

Mr. Briggs: Fracking isn't what it was 30 years ago. Vertical fracturing — pumping fluid into existing oil and gas wells to increase output — isn't the horizontal technique now being used. Since the '90s, this new technique has become economic as production of conventional gas and oil output has decreased. A single frack now uses up to 19 million litres of water. How does that look?

Take a 50 by 100 foot downtown city lot and build an office building on it, taking up the entire lot. Better make the building 13 stories high — just over four Lynn Buildings, one on top of the other — you know, where the motor vehicle licence office used to be? Fill it with water. That's what you might need to frack a single well. A typical fracking field might be 1,000 wells — an unsustainable use of water.

Frack fluid is a mix of water, sand and chemical mixture, toxic in nature. In an extract from an article by Michelle

Bamberger, a veterinarian, and Robert E. Oswald, professor of molecular medicine at Cornell University, they cited cases of farm animals being exposed to fracking fluid. In one, a worker shut down a chemical blender during the fracturing process, allowing the release of the fluids into an adjacent cow pasture, killing 17 cows in one hour. In another, there was a defective valve on a fluid tank that leaked into a field where goats were pasturing, causing reproductive problems over the following two years. In another, bred cows — pregnant cows — were exposed to fracking liquid, causing most cows to produce stillborn calves with congenital defects. I expect similar problems would occur if fracking fluid were to be spilled on the grazing grounds of our wild animals.

Fracking fluid has to be disposed of. Forty to 70 percent is left in the drillholes — millions of litres of contaminated water, taken out of the water cycle for use by humans or animals. In Dakota, United States, alone, in one year, thousands of spills and leaks have occurred. Regulators are under huge pressure from the industry not to investigate these problems.

Obviously there are huge amounts of money involved in this industry. In Canada, our federal government passed the infamous bill, C-38, dismantling large parts of Canadian environmental law. We were quick to get into the new technology, giving little thought to long-term hazards. In an investigation by the *Vancouver Sun*, it was found that oil and gas lobbyists were more successful than any other industry at getting time with politicians in shale-rich British Columbia.

Local jobs in the gas industry are short-lived and specialized expertise is brought in from other places. The impacts of oil and gas production like this are enormous and the devastation brought about by pollution and damaged infrastructure, such as roads, is not to be ignored. All over the world, people are grouping together to fight their own governments, to ban fracking. What do these people see that our politicians do not? We see a lot of red flags warning us of disruption to our community, devastation to our drinking water and that of our wildlife. Our politicians, I'm afraid, only see short-term economic benefit: money.

In any discussion about oil and gas, politics is invariably involved. Many countries and jurisdictions have banned fracking altogether. Isn't this a warning for us here in the Yukon? Where are our responsible politicians and bureaucrats? Are there any? Who is going to look after the land we leave to our children? Not the politicians, I guess. It will have to be ordinary people educating themselves and speaking out.

I call for an outright ban on fracking in the Yukon. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Bessie Jim, please.

Ms. Jim: Hello, my name is Bessie Jim and I'm of the Daklaweidi clan and I was born and raised here in the Yukon — right here in Carcross. I was born 50 miles down at Tutshi River. There's people invading those places now. You know, with fracking — I am against it. Where are our people

we elected to speak for us? I don't hear their voices. Remember, you can't drink dollars. It won't be worth anything pretty soon. How are you going to survive? I am talking for my grandchildren, for my people, for all the animals and for all the land you see right here today.

It was our people who stood up and took care of it the way it is today. There has to be more things done for our land. If it has to come down to the real truth, we'll close them roads down. The government's going to have to listen to us. I am against fracking for the future generation. I will not stand by and let that happen. This area is just full of groundwater — running, fresh water. We go out and get the water to drink from the mountains, from the springs, and they want to do fracking.

The oil companies are the big dollars, the big money. When a person comes up to invent something — they invent — you can get electricity from the moving of the tides, the wind. They buy up all these patents. They sit on it or burn it because they want to be the one that's making the money. There's alternate ways for energy and I think we'd better start looking for it; otherwise, it will be too late.

For our future generations, for everything here — if you try to bring fracking in here to the Yukon, you've got a fight on your hands. If Nova Scotia can ban it, so can the Yukon.

That's all I have to say and those are my feelings for my future generation. They look just to here — this is all they see — just to their nose. They don't look 10 years or 20 years down the road what it's going to do. It's killing the animals. The people are getting sick. They're getting severe nosebleeds, headaches and all kinds of ailments. They don't know what it's from, yet it's from what they're doing — causing all this.

They're building that big thing down there by the dam. What is that? Why build it by the dam? Anything goes wrong, there goes the dam. There goes the pollution all over Whitehorse. No. You have a fight on your hands if you decide to go with fracking. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Sam Smith, please.

Mr. Smith: Sam Smith. Hi. I'm here to speak on fracking and for my daughter and grandson. Fracking, fracking — exciting, eh? Isn't it exciting? For me, I see disaster. What do you guys see when you hear "fracking"? You're the Committee. What do you see? What do you hear? What do you see when you hear fracking? I see disaster. There is no future if that happens. I say no to it. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Mike Baerg, please.

Mr. Baerg: Hello, my name is Mike Baerg. I've been a resident here in Carcross for ten years. I just want to say my opinion on fracking is no. I'm against it. Poisoning millions, billions of litres of water permanently and the threat of contaminating underground water aquifers with far more water for a few decades of energy seems to me is idiocy and greed in its worst form. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Cindy Allen, please.

Ms. Allen: My name is Cindy Allen. I'm a Weledeh, Yellowknives Dene, Tlicho person from Yellowknife, Northwest Territories originally. I chose to move here recently. I finished law school in June — UBC — but I chose to move here because my kids are direct descendants of Chief Jim Boss. They could be beneficiaries to the Yukon.

Yukon is a beautiful place and I'm very happy to live here and I want it to remain beautiful, so I personally say no to fracking. I don't think the benefits are worth the risks at all. We have to think about our future generations.

I also want to speak on behalf of Carcross-Tagish First Nation. I was hired as their implementation official to help them with the implementation of their final agreement and their self-government agreement. CTFN says no to fracking. I'm just going to read off a couple different things. We will be doing a written submission to the Committee.

So CTFN passed a resolution in November of 2013: Frack Free Traditional Territory.

"WHEREAS the process of fracking is known to be harmful to the water and the land.

"WHEREAS the Executive Council recognizes that it is their responsibility to protect our lands and water for future generations.

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Council will not allow fracking with C/TFN traditional territories.

"THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that General Council also consider passing a similar resolution to ensure clean water for our future generations."

So CTFN is opposed to fracking, and you've heard many, many CTFN members say no to fracking.

I also want to read off to you the English statement — the elders' statement that was in the self-government agreement and in their land claim. This is at the beginning of their agreements.

