



“When You Talk - We Listen!”



MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT AND REVIEW BOARD

EA1617-01 TLICHO ALL SEASON ACCESS ROAD;
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

PUBLIC HEARING

Mackenzie Valley Review Panel:

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Chairperson | Joanne Deneron |
| Board Member | David Krutko |
| Board Member | Joe Handley |
| Board Member | James Wah-Shee |
| Board Member | Bertha Norwegian |
| Board Member | Sunny Munroe |

Whati, NT

November 15, 2017

Day 1 of 3

1 APPEARANCES

2 Alan Ehrlich)MVEIRB

3 Mark Cliffe-Phillips)

4 Catherine McManus)

5 Simon Toogood)

6 Ruari Carthew)

7 Catherine Fairbairn)

8 Brett Wheler)

9 Chuck Hubert) Counsel

10 Joanna Vince)

11 John Donihee) Board Counsel

12

13 Chief Alfonz Nitsiza)Tlicho Gov't.

14 Tammy Steinwound-Deschambeault)

15 Jessica Hum)

16 Petter Jacobsen)

17 Francis Simpson)

18 Joe Champlain)

19 Zabey Nevitt)

20 Ginger Gibson)

21 Janelle Kuntz) Firelight

22 Georgina Chocolate)

23 Charlie Apple)

24 Louie Flunkie)

25 Larry Baran)

1 APPEARANCES (Con't)

2 Russell Neudorf)GNWT

3 Lorraine Seale)

4 Katie Rozenstraten)

5 Rohan Brown)

6 Ziaur Rahmen)

7 Tom Bradbury)

8 James Hodson)

9 Mark Cronk)

10 Michael Conway)

11 Stu Niven)

12 Bruno Croft)

13 Morgan Moffitt)

14 Kelly Mahoney)

15 Laurie McGregor)

16 Andrea Patenaude)

17 Peter Fast)

18 Carmen Griffen)

19 Alina Goldenberg)

20 Tamika Mulders)

21 Darren Campbell)

22 Michael Gagnon)MACA

23 Michael Grabke)Golder

24 Damian Panayi)Golder

25

1 APPEARANCES (Con't)

2 Jody Pellissey)Wek'eezhii

3 Boyan Tracz)Renewable

4)Resources Brd.

5

6 Umar Husany)CanNor

7

8 Bradley Summerfield)ECCC

9

10 Mark D'Aguiar)DFO

11

12 Shin Shiga)North Slave

13 Nicole Goodman)Metis Alliance

14

15 Alex Power)YKDFN

16

17 Rachelle Besner)NRCan

18

19 Sarah Elsasser)Wek'eezhii Land

20 Anita Ogua)Water Board

21

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1 --- Upon commencing at 11:13 a.m.

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Good morning,
4 everyone. My name is Joanne Deneron, and I am the
5 chair of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact
6 Review Board. Welcome to this public hearing for the
7 Tlicho all-season road to Whati.

8 Before we begin, I would like to
9 acknowledge that we are holding this hearing in Whati
10 in the Tlicho region. We will now begin with an
11 opening prayer. I would ask you to stand and invite
12 Elder Charlie Apple to give the opening prayer.

13

14 (OPENING PRAYER)

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: I would now like to
17 ask Chief Alfonz Nitsiza to open the meeting with some
18 opening remarks.

19

20 OPENING REMARKS BY TLICHO GOVERNMENT:

21 CHIEF ALFONZ NITSIZA: Thank you.

22 Good morning, Madam Chair. I want to welcome
23 everybody to Whati here. I know this time of the year
24 it's very hard to travel. Sometimes we can't get out
25 or come back in. So it's good that the weather had

1 cooperated with us. So welcome to -- to Whati. I
2 particularly want to welcome the Board, their staff,
3 legal people, GNWT, as well as all the Intervenors to
4 the community. I would like to give special
5 recognition to all the Elders presence here, as well
6 as the youth.

7 These hearing are the Review Board's
8 opportunity to hear from the community, from all
9 Intervenors, and to understand the way that this road
10 might impact our Tlicho land, culture, the way of
11 life. There has been a lot of work going on to
12 prepare for these hearing. Our community has been
13 meeting for years about this issue, working in the
14 community and then also through the many agencies that
15 work together to plan for the potential road.

16 We understand that our job here over
17 the next few days is to engage in the process towards
18 a decision. The Board will review all materials and
19 make a recommendation. And then the decision-makers
20 will consider that recommendation. The Tlicho Chief
21 Executive Council will be the final decision maker on
22 this environmental assessment, with GNWT Minister of
23 Land.

24 Welcome to our beautiful community. We
25 hope you will enjoy your time here listening to our

1 people and understanding our language, culture, and
2 way of life. Masi cho.

3

4 OPENING COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRPERSON:

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi, Chief. Thank
6 you for your warm welcome and kind words. I would now
7 like to start with some opening remarks as well, and
8 some logistics of the meeting -- the hearing. We are
9 here today to listen carefully to your views about the
10 potential impacts of the proposed Tlicho all-season
11 road. The road builder is the Government of the
12 Northwest Territories, the GNWT. For those requiring
13 translation there are receivers available. I believe
14 they're on the back table, just by the door when you
15 walked in. There are receivers there with the English
16 on channel 2 and the Tlicho on channel 3.

