

Hearing Closing Speaking Notes

- It's come to the end of our hearing today. I'd first like to thank all those people who have taken the time to attend the hearing and to speak to us. Particularly those people from the public who have taken time from their regular activities to sit with us over the last two days.
- The Board has received a lot of information from you; it has been brought to us in different ways - from stories of the land as told by the Elders to PowerPoint presentations.
- The Board will have to now sit together to consider and discuss what we have heard from you, as well as examine the information that we have on the public record for the two proposed mineral exploration projects.
- There are also some important decisions that we have to make as a Board.
- We first have to decide if we have enough of the kind of information that will permit us to make a recommendation regarding the fate of these two projects. I am speaking of what section 128 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* requires us to do. The Review Board must consider the issues that

are within its mandate and then it must forward its recommendations to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. The options available to the Review Board includes a recommendation of:

- whether the projects should go ahead, with or without conditions; or
 - whether the projects should not go ahead.
- However, before that all happens, the Review Board first must determine if there is enough evidence available for it to make a recommendation regarding the two projects.
 - If the Board believes that there is not enough information, we have the option of entering into a second phase of these environmental assessments.
 - The nature of that second phase of the process, if any, will be the subject of a Board decision in the very near future. If necessary, we may amend the terms of reference to set out our plans for the completion of this proceeding.
 - Should the Board simply move into its final decision-making phase, we will have to close the public records. We will give a notification of at least 2 weeks before the record closure

to allow Parties to submit any final materials they want the Board to consider.

- If that is the result, you will hear from the Board on these matters in the coming weeks.