"We who are Tagish and we who are Tlingit, our heritage has grown roots into the earth since the olden times. Therefore we are part of the earth and the water. We know our creator entrusted us with the responsibility of looking after the land into perpetuity, and the water, and whatever is on our land, and what is beneath our land. So those coming after us, we will give them that responsibility into perpetuity.

"Our elders have assigned us the task of showing respect to things. Therefore, we will look after our land as they have told us to do, as did our elders, because we were the first to come to this land that is now called Canada.

"We will be the bosses of our land. We will watch over our land as we have agreed upon, and as we ourselves manage things according to our traditions. We will bequeath it to those coming after us into perpetuity. We will work with people to strengthen our heritage, to give a firm foundation to our peoples lives, and to manage our land well.

"We will work with all peoples to take good care of our land, and all the resources of this land, as we have agreed on. We will be our own masters. We who are Tagish, and we who

are Tlingit, will protect our land, so that the things will be according to what has been agreed on, so that they will live by it.

“According to what we have agreed on, we will reform the way we work with the government. We will work together with mutual respect, and act truthfully toward each other. We will all work together, those who own the land, and those who use the land. We will manage together, the land and the water and what is on the land. Then everything will be prepared for those coming after us.

“As we have agreed on, so we will act. We will work as our elders instruct us, and improve the lot of those coming after us. We will use our land with other nations. Moreover, we will look after our land well, so that our descendants can see how good it is, and in this way too, we will respect our land from which we were born.”

Chair: Thank you.

Ms. Allen: Thank you. I just want to say that CTFN is opposed to fracking. As you can hear from the elders’ statement that was in the land claim, CTFN is not opposed to development. We will work with industry; we will work with partners, but it has to be according to CTFN’s terms. We want to be the bosses of our land. Mahsi’ cho.

Chair: Thank you.

Rosemarie Briggs, please.

Ms. Briggs: Hello, I’m Rosemarie Briggs. Hi everybody. Look outside. Just look out the window. Take a minute to look out the window. It’s gorgeous. The sky is blue — the mountain’s there. I know if I go outside, I can take a deep, deep breath and fill my lungs with oxygen — with good oxygen. I know I can find a stream there to drink water — pure water.

There are very few places in the world that have a vast pristine wilderness. The Yukon is one of those rare places. Yukoners take many things for granted, like pure water, wildlife, hunting, camping. We can’t create a new Earth in the snap of our fingers. In fact, we can’t create a new Earth, period. So why do we gamble? It boggles my mind.

Yes, there will be short-term gain: money, temporary jobs. The key is “short-term”. When the money men drive away, pockets clinking, what will we have left? We will have a sick and dying Earth, poisoned water, sick or dead game, sick people. We won’t have a home anymore. The jewel we call the Yukon will no longer exist. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Gordon Gilgan, please.

Mr. Gilgan: My name is Gordon Gilgan. There are many reasons to present to you on the risks of fracking, but because of the limited time available, I’m going to confine my remarks in this presentation to the economics of fracking.

Most politicians and corporations claim that the first benefit of fracking is jobs, jobs, jobs. This claim lacks credibility in the Yukon, where the unemployment rate in August this year was 3.4 percent. We have to employ temporary foreign workers to staff many of our service industries. The mines that we do have operating in the Yukon

currently fly most of their skilled workers in and out on a regular basis to fulfill their shifts. So the promise of jobs is foolish in an economy where we have trouble filling employment vacancies and bringing in temporary workers.

We have the opportunity to look at our neighbours to the south to check on their experiences with fracking. First, we have to realize that employment benefits, as well as any other economic benefits, are transitory. Production in shale formations usually lasts only three to six years, compared to 30 to 60 years for convention production. In the U.S., now that frackers have come and gone, we can examine their experience. Yes, there was an increase in employment when they began fracking, but the increase in oil and gas employment was accompanied by a decrease in other sectors of the economy — most notably in tourism and agriculture.

The most highly paid jobs in the fracking industry, as you’ve heard numerous times tonight, are not open to the locally unemployed, but are filled by highly skilled workers from other states. That’s in the United States, and there are other provinces in Canada.

Tourism and agriculture did not resume to the earlier levels after frackers left, as they then had to deal with the environmental devastation that was left behind. Other occupations that increased with the frackers were prostitution, strippers, gamblers and drug dealers. With the temporary increase in employment comes an increase in social costs, such as crime, drug use, violence — particularly violence against women. The benefit of a small amount of employment does not offset the devastation wreaked by these social consequences.

Another group of people who were impacted by the fracking were those on fixed incomes, such as pensioners. Along with the fracking comes a local increase in inflation. This has the effect of driving those on fixed incomes out of the communities. This boom-and-bust economy is not new to the Yukon. From the Gold Rush in 1898 to the present, it has been part of our unpleasant history. The boom-and-bust economy is also characteristic of the petroleum industry. I’m sure that when you toured Alberta as part of your fact-finding mission, you saw the ubiquitous bumper sticker, “Please Lord, give us another oil boom. I promise not to piss it away this time.”

The Yukon gains very little benefit from these booms. In the Premier’s last report, he declared that the Yukon had gained an excess of \$360,000 in royalties from the mining industry in the territory. This is a paltry amount, considering the substantial mining activity in the territory.

The territory did not receive income taxes from most of these employees because they fly in and out and their taxes are paid in other jurisdictions. The fracking industry would not contribute in any significant way to local economies because it will be moving all over the territory.

Another area for the economy that was damaged by fracking in the south was local infrastructure. Roads, bridges, sewage and water treatment facilities were all damaged by overuse and the taxes levied on the frackers did not cover the

cost of repairs, leaving local taxpayers with the deficit. There are many economists who are now questioning the whole economic structure of the fracking industry. Those people who make money in the industry are those who speculate on land values and on the stock market. Many financial advisors are recommending that investors get out of the petroleum industry altogether. Some, like the Rockefellers, have removed their substantial investments.

This raises the question of why the Yukon government should invest in this industry that is predicted to be a loser. I am sure you remember the investments made by the Yukon government in asset-backed securities.

In conclusion, it seems obvious that the benefits of fracking to the Yukon economy would be sparse, if they exist at all. Why then would we risk well-established industries such as tourism on the speculation that we might make a quick buck? I urge the select committee to recommend a ban on fracking in the Yukon. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Corliss Burke, please.

Ms. Burke: My name is Corliss Burke and I want to thank the Carcross-Tagish First Nation for having us on their traditional land. I also want to thank that First Nation for their most amazing presentations and for requesting this hearing in the first place.

It's very important to me to hear from all of those citizens and, for that reason, I would like to give my time to those citizens. If there is time at the end of this hearing, I would love the opportunity to speak at that time.

Chair: Thank you.

Judy Harwood Dabbs, please.