17 The project we are talking about today
18 is the GNWT's proposed all-season road from Highway 3
19 west of Behchoko to Whati. The GNWT says this road
20 will improve access to services, connect with other
21 communities, and reduce the cost of living in Whati,
22 among other reasons. The Review Board's mandate. The
23 Review Board gets its authority from the law called
24 the "Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act." It is
25 responsible for the environmental assessment of

1 proposed developments in the Mackenzie Valley.

2 Board members are all northerners
3 nominated by the Tlicho territorial and federal
4 governments and by First Nation organizations. We try
5 to make our decisions by consensus. Our goal is to
6 make decisions that will protect the environment and
7 the social, economic, and cultural well-being of all
8 the residents of the Mackenzie Valley now and for the
9 future generations to come.

10 I would -- at this time I would like
11 the Board members to introduce themselves, and then I
12 would ask the Board staff and counsel that -- to
13 introduce themselves as well. Board members.

14 MS. SUNNY MUNROE: Good morning. My
15 name is Sunny Munroe.

16 MR. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Good morning. My
17 name is James Wah-Shee. Masi.

18 MS. BERTHA NORWEGIAN: Good morning.
19 My name is Bertha Norwegian. Masi.

20 MR. DAVID KRUTKO: Good morning.
21 David Krutko.

22 MR. JOE HANDLEY: Morning. Joe
23 Handley.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Board member Yvonne
25 Doolittle, works for the GNWT, so she has declared a

1 conflict and will not participate in this hearing, or
2 any part of the decision-making for this environmental
3 assessment. Our Executive Director is Mark Cliffe-
4 Phillips, and he will introduce the staff.

5 MR. MARK CLIFFE-PHILLIPS: To my left,
6 the Board's legal counsel John Donihee. Maybe I'll
7 just ask the staff to raise their hand or stand up as
8 I -- I introduce you. So Chuck Hubert, senior
9 assessment officer. We have Brett Wheler with the --
10 or he's a senior EA policy advisor. Catherine
11 Fairbairn, EA officer. Simon Toogood, who is the lead
12 EA officer on this file. And Joanna Vince, with Wilms
13 and Shier, counsel. Alan Ehrlich, manager of EA. And
14 Ruari Carthew, senior environmental assessment
15 officer. And we have Catherine McManus at the back
16 table.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you.
18 The development we are assessing includes the
19 construction and operation of the proposed all-season
20 road. It also includes proposed activities that are
21 necessary for the road, such as clearing land for the
22 road, and the preparation and use of gravel pits.

23 Our procedures. The Review Board is
24 holding this public hearing to directly hear the views
25 and opinions of parties, the public, and the GNWT

1 about the potential impacts of the proposed road.
2 Today the GNWT will describe the road that it proposes
3 to build and how it proposes to manage the project,
4 including how its plans to manage any adverse impacts.
5 Following this there will be an opportunity for
6 questions.

7 Then the Tlicho government will
8 describe its involvement in the assessment and the
9 road project, and it will give its views on the
10 potential impacts of the road. Presentations by
11 parties are summaries of technical reports. Review
12 Board members are already familiar with these
13 technical reports, so the presentations should focus
14 on key points and the priorities.

15 All parties will have the opportunity
16 to ask questions after each presentation. After
17 presentations from other parties the GNWT will ask
18 questions. There may be questions from Review Board
19 staff, our counsel, and the Review Board members.
20 Parties must keep their questions about the
21 presentations within the time lines that are set out
22 in the agenda.

23 I have some comments about today's
24 meeting that I hope will make sure that our
25 presentations and the hearing goes smoothly. We have

1 limited time in the Review Board is committed to
2 hearing what everyone has to say. An agenda for the
3 hearing is available by the door where you walked in,
4 and during the hear -- pre-rehearing conference
5 parties were reminded to keep presentations concise to
6 allow for questioning.

7 I ask that everyone respect to time
8 requirements of other parties during the presentations
9 and questioning. Use your time productively and the
10 presenters will be timed and given five (5) minute
11 warnings. When your time is up, you may be
12 interrupted. Keeping to your allotted time is
13 important to make sure that everyone gets their fair
14 chance to be heard. The Board is committed to
15 fairness.

16 The Review Board will be producing an
17 official transcript of the hearings. The transcript
18 should be available the day following each hear --
19 each hearing day. Parties will be invited to ask
20 questions in turn after each presentation, and the
21 presenter will be asked to respond to the questions.
22 The order of questioning for each day will follow the
23 list of Intervenors posted at the back desk with the
24 staff member.

25 After questions from parties I will

1 invite questions of staff, counsel, and Review Board
2 members. All questions and answers are permitted at
3 the discretion of the Chair, but once a line of
4 questioning is started, I will allow parties to
5 question one (1) another directly rather than
6 approving each question. Be advised, however, that I
7 will intervene if it's not clear to me that the
8 question is relevant or appropriate.

9 If the GNWT or a party needs more than
10 a few moments of caucus time prior to responding to a
11 question, I may ask for it to be answered later in
12 writing as an undertaking. I want to be sure that
13 valuable hearing time is spent efficiently. Please
14 use your -- use the microphone for all questions and
15 responses so that everyone, including Wendy who is
16 doing the transcription back there, can hear you
17 clearly. Please remember to say your name before you
18 speak.

19 Members of the public are welcome to
20 present their views directly to the Review Board. You
21 are invited to attend and to speak to the Review Board
22 after each of the presentations today at 1:15 and 3:15
23 this afternoon, and during the public comment periods
24 on Thursday and Friday. Members of the public may
25 also submit comments in writing to the Review Board

1 until the public record is closed in December, and
2 I'll give you a concrete date later on before the
3 hearing is over.

4 If you wish to speak during the comment
5 period at this hearing, please see the Board staff
6 member Catherine on the side by the door and have your
7 name put on the speakers list. I will call the names
8 of the people from this list during the public comment
9 period.

10 The public hearing takes place today
11 till 7:00 this evening. We will have a short break
12 for lunch from 12:00 to 12:30, and if we need more
13 than half an hour for lunch, please eat as we try to
14 continue the hearing at 12:30 sharp. We will also
15 have a health break in the afternoon. Please remember
16 that the schedule is at the -- at my discretion and
17 sometimes times need to be changed, so we'll just
18 follow along with the hearing and see where things
19 come out. But we have to leave and be finished for
20 this hearing the first day at 7:00.

21 In conclusion, we want to understand
22 what you think about the potential impacts of the
23 Tlichon all-season road. We need you to clearly share
24 your views on the potential impacts from the road on
25 the environment, on your community, on the jobs and

1 businesses in the community, and on community culture.
2 The Review Board also asks you to present your views
3 and opinions on how important these potential impacts
4 are to you.

5 After the hearings, the Review Board
6 will consider these views while making its decision in
7 this environmental assessment. Once that decision is
8 made, the Review Board will re -- repair -- prepare a
9 report on environmental assessment. This report will
10 describe the Board's decision and the reasons for it.
11 The Review Board will submit it to the GNWT Minister
12 of Lands and to the Tlicho government, who are the
13 final decision makers.

14 The subjects that we are -- that we
15 will hear about over the next three (3) days are
16 important to the residents of Whati. The Review Board
17 understands that an all-season road can change many
18 aspects of life in Whati. To make a good decision we
19 need to understand what you think. We will make every
20 effort to listen carefully to you, to get the
21 information we need, and to make the best decisions
22 possible in this environmental assessment.

23

24

(BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: See how quickly
2 things change, as I was just saying. So I just have
3 to ask here -- just a moment.

4

5 (BRIEF PAUSE)

6

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: We just wanted to
8 clarify, Chief, was there going to be opening remarks
9 from the Tlicho government? Or was that going to be
10 later?

11 CHIEF ALFONZ NITSIZA: No, Madam
12 Chair, there will not be any remark from Tlicho
13 government.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi.

15

16 (BRIEF PAUSE)

17

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: All right. We'll
19 just start now with the hearing then. I will now ask
20 the GNWT to please briefly introduce its
21 representatives for today, and then it may begin its
22 presentation.

23

24 (BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 PRESENTATION BY GNWT:

2 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: So, Madam Chair,
3 members of the Board, Elders, Chief, ladies and
4 gentlemen. Good afternoon. My name is Russell
5 Neudorf. I am special project advisor for the
6 Department of Infrastructure, with the Government of
7 the Northwest Territories. I will be my presentation,
8 and I assume that we'll get it up on the screen here
9 shortly.

10 The Department of Infrastructure is
11 leading the GNWT developer team proposing to construct
12 an all-season road connecting the community of Whati
13 to Highway 3. And it is a pleasure to be here in
14 Whati to present the GNWT's proposed project to Board
15 members and the public. I'd like to thank the Review
16 Board for organizing the public hearing, and the
17 community of Whati for graciously hosting us over the
18 next three (3) days.

19 For this project, the GNWT is the
20 developer for the project. The lead department is the
21 Department of Infrastructure, but all departments are
22 here and able to speak and answer questions as
23 required on behalf of the Developer. I will introduce
24 the developer team, and ask that they raise their hand
25 or stand when I introduce them.

1 So we have Michael Conway, Kate --
2 Katie Rozenstraten, who is just in the back. Stu
3 Niven, Tom Bradbury, Mark Cronk, Nancy Zimmerman,
4 Alina Goldenburg, Zaiur Rahmen, and Carmen Griffin,
5 all with the Department of Infrastructure.

6 We've got Michael Gagnon, with MACA,
7 Municipal and Community Affairs. Morgan Moffitt, with
8 Health and Social Services. Kelly Mahoney, with
9 Education, Culture, and Employment. Rohan Brown, with
10 the Department of Justice. Lorraine Seale and Darren
11 Campbell, with Department of Lands. Oh, and Tamika
12 Mulders, with Lands as well. Bruno Croft is on the
13 far side. Laurie McGregor, James Hodson, Andrea
14 Patenaude, all with Environment and Natural Resources.
15 Peter Fast, with the Department of Industry, Tourism,
16 and Investment.