Ms. Harwood Dabbs: Good evening. I'm Judy Harwood Dabbs and I live in Tagish. With respect to hydraulic fracturing, I've written letters to the editors, signed petitions, made submissions to YESAB and the Yukon Utilities Board. Generally my issues with LNG and fracking are disregarded by the official groups. According to YESAB's decision on the Yukon Energy Corporation's liquefied natural gas conversion project, they did not include natural gas extraction processing and liquefaction because they occur outside of Yukon, beyond the authority of the executive committee to consider.

Our regulatory bodies have their mandates siloed and narrowed to the point of feeling like a futile exercise for anyone who chooses to participate in their processes. Since the regulators are unable to deal with the broad detail and complexity, someone else must. It falls to you to reflect upon more than the mere short-term economics and politics. It is your responsibility to take a stand for the environment upon which we are totally dependent.

You must have the vision for a future where the interconnectedness of all things is foremost, celebrated and nurtured. Much of the air and water that YESAA ignored originates from outside of the Yukon. What we do here has an impact on natural systems beyond our artificial boundaries.

Hydraulic fracturing is part of the global issue of climate change, resulting, in part, from our unsustainable dependence on fossil fuels. The risks of fracking are variously presented as manageable, unknown or catastrophic. With that degree of contradictory opinion, a cautionary stance is essential as a minimum. Not only are the environmental issues absolutely daunting and urgent, now, with the federal Conservative government signing the *Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement*, or FIPPA, there are serious implications for how much control the Yukon government will have over future oil and gas development. According to Osgoode Hall Law School Professor Gus Van Harten, an expert in investment treaties, there are obligations under the FIPPA treaty that will influence territorial decisions for long into the future. We haven't even begun to look at this problem. CNOOC, the Chinese National Offshore Oil Corporation, owns a majority share in Northern Cross.

At the very least, I would ask for a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing. Ideally, my first choice would be to outright ban fracking, enjoined with serious support for renewable energy. Please take a principled stand, particularly the precautionary principle. Base it on science and common sense and ban hydraulic fracturing in the Yukon. Thank you for the opportunity to present to you.

Chair: Thank you.

Lee Mennell, please.

Mr. Mennell: My name is Lee Mennell. I'm a long-term resident of the Yukon. I've lived here for about 40 years in the Southern Lakes. I'm going to make three quick points, but really I want to sing a little song and I'm hoping I can get the audience to sing along. I'll tell you that in a minute.

My first point is it seems obvious to me that around the world, we're being invaded. We have private empires building up their resources and not just fracking. We can talk about Monsanto trying to corner the world's food production. We can talk about agribusiness and the way that governments collude with them to put small farmers out of business and ensure that they make more and more profits. In every different way, I feel that we are in an unconventional invasion. We're being invaded by people we don't know, faces we don't see, by organizations that are bigger than our governments, and we are standing in the midst of this decision at this moment.

My second point is I think it's pretty clear to anyone who has looked into fracking in any way that it's insanity. I mean, I think we've heard that from many different people. The logic of it, the reality of it is insane. If you think about the Carcross valley full of oil wells and roads built here and there — if they could prove it was entirely 100-percent safe, I would still be absolutely opposed to it because the desecration of the landscape, the industrialization of our land in every different way — it would be irrevocable. It would never return to what we have now.

The third point and the third thing I think is clear is that our government really wants to do this in a really bad way — like, they're really keen to do this for some reason. In spite of

the fact that in the 40 years I've lived here, I've never seen a wider representation of the population opposed to anything, more vocal, more informed — in any way — and yet the government is intent, in my impression, to do this.

I can only think that they have a reason for holding these meetings. The meeting, I think, is really only to try and give the illusion that there is a democracy here, that they would rather listen to their corporate sponsors wherever they might be or whoever they are, and that they have a bigger voice. I've lost my train of thought — that these meetings basically — they waste a lot of our time. I've been to the meetings, I've written letters — I've done all that stuff. I listened to Jim Tredger give a two-hour presentation at the legislative thing on all the facts about fracking while Darrell Pasloski and Brad Cathers exchanged cute little notes with each other and chuckled in the background. That's how it feels — that they want to do it. So they hold a little masquerade party, but like all good parties, we need some live music and so that's where I come in.

If anyone wants to sing along — (inaudible)

Chair: Excuse me, please.

Mr. Mennell: Some of us are in the 60s or remember the '60s. This is a little ditty from the Country Joe and the Fish, antiwar thing so —

Chair: You have two minutes.

Mr. Mennell: Some of you know this. I'm going to face them.

Come on all of you big strong men,
The industrial machine needs your help again
It's gotta keep growing no matter what the cost
And if we don't feed it, all is lost
So put down your dreams and pick up a drill
It's got a big appetite to fill.

And it's one, two, three, what are we fracking for
Don't ask me, I don't give a damn
Big Oil has got the plan
And it's five, six, seven, people get out of their way
'Cause there ain't nothing that they won't trash to get at
that natural gas

Come on governments you better move fast
Your big chance has come at last
Time to go out and smuck those greens
'Cause they're getting in the way of all your schemes
You know the economy will only run
When we dig this thing to Kingdom come

And it's one, two, three, what are we fracking for
Don't ask me, I don't give a damn
Big Oil has got the plan
And it's five, six, seven, people get out of their way
'Cause there ain't nothing that they won't trash to get at
that natural gas

Now come on Wall Street, don't be slow
You know this is progress, go, go, go
Lots of good money to be made
Investing your money in the fracking trade
Now don't forget, you can get that wealth
And you can leave the mess for someone else

And it's one, two, three, what are we fracking for
Don't ask me, I don't give a damn
Big Oil has got the plan
And it's five, six, seven, people get out of their way
'Cause there ain't nothing that they won't trash to get at
that natural gas

Now come on mothers throughout the land
Don't you want an oil well on your land
Come on fathers, don't hesitate
Sign yourselves up before it's too late
You don't want to be the last one on the map
To have flames coming out of your tap

And it's one, two, three, what are we fracking for
Don't ask me, I don't give a damn
Big Oil has got the plan
And it's five, six, seven, people get out of their way
'Cause there ain't nothing that they won't trash to get at
that natural gas.

Chair: Thank you. We have a lot of speakers to get through yet, and we are 10 minutes from 8:00, the end of the time allotted for this hearing. We will stay until 8:30, but we do need to take a short break for some of our assistants. We are going to take five minutes and we will then continue to hear from folks until 8:30, when we will wrap up.

Recess

Chair: We are back.

Bob Foster, please.

Mr. Foster: My name is Bob Foster. I live here in Carcross. I have raised family here in Carcross, had family in the Yukon since 1907. I have been here a long time and plan to be here a long time more, and I would like to have our kids have a place where they can stay a long time more. I have written up what amounts to, more or less, a letter to the editor — in that format, anyway — seems to be the way I can communicate it the most clearly. It is called "Big Things".

I am admittedly afraid of big things. I always have been, I think, and really can't say why. I don't imagine I am alone here. I try not to talk about it. It could have something to do with being overwhelmed when confronted by something really, really huge. Nothing gets by me.

When I was about 15 years old and should have been in school, I was in fact in a borrowed canoe in the ocean in southern B.C. when something really, really huge passed under my suddenly terrifyingly small boat. I won't say that I

was paralyzed by the experience. I will say it took me some time to put my paddle back in the water.

Bears, too — scared of bears. I'm not afraid to admit that. The prospect of facing a creature many times my weight and strength with teeth and huge-ass claws in a confrontation is really, really scary. Again, nothing escapes me.

This is how I feel about the prevalence of our government in actively courting bidders to come to our territory and potentially exploit oil and gas interests. To see an active oil and gas industry here will mean dealing with some big players with huge finances that really don't give two bits about where and how we live or love here. Our annual territorial budget here is a pittance to some of these corporations and they really only quest for one thing: money. Money is scary stuff.

I know this gathering is about fracking in particular, and further, how we may be impacted by it, but to speak of fracking without addressing the fact that fracking is just a small part of a huge oil and gas industry without considering that oil and gas as a resource has huge and, in fact, global implications, to ignore that the resource and the industry in turn represents more money to those with gobs of money already and the means to exploit the resource — to ignore or discount any or all of these things when actually talking about fracking is like wishing the bear's breath was a little fresher as it comes crashing in on your tent. Is Danny here — either of them?

The entities and the goals of these entities are huge from a global perspective — huge — really, really huge. So the corporations are huge and scary and are of a nature that they can restructure, rename or re-admin at will — a really, really huge shape-shifter. Nice.

These corporations are considered persons by law, yet they can, in theory, live forever, replete with a succession of mere mortals with insane salaries pulling the strings. So, huge, huge shape-shifting persons with insane resources and clearly defined goals — more money — that are currently impacting the planet and all on it. That's scary. These huge, huge shape-shifting persons are, in theory, immortal. That's terrifying.

These impossibly huge shape-shifting immortals — corporations, right? — only exist to grow, to increase the bottom line, to make money — lots and lots of it — for a few and select flesh-and-blood mortals in positions of trust and ability who abuse who trust and potential for good while they hoard what is, after all, the only reason for life, the universe and everything, right? Money.

So fracking in the Yukon — please note that I said “the Yukon”. I just like it that way. Does the potential for fracking here represent a response to a perceived need in the Yukon? It's a rhetorical question in my mind. If fracking comes here, it will be at the behest of those with money lusting for more of it. You just can't get enough of that stuff. Fracking will not be here to service a need per se. It will be here to facilitate the greed. The need facilitates the greed — great picket sign logo, by the way, so feel free.

For a moose, the need facilitates the feed, the feed facilitates the breed, the breed lives and dies and assimilates

back into the circle of life — kind of rambling, but it's perfect. The moose gives it all back — every hair. All wild things do, except humans. We have lost this connection. We have lost our wild. It is my personal belief that we are the only species on the globe that requires so much garbage just to be unsatisfied that it has lost the ability to ever give it back. We are alienated from nature. I'm not sure it's even that we don't listen anymore. What if it's that we can't hear? Have we orphaned ourselves?

Fracking — right, sorry. I'm not an anti-fracking person per se. I am anti-fracking when it represents wholesale development of the resource in the name of profit. It's safe to say that this puts me in the screw-that camp.

Enough fracking for now. Zoom out for a minute. Pull up a stump on the moon, let's say, and take a look at where we live. All of us, every living bit of smear — it's self-contained. It's beautiful. Within and on that globe exists all that is required to facilitate a vibrant and sustainable life — all life. A wonderful and symbiotic system of ebbs and flows and cycles that is truly miraculous in its diversity and beauty and would be all the better were the humans — except for the tree-huggers, of course — to disappear in a puff of smoke. Nobody would miss us. Besides, they would still have the tree-huggers, right? They would be like, “Christ, I thought they'd never leave. Is it safe to turn on the lights?”

Rumour has it that there is enough to go around for all. Why are so many going without while a comparative few get fat?

Chair: Excuse me, sir. Are you just about wrapped up?

Mr. Foster: No.

Chair: You are now at six-and-a-half minutes, sir.

Mr. Foster: Really?

Chair: Yes, you are.

Mr. Foster: Maybe I can just sort of slide right through this. Really — six-and-a-half minutes?

Chair: Yes, if you would like to submit that as an exhibit, we will be glad to take it.

Mr. Foster: Wow, you guys have just totally popped my balloon. Well, all right. I'll just skip right to it. I guess if I had a point, which is debatable at this point, it is that when we talk about fracking, we need to always have it in the back of our heads what is really driving the exploitation, and that is money. Money is such a great driver. Unfortunately it is driving the bulldozer through the house, looking for what amounts to loose change in the big picture. Then it's on to the next house while the occupants pick up the pieces.

I think my greatest fear in all of this is having our territory overrun by huge multinational interests and corporations on a profit-driven quest and, further, that this quest is being subsidized by our taxes, enabled by collusive government legislation. That's just me though.

It is all so huge — huge government, huge corporations, huge players, huge money, hugely complicated, hugely collusive, hugely corrupt, hugely destructive. We're doing huge damage, and it's all about the money. It seems that we may have taken a wrong turn around the time of the industrial

revolution. That seems to be largely the agreed-upon time wherein we traded in our ability to feed ourselves for an insatiable appetite for crap that was supposed to free up our time for more noble pursuits — poetry and stuff. The marvels we have achieved are just marvellous, but at what price? I've got no damn time for my poetry. Do you?

So, that's my rant, I guess. If it were all about servicing our actual needs, then I could see fracking as a valid practice. Were it about real and valid need, then there's a good chance that it would or could be a smaller affair. But that's not how it is. It's about money and it's about greed, and as long as it is, it's going to be monstrous and I'm going to vote no all day long.

Thanks for your time.

Chair: In all fairness to the remaining speakers, I would ask people to try to keep within the time allotted. Thank you.

Jimmy Borisenko, please.

Mr. Borisenko: I hope you don't mind if I stand. I've got a leg that needs to be stretched sometimes. Thank you — Jimmy Borisenko. I won't take much of the time, I don't think. Everything I wanted to cover has more or less been said. I just want to get my vote in against fracking. I think it's a foolhardy, dangerous experiment. There is nobody on this planet who can guarantee that there will be no ramifications in the long term. If anybody says that, they're a fool. They are not being honest. It is a dangerous experiment.

I will reiterate some things that have been said — what Corinne said about how the Yukon is being set up with the infrastructure that will necessitate fracking down the road — what with the LNG plant — and others have said that our government keeps saying that this is a clean energy source. We know it's not. You know it's not, we know it's not, and I wish you would stop saying that. We are not fools. I think it's more than just sad. It is shameful that our governments can't see the value of this — what people keep pointing out — these beautiful, unbroken, intact landscapes, and bio-diverse and functioning ecosystems. There are not many places in the world that have this left, and you want to frack this place? That's just terrible. It's ridiculous.