17 And we also have consultants with us,
18 Golder Associates. Damian Panayi and Michele Grabke.
19 Did I get everybody?

20

21 (BRIEF PAUSE)

22

23 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: I will begin by
24 providing the Board with a snapshot of the history of
25 the proposed road project, and then briefly discuss

1 the project design and procurement details. This will
2 be followed by a focus on aspects of the environmental
3 mitigation and management that the GNWT, as the
4 Developer, has considered in its proposal to construct
5 this important piece of infrastructure. As the
6 Developer, we believe that the road will have no
7 likely significant environmental impacts after
8 mitigation and management are applied.

9 An all-season road linking Whati is a
10 goal first envisioned by the community of Whati as far
11 back as the 1980s. My first meeting on this project
12 occurred in the late nin -- in late 1999 when fifty
13 (50) or sixty (60) Tlicho residents, community
14 leaders, department officials, and GNWT leaders met to
15 discuss the road. It has taken many years to get to
16 this point, and much has happened since that first
17 meeting, including the settlement of the Tlicho land
18 claim and the establishment of the Tlicho government.

19 These were critical developments that
20 have allowed us to get to the point where we are at
21 today. For many years the Tlicho government and the
22 GNWT have come together to discuss the road under the
23 Tlicho road steering committee, which is made up of
24 the Tlicho Grand Chief, community chiefs, the MLA for
25 Monfwii, and the Minister of Infrastructure. The

1 steering committee provided direction to the road
2 working group that was tasked with pursuing the
3 development of an all-season road.

4 The working group, with membership from
5 both the Tlicho government and the GNWT, has taken a
6 collaborative approach to pursuing this road project.
7 Importantly, this partnership between governments has
8 been carried through this environmental assessment
9 process.

10 In addition to the community of Whati's
11 own desire to have an all-season road, the primary
12 purpose for constructing this road is to help to
13 reduce the cost of living while providing residents
14 with increased social, employment, training, and
15 business opportunities. Residents will surely receive
16 the benefit of less expensive access to regional
17 services, such as health care, education, and
18 recreational facilities. It will also promote the
19 tourism and hospitality industries. The road will
20 open up the road for economic development
21 opportunities.

22 The Tlicho government offers its
23 support for the project for very similar reasons. In
24 its technical report the Tlicho government states that
25 the government, its department, and agencies stand

1 behind the Tlicho all-season road as a community-
2 driven project that will contribute to the growth,
3 prosperity, and longevity of Whati, its residents and
4 Tlicho citizens.

5 For the Department of Infrastructure,
6 constructing the road is a channel to mitigate
7 infrastructure vulnerabilities while adapting to the
8 effects of climate change. The variable weather means
9 we can no longer re -- reliably predict the duration
10 of the ice road season, further emphasizing the
11 stability provided by an all-season road.

12 In 2015, the department released its
13 transportation strategy called "Connecting Us," which
14 included a vision of northerners connected to
15 opportunities. The strategy also promoted a mission
16 to provide and promote a safe, reliable, and
17 sustainable multi-modal transportation system by
18 strengthening connections, capturing opportunities,
19 and embracing innovation.

20 The proposed Tlicho all-season road was
21 identified as a priority transportation corridor,
22 which will support a lower cost of living, improved
23 quality of life, sustainable resource development,
24 tourism, and other economic activities. The 18th
25 Legislative Assembly has also made the Tlicho all-

1 season road a priority by including it in its mandate.
2 It is included under the economy, environment, and
3 climate change priority, and under the priority of
4 reducing the cost of living.

5 The Financial Management Board, the
6 Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning, and the
7 Legislative Assembly have all been briefed on this
8 project as it has moved through the environmental
9 assessment and procurement processes. These groups
10 have provided their approvals, when required, for the
11 project proceed. This includes approval of capital
12 funding for the construction of the Tlicho all-season
13 road in the 2018/'19 capital estimates.

14 I will now move into the specific
15 details of the project. This slide includes a map of
16 the project area and the proposed road alignment noted
17 in red. There are also three (3) larger wall maps
18 around the room that show the road for those that
19 would like to take a closer look during one (1) of the
20 breaks.

21 On the map, the green dashed boxes
22 represent potential gravel pits, which would be used
23 to build and maintain the road. It is not expected
24 that all of the sources will need to be developed for
25 road construction. On the map, the yellow diamonds

1 note the water crossings.

2 The road will begin at kilometre 196 of
3 Highway 3, which is 42 kilometres south west of Edzo,
4 and will travel north for approximately 94 kilometres
5 to reach the community boundary of Whati. An
6 additional 3 kilometres of road located within Whati's
7 community boundary will be upgraded at the same time.
8 Once constructed, it will be 113 kilometres from Whati
9 Community Centre to Highway 3, and from there it will
10 be another 42 kilometres to reach Edzo, for a total
11 distance of 165 kilometres between the community of
12 Whati and Edzo.

13 This slide illustrates some of the more
14 technical details of the road. The project area will
15 include a 60 metre highway right-of-way. The road
16 construction will be 8 1/2 metres wide. The highway
17 will have a gravel surface. Construction of the
18 highway will -- will include the construction of four
19 (4) bridges and eleven (11) culverts at water
20 crossings, and the development of gravel pits, spur
21 roads, and construction camps. The highway will
22 follow the old Lac la Martre winter road alignment, a
23 route that is already well-established and will follow
24 a path that avoids cabins and culturally significant
25 areas.

1 To help understand the design aspects
2 of the road we have created some posters and handouts.
3 The first poster shows pictures of what the project
4 area looks like at various times of the year with
5 photos taken beginning in 2014. You can see that
6 there is already an established route that is
7 currently in use by community members and the public.
8 And that is the poster behind the Review Board staff.

9 The second poster shows the four (4)
10 water course locations where we intend to install
11 bridges, and what the proposed conceptual bridge
12 designs will be at each location. And that's the
13 poster by the door coming into the room. Oh, bridges
14 -- sorry, bridges are also behind the Water Board.

15 The next poster, the third poster, is
16 by the Board, and that shows -- by the door -- shows
17 some of the smaller water course -- course locations
18 and the types of culverts that could be used. Some of
19 the Elders may already be familiar with the different
20 crossing structures that have been proposed, as a few
21 of them accompanied us on a tour of the bridge and
22 crossing sites on October 11th. A summary of this
23 tour was posted to the public registry.

24 Finally, the fourth poster shows
25 examples of similar gravel highways that would be

1 across the Northwest Territories, so you can have an
2 idea of what the road to Whati would look like.

3 You may have noticed on the maps that
4 17 kilometres of the alignment is situated on lands
5 owned and controlled by the Tlicho government, known
6 as "Tlicho lands." The GNWT and the Tlicho
7 government have entered into a land exchange, use, and
8 access agreement. Under the agreement land will be
9 exchanged so that the roadway will become territorial
10 lands upon completion of construction.

11 The agreement also provides the GNWT
12 with the right to access and use Tlicho lands, as well
13 as any required access to adjacent lands reasonably
14 required for the purposes of the project construction.
15 Once completed, the highway will be operated similar
16 to highways -- other highways in the NWT under the
17 Department of Infrastructure.

18 As I mentioned earlier, the GNWT and
19 Tlicho government have jointly pursued this road
20 project. The Tlicho government has led the
21 traditional knowledge and socio-economic studies
22 conducted for the project. The Whati Interagency
23 Committee held several meetings to discuss socio-
24 economic issues and to -- to develop mitigation
25 strategies.

1 The GNWT -- GNWT will continue to work
2 with the Tlicho government on this project. We will
3 work together to maximize the employment, training,
4 and business opportunities as part of the construction
5 and operations of the road. Any time a large project
6 such as this one (1) is proposed, the question of how
7 the project can be funded and how we can most
8 effectively construct and maintain the road must be
9 answered.

10 In this instance, the GNWT will be
11 pursuing the construction and maintenance of the road
12 through a public private partnership. The GNWT will
13 define the scope and objectives of the project. We
14 will undertake a process to select a company to
15 construct and operate the road, and we will pay for
16 own -- for and own the road.

17 Under the public private partnership,
18 the private sector will design and construct the road.
19 They will finance the project and they will maintain
20 and operate the road for a period of twenty-five (25)
21 years, after which the responsibility for the road
22 operation will revert back to the GNWT. It is also
23 important to note that the federal government, through
24 P3 Canada, will be providing 25 percent of the capital
25 construction costs for the road. And this

1 announcement was made in Whati earlier in January of
2 this year.

3 Finally, though a public -- though a
4 private party will -- will be building and operating
5 and maintaining the road, it will still be a public
6 highway and there are no plans for tolls at the
7 present time.

8 Local individuals and benefits -- will
9 benefit from this project. As part of the process to
10 select a private sector partner to construct and
11 maintain the road, we will require the inclusion of
12 Tlicho and norther employment, business, and training
13 opportunities. The response from the private sector
14 partners bidding on this project, and on their
15 approach to including local opportunities, will be
16 evaluated as part of the processes to select the
17 company to construct the road.

18 The project company commitments will be
19 closely monitored during construction and during the
20 twenty-five (25) year operation period. Because the
21 procurement process takes a significant -- significant
22 amount of time, the GNWT has already completed some of
23 the preliminary steps in the procurement process.

24 A request for qualifications was issued
25 this past spring, and we were very pleased with the

1 responses received. The GNWT now has evaluated all of
2 the applicants and have selected three (3) Proponents
3 we will pro -- be proceeding to the request for
4 proposals stage. The RFP stage is expected to begin
5 in early December, and will extend well past the
6 responsible minister's decision on the report of
7 environmental assessment. The GNWT will consider the
8 report of an environmental assessment prior to making
9 the final decisions to proceed with this project.

10 Assuming the Review Board's report of
11 EA agrees with the GNWT's assessment that the project,
12 after management and mitigation, will likely have no
13 significant environmental impacts and the project is
14 allowed to proceed, the GNWT anticipates that
15 construction could start as early as next winter.

16 During that first winter there would be
17 many activities undertaken by a construction company
18 to get ready for construction, including the
19 mobilization of equipment, clearing to widen the
20 alignment, and the preparation of gravel pits. Of
21 course, this would only occur after the appropriate
22 permits are in place and management plans have been
23 approved.