That is our natural economy. It's the natural capital. That is a valuable thing. What do I mean by that? I mean, like, forests of trees — they'll keep producing forests of trees indefinitely, and we can still use some of them as long as we don't interfere with the systems that produce them. Rivers of fish will keep producing rivers of fish indefinitely, and we can use some of them as long as we don't damage the systems that keep producing that. That natural capital sustains us. It absorbs our wastes in a reasonable degree, and what does it do? It transforms them into energy, into oxygenated atmosphere, into clean water. There is no better water catchment system than what already exists, there is no better erosion system than what already exists in nature, and yet our economic systems put no value on that because they contribute no dollars to the gross domestic product. That is ridiculous. We have got to change that way of thinking. It's just too important. We have to put an end to this.

I think it's — unfortunately — I hate to say this — but this Yukon Party government — we already know what you want to do. You have proven that. You won't listen to us. You've proven that when you campaigning. You didn't state your position on the Peel watershed because you knew it would be detrimental to your getting elected, so you kept quiet on that. As soon as you got elected to your false majority, out you come with your true agenda. There was Brad Cathers saying, "I'm not going to throw an area away the size of Nova Scotia." We should rejoice on the fact that we can protect an area of that size. There is no place in the world that can do this anymore. We have that capacity to do that and still build an economy. That natural capital doesn't count for anything in the economy, but we have to change our way of thinking, we have to change our values.

I wish, for once in your mandate, that you will prove me wrong — that you want to listen to us, that you are going to ban fracking. I just hope you will do that. Prove me wrong and ban fracking — okay? Show me that, for once in your mandate, you will want to listen to the people and act according to their will. That's what democracy is supposed to be, and you are not practising it.

Chair: Thank you.

Lawrie Crawford, please.

Ms. Crawford: Hi. Thanks for still looking so attentive.

What I wanted to say has changed a little bit. I feel absolutely privileged to have been able to listen to the people in my community express so articulately and so well how strongly and passionately they feel about an issue as complex as fracking. As I sat here, I looked back on my days working in the Yukon government. I have been rolling through the projects in my mind where Yukon government was ahead of the rest of the country.

When I started in 1985, we were doing the best ground-breaking work on fetal alcohol syndrome in marketing and movies. We did alcohol and drug statistical analysis of the territory that was touted at the World Health Organization. We had some of the best databases on health practices and health promotion behaviours of Yukoners in 1989.

I was fortunate that I started with Economic Development in 1993 and we evaluated the effect of \$30 million joint Yukon-Canada economic funding on the territory, and I looked out my window and I saw that windmill sitting on the top of the mountain outside — the mountain — and that was an Economic Development project. We were way ahead of the rest of the country in the wind game at that time.

You know, when I retired, I drove the whole length of Norway on two tanks of gas in a car that wasn't available in North America. You know, I look at what's going on in Germany. I see windmills down the sides of mountains. You know what's going on in California with wind and European countries. I was on a website that was solar panels in Estonia, which is the same latitude as us, and it doesn't have the benefit of the warm current that Norway has. I sat back and I thought about the energy strategies that they tried to develop for years in the territory and got bogged down with

partisanship and niggling about the 27 different recommendations and the politics of Yukon Energy and just see the situation now as a failure of good planning and a failure of innovation and a failure of looking ahead, that we would be pressured into a situation where it was argued that we had to go with an LNG plant beside a dam on a major access beside a flight path in Whitehorse.

It boggles my mind that we would be at the point where we would run little shunt roads off major highways to go and frack and run the risk of polluting the environment. Devolution gave the Yukon not just the ability to make the decisions, but also the responsibility to mitigate the damages that happen when a project goes sideways — and these projects go sideways. That alone should be making the Yukon government take fewer and fewer risks with the land that we have, because we can't afford Faro; we can't afford Nansen; we can't afford to clean up how many contaminated sites throughout the territory as it is already, let alone take the risk to add more to that list that needs to be done.

That to me is frightening. So I would think that we would be more cautious. How good are we at assessing risk? Not very good. You know, I read the evaluation of the YESAB before I came — five years, and we don't do planning, we don't allow for cumulative effects, we don't have any baseline data, we don't monitor. Of all the projects that they reviewed, none of them had been asked to report back monitoring or audits back to YESAB so that they could actually even assess and learn as an organization about the effects of the recommendations that they made and whether or not they worked. That is frightening for me.

The other thing that scares me is the name change. I worked when it was DIAND, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. Then it went to INAC, and the recent Conservative renaming of the department to Indian and Northern Development makes me see what the Yukon means for Canada — that they want us to be the developers, that northern development is first and foremost in the eyes of Canada now that we have the obligation to permit and mitigate and, by staying on that agenda, it doesn't make sense.

You know, we are not here for development only. We have affairs and people and science and animals and lands and all of the things that everyone has expressed so articulately. So I think that it's inherent that the Yukon government become the protector of the territory, and I think as Canada becomes more driven, in order to extract at any cost, that it becomes even more important that the Yukon government reflect the will of the Yukon people and provide barriers and take a pause — take a pause, improve the assessment, the regime, some measures of intended and unintended impacts and get better at it, so that we can learn and do and innovate and go back to planning and being at the forefront of all these places where we've let things slide, because I think we have the ability, as a people, and a will to be innovative and constructive in the future. Thanks.

Chair: Thank you.
Kathleen Cranfield.

Ms. Cranfield: Hi, my name is Kathleen Cranfield and as fracking goes, I think that fracking's insulting. I think the idea of it is insulting to Yukoners, to Yukoners' bodies, minds and spirits. It's ridiculous that it's even being considered. I have this vision that Yukoners are strong people. They always have been and they'll continue to be, and I don't mean to be aggressive in my thoughts, but the Yukon government's being aggressive with theirs, so I suggest to the people of the Yukon that actually we say no if the answer's yes.

I have a vision of a decision being made — and I wouldn't put it past the current Yukon government; I don't think that they're very trustworthy — but I do think that it would be great if a day came when they said yes, we all closed our doors to our offices and our places of work and we walked out, and we walked out and we didn't come back until the answer was no to fracking. I wouldn't put it past Yukoners, because what? What's a few days without money? What's a few days without being able to afford everything that we need? We band together, and then the comparison later on would be having absolutely nothing for how long? So I hope that all Yukoners have this thought in their minds too, if it's yes, and we'll just say no.

Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Brian D. That's because we didn't get your whole name. Is there anybody named Brian who's on this list?

Chair: Ulla Rembe.

Unidentified speaker: (inaudible)

Chair: Sorry?

Ms. Wally: My name is Eileen Wally. I live in Carcross — born and raised in Carcross. I'm 58 years old, still in Carcross. I don't really understand the process that you guys are trying to do right now, but I'm not going to stand, or sit down, with my back to people. I apologize for that.