24 Since the project was refereed to
25 environmental assessment various milestones have been

1 achieved, including the Developer issuing an adequacy
2 statement response, Information Requests and response,
3 technical session, and the filing of technical
4 reports. During this process the Developer has
5 continued to meet with interested parties and
6 developed its engagement and consultation log with its
7 most recent update being submitted on November 1st,
8 2017.

9 I would just make a point that the
10 Review Board is typical -- typically hears about a
11 Developer Assessment Report, or a DAR. In this case
12 because of the process we undertook, we first prepared
13 a PDR, a Project Description -- Description Report,
14 and then we updated that. And that updated report was
15 called the "Adequacy Statement Response." So at
16 various times I might be referring to a PDR or an ASR.
17 Both of those are essentially equivalent to a
18 Developer's Assessment Report, or a DAR, just so you
19 can try to keep that straight.

20 The GNWT has a number of important
21 responsibilities during the EA process. For the
22 purposes of the Tlicho all-season road the whole of
23 GNWT, led by the Department of Infrastructure, is the
24 Developer or Proponent of the project. As previously
25 noted, the Tlicho government and Whati Community

1 Government support the project and have provided input
2 throughout the development of the application.

3 Government departments, such as Lands,
4 Environment and Natural Resources, Industry, Tourism
5 and Investment, Health and Social Services, and
6 Executive and Intergovernmental Relations have worked
7 directly with the Department of Infrastructure to
8 ensure that the proposed highway meets all government
9 criteria for management and mitigation, as well as any
10 requirements related to Aboriginal consultation and
11 accommodation.

12 The GNWT has drawn on its in-house
13 knowledge and experience to strengthen the project.
14 GNWT departments have not put forward Information
15 Requests, nor provided technical reports other than
16 the work put forward by the Developer. GNWT
17 departments are, however, available to respond to
18 questions and provide expert advice or information to
19 parties.

20 Finally, once the Review Board issues
21 its report of environmental assessment, the GNWT
22 responsible ministers will work closely with federal
23 responsible ministers to fulfill their statutory
24 decision-making responsibilities based on the rel --
25 relevant evidence provided during the EA. The Tliche

1 government will also have statutory decision-making
2 responsibilities, and the responsible ministers will
3 work with the Tlicho government as appropriate during
4 this period.

5 Key areas of focus in this
6 environmental assessment have been identified by the
7 Review Board and parties, and include wildlife
8 including caribou, fish and species at risk, socio-
9 economic issues including culture and heritage
10 resources, economic well-being, stable and healthy
11 communities, and finally the impacts on water and
12 permafrost. Over the next few days we will be
13 discussing these topics in more detail and we will be
14 pleased to answer any questions.

15 Since reviewing Intervenor technical
16 reports, the GNWT has committed to establish a
17 corridor working group for the Tlicho all-season road
18 project. The Department of Infrastructure established
19 a similar working group for Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk
20 Highway. And that is, it has been very well received
21 by interested parties.

22 The GNWT will create a similar working
23 group for the Tlicho all-season road project. This
24 group will provide a platform for collaboration, and
25 an information sharing mechanism for the Developer to

1 report on the project and to review outcomes of the
2 multiple environmental management and monitoring plans
3 with interested parties. It is anticipated that the
4 working group will meet twice per year and will allow
5 for the exchange of information on the monitoring and
6 mitigation results that may contribute to adaptive
7 management.

8 The GNWT does not support the creation
9 from -- the recommendation, sorry, from some parties
10 of an independent oversight committee. The Tlicho
11 road project will be comprehensively regulated by the
12 federal, territorial, and Tlicho governments, and by
13 the boards established under -- under the Tlicho
14 agreement in the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management
15 Act.

16 Many of these bodies run public
17 processes with a high degree of transparency. The
18 GNWT is confident that these governments and
19 independent boards will provide the necessary
20 oversight and accountability for the environment and
21 social act -- socio-economic impacts of the project.
22 We do not want to create legal or procedural conflicts
23 among the various processes.

24 As noted previously, the GNWT will
25 create a corridor working group to improve

1 coordination and discussion between the Developer,
2 regulatory agencies, and indigenous governments. We
3 are pleased to see the Tlicho government supports this
4 working group, and we look forward to working together
5 with all interested parties. Similar to the Inuvik-
6 Tuktoyaktuk Highway, the GNWT will establish a Tlicho
7 road website to ensure that information about the
8 project is also available to the public.

9 To ensure land, water, fish, and
10 wildlife are not harmed by this project the GNWT has
11 written various plans, some of which are listed on
12 this slide. These plans have not yet been finalized.
13 People can provide further input into the plans if the
14 project proceeds to the land use permitting and water
15 licensing phase. The GNWT may also need to
16 incorporate possible measures from this environmental
17 assessment into these plans.

18 Since the technical session held mid-
19 August in Behchoko, both the GNWT and Tlicho
20 government have agreed to some additional commitments
21 which should further mitigate any resource and
22 wildlife management concerns. The GNWT Minister of
23 Environment and Natural Resources has determined that
24 a wildlife management and monitoring plan, or WMMP, is
25 required for this project. The GNWT has dir -- has

1 developed a draft WMMP, and has held workshops on this
2 plan with interested parties.

3 The WMMP aligns ways the GNWT will
4 reduce the project's impacts on wildlife and wildlife
5 habitat, and what type of monitoring will be done to
6 understand the impacts of the road on wildlife.

7 Examples of monitoring programs that will be done as
8 part of the WMMP include collaring of boreal caribou.

9 ENR currently has collars on twenty
10 (20) boreal caribou in the study area, and would like
11 to deploy five (5) additional collars this winter.

12 ENR is in the process of setting up meetings in Whati
13 and Behchoko at the end of November to conduct further
14 consultations on wildlife research permits that will
15 be needed to conduct the wildlife monitoring proposed
16 in the WMMP. And the WMMP will undergo a public
17 review following the environmental assessment before
18 ENR determines if the plan should be approved.

19 Concerns regarding management of
20 territorial land in the area of the proposed project
21 have been brought forward by parties during this
22 environmental assessment. The GNWT has a land
23 recreational leasing management framework, which
24 articulates the GNWT's goals and priorities for
25 planning, management, administration, and the issuance

1 -- issuances of leases for cabins and recreational
2 uses.

3 By working on the goals and priorities
4 listed in the framework, the GNWT aims to improve the
5 process through which other uses of land are
6 considered in decisions regarding the issuance of
7 leases for cabins and recreational uses. It updates
8 current leasing policies and procedures to reflect the
9 vision and intent of the land use and -- and
10 sustainability framework.

11 It provides the public with information
12 on leasing processes, rules, enforcement practices,
13 and procedures for cabins and recreational uses. It
14 creates a more effective process for cabins leases, to
15 discourage unauthorized occupancy. It creates greater
16 consistency between the existing recreational leasing
17 policies for territorial lands so there is a
18 consistent approach to land management and consistent
19 lease terms and conditions for cabin leases.

20 A priority for the Department of Lands
21 is to promote and support the development of effective
22 land use plans in areas where none exist, and the
23 department is working collaboratively with the Tlicho
24 government and the Government of Canada to examine the
25 possible next steps in creating a Wek'eezhii area land

1 use plan for public lands.

2 The Government of the Northwest
3 Territories is committed to working with key
4 stakeholders to develop an effective ground ambulance
5 and highway rescue response capacity for the Northwest
6 Territories. Work is under -- currently underway to
7 establish a common vision for ground ambulance highway
8 rescue services in the NWT, including an action plan
9 to guide system maintenance and development. This
10 work includes Behchoko and Whati.

11 The project will also consider the
12 utility of the current multi-rescue coordination
13 system. This is -- this tool to help -- is used to
14 help establish first response agencies, coordination -
15 - coordinate responses to highway accidents by
16 establishing protocols, coverage maps, and asset lists
17 available to first responders. The project will be
18 completed in winter 2018, and I fully expect it will
19 result in ongoing work with stakeholders to monitor
20 progress and evaluate results as the system evolves.

21 The project assessed the potential
22 effect of the road on positive and negative social
23 issues in the community. We have closely engaged with
24 the Tlicho government, and the Tlicho Community
25 Services Agency to address concerns around negative

1 social impacts throughout our project assessment. The
2 GNWT will use the existing monitoring programs and
3 mechanisms in place to address negative social
4 impacts.

5 We routinely track the health status of
6 residents in the territory. We will continue to do so
7 to promote and support stable and healthy communities
8 in the Tlicho region and the territory. The GNWT will
9 also continue to support the RCMP and the communities
10 they serve to build strong partnerships and to keep
11 residents safe.

12 Success for the GNWT in this project
13 involves doing things right to the very best of our
14 ability the first time and every time. The GNWT will
15 construct the road in a manner that minimizes its
16 impact on the environment. The GNWT is working with
17 communities, indigenous governments and organizations,
18 stakeholders, and regulators to ensure the design will
19 manage the project's environmental footprint in the
20 most reasonable and responsible manner possible. We
21 have integrated social, environmental, and economic
22 considerations into all aspects of the project.

23 The GNWT will draw upon its
24 considerable expertise in managing large, complex
25 construction projects, such as the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk

1 Highway, which I am pleased to report opened earlier
2 today. We will rely upon our management experience
3 and capacity to operate, maintain, repair, and
4 reconstruct our existing transportation network list
5 that, as of this morning at 6:00 a.m., now consists of
6 2,350 kilometres of existing highways.

7 The GNWT has a proven track record for
8 managing infrastructure with environmental integrity.
9 We fully intend to instill the same degree of
10 commitment toward maintaining the additional 97
11 kilometres of all-season road to the same standard.

12 As to the socio-economic impacts of the
13 project, the GNWT is confident it has sufficient core
14 programs and services to manage and mitigate socio-
15 economic impacts the project may have in the region.
16 Since the outset of the project the Developer has used
17 an inclusive partnership approach whereby communities
18 and residents' input has been fully considered in
19 project planning.

20 This approach has led to valuable
21 comments on the importance of wildlife management. It
22 will also serve to maintain long-lasting relationships
23 built on mutual trust and respect, qualities that are
24 imperative to managing large projects using a
25 partnership approach.

1 For all of these reasons, it is the
2 GNWT's position that after management and mitigation
3 no likely significant environment impacts are to occur
4 during the development and operation of the Tlicho
5 all-season road, and the project should be allowed to
6 proceed.