I believe that we're all together. I believe that, as parents, mothers, fathers, daughters, aunties — that we all have to stick together to take care of our mother, the Earth, take care of what is gifted to us. I believe we're stewards of the land. We've been given a gift to take care of the land and, like I said, I apologize if I offend anybody or disrespect anybody in what your process is but, like I said, I got a little person that I need to get home and get to bed. He's got to go to school so he could be educated in the way things work.

I really, really want to say that this fracking business — I watched a video today at our workplace. They put it on the screen and something really stuck with me. This guy had his water running and he lit a match and the water blew up, like it was in flames. Then he talked about the animals dying and the children being sick. I believe, as First Nation people — and I'm a half-breed — I'm half Tlingit and I'm half French. I don't disrespect my father's people and I don't disrespect my mother's people, but I believe we have a responsibility to our children.

We believe that we need to look at seven generations ahead of us. What are we going to have for them? What do we have now? We have people dying of cancer because of the

mines that they said is okay. In our traditional territory, we had five mines, one of them being at the head of the river, called Mount Skukum. There's a tailings pond still up there, leaking into the water, that nobody's cleaned yet.

You heard earlier how people say that they just buried them over the tailing ponds with gravel while it seeps into the water. We still don't look at these kinds of things. Like you hear people saying, we just keep going and we keep going. I apologize, once again, but I don't believe that this fracking thing is any fracking good, so I think we fracking well better stick together, stand up to anybody that's going to come and try and do anything to our land.

We need to stand up as people together and say, "No, we're not going to hurt our future generation." Once again, goodnight to you all. I've got to get this kid home to bed.

Chair: Thank you.

Ulla Rembe, please.

Ms. Rembe: Hi, my name is Ulla Rembe and I lived in the Yukon for 31 years. I came here from Germany, from an industrialized region. I grew up beside a river that you couldn't swim in. I never drank the water there, except out of a bottle, and I came here because I have a deep respect for First Nation culture and living on the land and because here is one of the last places, if not the last place, on Earth where we can live in a beautiful natural environment.

So to anybody who wants to frack this land, this is what I have to say: My Spell of the Yukon.

Oh there is a land (have you seen it?)
It's the most beautiful land that I know
From the big, dizzy mountains that screen it
To the deep, deathlike valleys below.
Some say God was tired when he made it
Some say it's a fine land to shun
May be, but there's some as would trade it
For no land on Earth — and I'm one!
Some say its value is in its resources
that they need to be developed at all cost.
They say dig it or hack it and frack it
They don't care if its wildness is lost.
But I say we need to protect it
We need to keep its natural flair
We need to keep our clean water & air
For future generations to share!
Because there is no other land like it
Where people & animals can still roam free
With mountains & valleys that are aimless
As far as the eye can see.
It's this great land, way up yonder
It's the forests where silence has lease
It's the beauty that thrills me with wonder
It's the stillness that fills me with peace.
And that's why I say:
A clear No to Fracking
NO to Oil & Gas Development
NO to big Greedy Corporations
NO to Destroying the Land.

But YES to Nature & Beauty
YES to clean Water & Air
YES to Solar & Wind Power
& a community

who shows the world that we care!

And so I'm calling upon all concerned Yukoners
to join me & others who are here
to leave behind any fear
& speak out very loud & clear
so all decision makers can hear:

That we want to keep our clean water

That we will fight for what is our right

That together & united we'll stand

and say:

NO to Fracking this Beautiful Land!

Chair: Thank you.

Rene Brouillard.

Mr. Brouillard: Yeah, my name's Rene. I just got back to Yukon about four months ago and I'm disgusted to see what you guys did to it. I'm honestly telling you, because it used to be a beautiful place. Now I see Whitehorse growing like hell. I don't even want go to Whitehorse. It disgusts me. You know, I don't know what you guys doing in power. You should not be there. As far as fracking, stick it up your butt. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

So we did agree to stay until 8:30, but we still have some names to go through, so I'll tell you that we'll stay until 9:00 and then we really have to go.

Ed Lishmaan please.

Mr. Lishmaan: My name's Ed Lishmaan. I'd like to thank the Committee for playing along with us, and I'd like to thank my community for voicing everything that I feel and saying it much better than I can. I don't speak well in front of large crowds; I speak a little better in smaller crowds, but thank you very much for the things you said. You've said everything that I think and more. I really appreciate this opportunity to say no to fracking and let's ban it. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Elaine Ash, please.

Ms. Ash: I don't have too much to say. I appreciate the chance to say something. I've always been against fracking, ever since I first heard of the method of extraction and the terrible use of water, and I want to say that, for the first 10 years of my life, I grew up on little white pills with green spots and lots of allergies. I've been now 40 years in the Yukon and I want to say that I'm really happy that I heard everyone is in agreement on this fracking. I can't imagine anybody who wouldn't be.

I really don't understand the federal government or the Yukon government to even consider such an assault on our water and our environment. It's unbelievable to me. I can't understand it.

I want to thank everyone who is here and that's all I've heard tonight. Now we've got to figure out how to get the message to everyone, just where we stand. I went to a meeting

— Carcross-Tagish — one day, and they were talking about food sustainability and a couple scientists there from Ottawa, and they said the government will never ever knock you if you talk about your water and your food protection and your food sustainability. So we've all got to grow gardens; we've got to look after our plants; we've got to take care of our water; and I guess we'll try and see if they really do have that thought anywhere. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.
Dagmar Liebau.

Ms. Liebau: Hello, my name is Dagmar Liebau and I'm living in the Yukon for the last 27 years. What an incredible, beautiful place. I mean, I don't want to take up too much time, because everybody has said everything which was on my heart in a most beautiful and amazing and funny and serious way. So I just want to say very clearly no to fracking. I just hope that that process is not already further than we all think, that there were not too many contracts already signed. So I'm not asking this question, because you're not going to answer it anyways, but I just want to put this out here and I hope that you listen, that you have heard everything I've heard too. So thank you very much for the opportunity.

Chair: Thank you.
Colin Mennell.

Mr. Mennell: Hello, my name is Colin Mennell. I've lived here all my life. I was born in Carcross and I now live on the Lewes Lake Road. I just want to say that I find the whole fracking thing just completely insanity. It's just completely destructive and the completely wrong way to go. It just makes me sad to think that I live in a nation that would even put people into this situation. It's just completely frustrating. I appreciate the chance to talk about it but I just feel like it's deaf ears.

So, for what it's worth, no to fracking. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.
Fiona Seki Wedge, please.

Ms. Wedge: Hello. My name is Fiona Seki Wedge. I'm a member of Carcross-Tagish First Nation. I was born here. I'm now a resident in Tagish still. I'm a member of the Daklaweidi clan.

Everything I've heard here tonight, I agree with wholeheartedly. I'm strongly opposed to fracking. I just want to point out — as we all know, but just to reiterate that water is fundamental to all life on Earth and it only makes sense to me that we protect it as our most precious resource. There is overwhelming evidence that fracking contaminates our water sources and causes all kinds of environmental degradation. It's harmful to the health of all biotic organisms on the planet really.

You all live here. You're all residents of the Yukon, I presume. So this affects you guys too on a very personal level. I know that there's probably — I mean, it's a difficult decision. I hope, like other people have said, that it has not already been made and that you will listen to us. I think that really when you think about it, it is actually an easy decision to make because it's our health and the health of your children

that's at stake. When we really think about it too, our economic system is artificial. It's created by humans. If we're to let go of our anthropomorphism and our anthropocentrism and to just realize that the natural systems are not made by us and that is our reality — if the time comes that our economic systems crumble and collapse, then what we have left is nature and what has always sustained us and every other living organism on the planet. I think that — find in your heart of hearts what is our true priority here and say no. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.
Mark Wedge, please.

Mr. Wedge: I too want to honour both audiences. My name is Mark Wedge. I want to start out by saying how proud I am of the government — not the Yukon government, but the Carcross-Tagish First Nation government.

There's emerging thought on community development. It says there are three major players when communities develop and evolve. There's the individual, there's the collective or the community, and the institutions. Individual rights are to individuals and I believe water is an individual right, a human right. The communities begin to dialogue how they want to live and they entrust their rights to the institutions.

I'm very concerned with Yukon and the federal institutions because we have a Chinese agreement that's threatening. Right? They're seeing it as an economic venture. Yesterday, the Yukon vice-chief, Mike Smith, spoke to the Senate Committee — as did our Premier Pasloski speak to the Senate Committee — about the YESA process. Even though the YESA process was not perfect when we negotiated it — we wanted it to have more bite. What's currently proposed by Canada is that the environmental review process really rests with the minister — the minister of aboriginal and northern development affairs — that he have the opportunity to really say whether a process goes or not.

That really erodes the concept of democracy as I understand it. It reverts back to a colonial process of where we give power back to a central governance and that central governance — which I've lost faith in, I have to admit, right? It's not representative; it's a minority of their general popular vote that's representing the collective — and quite frankly, I don't believe as an individual that they're representing me in a good way. We begin to start seeing with the Peel River decision when the collective or the community and the individuals actually take their institution of governance to court, right? What vice-chief Mike Smith said yesterday when he was asked at the Senate Committee about the YESA process — he said you're setting us up for major litigation. That's a risk that this government is now setting all the Yukoners — of where we tried to negotiate agreements that would give us certainty. You're potentially setting us up for litigation that will stop the whole process. You're putting Yukoners against Yukoners with that process. That is not democracy.

When we negotiated these agreements — why YESAA and why these processes were set up was to look after this land, to be responsible to the land as you heard from the

elders' statement and really, as I've heard from the community tonight. They don't support the fracking process. They're looking at a whole different thing and you start saying, okay, really, are you representing the people? Is the current government representing the people? Is it putting at risk what we've negotiated 30 years to try to develop and evolve? We see our current government that's beginning to undermine that process.

Really, it's not fracking that's on the table; it's democracy. It's representative governance, right, and it's communal well-being. Thank you for taking the time. I hope that you do the right thing. The important thing is don't set us up for litigation because I will encourage our Carcross-Tagish First Nation, the Council of Yukon First Nations — all of the First Nations — to take the government to court and to push it as far as they can and to tie up economic development. The whole reason Canada and Yukon wanted to get into the agreements was to create certainty; well, you're creating uncertainty. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Gwen Wally, please. Is Gwen here?

Robert Wally.

Mr. Wally: Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Myself, I'm against fracking. I do not like it. I do not like to see it happen in our traditional territories or anywhere, actually. I'm pretty sure everybody here pretty much said it all already — to what we all agree to and all. I just hope that you guys take our message strongly to the government that's in power and let them know what we are thinking. Thank you.

Chair: Thank you.

Werner Rhein, please.

Mr. Rhein: Do we really have the time? Is there more people in here? Thank you for having the chance to have input on your decision making.

But first I have an administrative question. Why are these public meetings set to times where a lot of people can't attend? Oops, I was wrong. There were lots of people here. Why is it that it is advertised that people have to pre-register to be able to speak up and voice their opinion? Why is it that people who don't voice their opinion on these meetings are automatically counted as supporters of fracking, as broadcasted in the media after the meeting in Watson Lake? Could it be that there is an anti-democratic purpose behind this? I know it is too late now to ask these questions, but I had to get it out because I think it is done on purpose to reduce the number of people to attend.

Now, this out of the way, so I can let hear my two-cents-worth of knowledge about the practices of the fossil fuel industry. This industry established itself for only one reason: to make large profits for a very few people and prepare the war machine and it is mainly done on the back of our environment and the end uses. This industry made even Mr. Ford stop his very popular electric car production and produced the Model T Ford. Yes, Ford produced an electric car before gasoline-gobbling vehicles and so did others. The main propaganda from the industry is geared to make us

believe we need this energy source to sustain our lives so jobs and the energy for it to provide it, which is a straight-out lie.

The jobs involved in the oil and gas industry in Canada are only about two percent of all jobs and the energy could come from renewable, clean, non-destructive alternative energy and create five to 15 times more jobs per dollars spent.

We are made to believe oil and gas gives us a decent life. Actually, it is exactly the opposite. First, it enslaves us to work for wages, where the government can collect easy taxes from, and the rest we mainly spend to have a vehicle. Fill it with propellant, repair it, insure it and pay high interest to replace it. Vehicle costs in an average family are in second place after providing a roof over our heads.

But the worst evil is that it destroys our environment — for all of us, rich or poor, vehicle owner or not. Yes, it has positive sides too. We could not travel as easily as we do now, heat our houses automatically. Wood was cut by a handsaw and axe. But why do we have to travel so far and so fast? We could travel the world before on foot, on horseback and by dog team up here and by wind and by sea. Now we have to travel by fossil fuel gobbling and environment-destroying vehicles. To have a job, to be able to have at least a little bit of a life, be able to eat and sleep, we have to travel fast. In the old days, we worked in our neighbourhood. We could walk to our jobs. Yes, it helped us tremendously to develop new and sustainable technologies.

So now we are at a very important crossroad. Can we make the political decision to incrementally reduce this destructive energy and start building on an energy grid and system that will not destroy our Mother Earth, that would use new and old sustainable energy sources? Old energy sources are water and wind. They were used for millennia.

Chair: One minute, Mr. Rhein.

Mr. Rhein: New energy sources are: solar to convert free sunshine to electricity or hot water; biomass to create gases that could be burned for cooking, heating or propelling engines — and these gases can be stored in exactly the same way as natural gas. Why do we want to continue with a very destructive technology that profits only a very few people who have the power over us, because they enslave us into using their technology, but with our resources, our monies, our pension plans, our savings, our RRSPs, our infrastructure, which they can get for almost nothing? The big money-makers did not spend their own money. They borrowed it from us. We provide them with the infrastructure —

Chair: Thank you, Mr. Rhein.

Mr. Rhein: Thank you.

Chair: We are just about at 9:00 p.m. and have two more people who would like to speak tonight.

Mary Anne Lewis.

Ms. Lewis: I thank you for coming. I thank you for extending your visiting when originally it was only going to be only Watson Lake and Old Crow. After people spoke up, you listened and added a variety of other communities, including here, on your list. We were hoping you would. You

didn't have to and I guess you don't have to listen to anything that has been said tonight. We are all hoping that you will.

Frankly, myself — I know many of you are parents and grandparents and love your grandchildren and want their future to be healthy. I know that most of us in this room would lie down in front of a truck in a second if we could exchange ourselves for our grandchild. I have hope that we can pull together to create a future that will be sustainable, because I believe what we are talking about is more than fracking and more than destroying the Yukon. We are talking about the world. Other people have mentioned tonight climate change. Climate change is listed as the greatest weapon of mass destruction. I think that when we have a look at that, we realize that we have no time to turn around to save the future of life for our children.

I will start where I was, on February 2012 — at Tagish with several other people in this room who listened to and asked about the Whitehorse Trough, which was being given out to oil and gas bids. The first company who put money down over \$400,000 would be able to move in and explore. Many people — there were 52 people in the room at that time — spoke up and said no, our water, our animals — it's just not acceptable. They spoke loudly.

Richard Corbett was the government expert there. He explained how the new exploration is very different. Helicopters go in, set a pad, drill down, pull up and leave. There are no wide roads where animals get hunted — wolves chase caribou — kill caribou in the old method. He had all sorts of reasons why things would be different from the old days. Yet I saw a video three months ago of Northern Cross' operation off the Dempster. There are miles of straight lines where they have drilled and set blasting. I know that there is a plane in Old Crow that flies people out whenever they want to have a look. That's a great idea to have a community feel comfortable, but I've also read recently that that is a medium use of the Porcupine caribou herd — that whole area.

Northern Cross has just applied for another 20 wells to roll out. They would not be moving ahead and asking to explore to drill if they did not have intention of making money. We know that it's shale rock. We know the whole Yukon is shale rock. The only way to get gas out of shale rock is by fracking. The only way to frack is to do everything that everybody has described tonight — and I'm sure many other meetings, and I have been at some of those meetings.

We listened to two days of presentations where you had a lineup of presenters, including — the most moving to me were the Fort Nelson First Nation — the two women who came up, the chief and the lands officer. They told us after that they thought it was a done deal. They were trying to tell us what we could do to make it not quite as bad as what happened for them. As they talked, one of them broke into tears describing how all of their land, except for perhaps nine percent along the river, was destroyed. They had been rolled out with miles and miles of clear-cut. Instead of just harvesting the wood, they burned it. A bear in the last week had been run over by a mulcher. There are all sorts of destructive, irreversible

damages to their property. They were going to go back to work to save the river.

I will skip to the end — perhaps where Prime Minister Harper was given a letter — I would like to file it. It has come through access to information — which was sent to him — to his ministers — prior to his election in 2011. It lists from the oil companies what they want — to be able to come in and have their way and make profit without being impeded by rules and regulations. Within 10 months of him coming in, those laws were removed — so fisheries, protection of navigable waters — all the different things that we have seen happen. Darrell Pasloski today wants to push through Danny Lang's motion quickly in case there is an election and the government changes. He was interviewed by Leonard Linklater. Why?

All that work, all that effort all that burning of fossil fuels is destroying the planet, because it is heating the atmosphere and we can't survive if it keeps going up. We have an opportunity here, because we haven't destroyed our land, to move to renewable energy, to have jobs to support our climate, to support our future and to be a model. We are strong enough as a people to be able to do that. I am hearing tonight that people are going to do it anyway. So it would be nice to have a government that supported us — that we don't also have to put energy into fighting. We could pull together and move ahead as a community.

Chair: Our final presenter tonight will be Corliss Burke.

Ms. Burke: Thank you. It's very hard to follow the impassioned speakers who have given us the benefit of their experience and knowledge and wisdom tonight. I have prepared a few comments that are somewhat repetitive of some of the things that we've heard. I am sorry for that. I won't take very long.

As one of the almost 6,000 citizens who have implored the Yukon government to ban fracking in our territory — the most signatures ever on a petition in the Yukon, by the way — I hope that you are getting a clear message that Yukoners are passionate about keeping this process out of our territory. To reflect the will of the majority, I hope that you will take the courageous position of making an unequivocal recommendation against fracking.

The Yukon government's focus seems to be on resource extraction in order to create employment, and yet if the experience in other jurisdictions is examined, one can clearly see that the jobs created by fracking are very few, are of short duration and are highly technical in nature. Most of the jobs created by a fracking industry here would be filled by experts from Outside and, indeed, from outside of Canada.

Other countries, on the other hand, have partnered with industry to create jobs in the development and production of renewable resources. Here in the Yukon, we have a unique opportunity to invest now in renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, bio-thermal and additional hydro. To create a new direction for the Yukon, we need a vision for sustainable jobs related to the ongoing health, rather than the destruction,

of our society. The strategy coming out of that vision needs to include the economic opportunity for installation and maintenance of wind turbines, solar panels, geothermal heating and hydroelectric dams, along with other new and green technologies. The jobs created by investment in these initiatives are sustainable and not dependent on finite resources. They are not propped up by false economies, which is the case with the investment in fracking.

First Nation people will be the most negatively affected by fracking, as they always are by many of the decisions of our governments. How can we justify to them putting into place a process that will deplete and damage the water, pollute the air and the land and change the habitat and migratory patterns of the animals forever? Fracking will negatively affect the ability of First Nation people to live off the land. This is a form of what some have termed “environmental racism”.

On the other side of the coin, some people believe that they will be immune to the effects of fracking because of their uphill, upwind and upstream status — in other words, their relative wealth. This also is a false assumption, since we all breathe the same air and drink the same water. Once we damage those two sources of life, the playing field will be levelled. Experience in other jurisdictions has clearly shown that socio-economic status is not a protective factor against the damage that fracking causes.

In summary, what can be more important than preserving our environment, our health and indeed, life on this planet? We are, as one climate scientist has said, racing into uncharted territory with all of the madness about fracking. Please recommend to our government that they stop this race as other provinces have. Please recommend that the Yukon government become a leader in the development of renewable energy, so that we will reap the economic, social, and health benefits that are possible if we take the moral, economically feasible, and environmentally responsible course of action to ban fracking.

Chair: Thank you. And thank you to all of you who participated tonight. I think it has been a very productive session. Good night.

The Committee adjourned at 9:03 p.m.