7 Based on the Review Board's updated
8 work plan, the report of EA and reasons for decisions
9 could be issued by the end of March. It will then be
10 up to the minister to issue a decision -- ministers to
11 issue a decision. Once the decision is finalized, the
12 GNWT will continue into the regulatory phase. This
13 next process is expected to complement the GNWT's
14 anticipated construction start date of winter 2019.

15 Before I conclude our presentation
16 today I would like to outline how we as the Developer
17 intend to respond to questions during the public
18 hearing. For the most part, I will be the primary
19 speaker for the GNWT. However, where required, I will
20 defer to specific departmental representatives that
21 can speak on behalf of their respective mandates.

22 On occasion I will also defer to our
23 consultant, Golder Associates, who -- who will be able
24 to speak to the assessment analysis they conducted and
25 reported on in the Adequacy Statement Response. In

1 addition to these individuals, the Tlicho government
2 and/or its consultant Firelight will be able to speak
3 to its mandate and their level of involvement in the
4 provision of the Adequacy Statement Response.

5 The Community Government of Whati and
6 Tlicho Community Services Agency may also contribute
7 since the Tlicho government and its citizens have
8 greater authority in responding to community-driven
9 programming and mitigations.

10 Our team is looking forward to
11 responding to the questions we anticipate from Board
12 members, parties, and the public. Thank you. Masi.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you,
14 Mr. Neudorf, for the presentation. It is now
15 lunchtime, and we would like to break for lunch. And
16 what will happen right at around -- probably shortly
17 after 12:30 or so, at the request of the Tlicho we are
18 going to open it up for questions for the public. And
19 the public will be starting with the Tlicho people.
20 And at their request we will start with Elders for
21 questions, for women, and then for the youth. So with
22 this in mind, I would like to call for a half an hour
23 lunch break. Thank you.

24

25 --- Upon recessing at 12:11 a.m.

1 --- Upon resuming at 12:44 p.m.

2

3 QUESTION PERIOD:

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Is everyone
5 ready to start again, please?

6 So after listening to the Developer's
7 presentation, at the Tlicho's request we would like
8 now to invite the public from the Tlicho, and starting
9 with the elders, if the elders have any questions.

10 And, please, state your name when you
11 come to the mic. Questions from Tlicho elders in
12 regards to the presentation that was presented?

13 Tlicho elders, questions?

14 Tlicho elders, questions?

15 I think they're just working on the --
16 the translation services there, like the speakers
17 there.

18 Okay. Are we ready then? Questions
19 from Tlicho elders. Please state your name for the
20 record.

21

22 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

23

24 ELDER CHARLIE JIM NITSIZA: My name is
25 Charlie Jim Nitsiza, from Whati. In the past I used

1 to be one of the community leader. For the last
2 thirteen (13) years I was a chief. And we work
3 through land claims negotiations bri -- time when I
4 was a leader. And I'm not here to ask questions
5 regarding -- but how nonetheless I'd like to make a
6 comment regarding about the time I work with the
7 elders and com -- concerning other community leaders
8 to -- how to get the road off the way -- off the
9 ground, by the way.

10 And way back in 1980) when we first
11 started with the late Charlie Charlo (phonetic), was
12 one of the leader from Behchoko, and with the
13 assistance of the four (4) elders at the time that --
14 that the highway was in the works at that time. I
15 guess in all -- so they said something new -- that --
16 yes, the history could rep -- repeat itself, or you
17 know, if we want to bring it back and then that --
18 we'd be able to tell exactly what happens way back in
19 1980s.

20 Yes, that -- with the assistance of the
21 -- some of the elders within our community, I guess,
22 you know, that we're all hoping to see a all-weather
23 connecting to the outline community such as Whati.
24 But it took time, I guess -- for years that it's hard
25 to convince a government at the time because of the

1 fundings, whatever.

2 But nonetheless, that every year, I
3 guess, you know, that new leaders come on stream. I
4 guess, you know, we try to voice our concerns to our
5 political leaders to see if we be able to have all-
6 weather road connecting to our area. But to date, I
7 guess, they -- our dreams have come to true, so that -
8 - like I said, it's not something new.

9 The -- if the -- if the elders of the
10 past that had approved it, I guess, you know, that the
11 -- that they're the ones that have a long term basis,
12 I guess. They know exactly, you know, what
13 environment assessments and all the activities they
14 had to go through. But the -- the -- I'm pretty sure
15 that they -- they had their homework done, and then
16 they -- knowing that, you know, that is justifiable to
17 -- to see the wer -- the road to -- to our community.

18 For all those years that I have took
19 part in the -- discussing the -- the development of
20 the all-weather road connecting to our community that
21 I have said what a lot of ministers, deputy ministers,
22 regarding transportations, and most of the boards
23 (sic) that sit on the board to date, I guess, and all
24 that were part of the Territorial Government
25 administrations and leaderships, and -- but to date,

1 you know, they're -- they're sitting on different
2 capacity; so am I. But, nonetheless, he says, you
3 know, the main issue is the all-weather road and the
4 impact that it might have.

5 I think the -- we're quite aware of the
6 -- where the road is actually, you know, should be
7 based on the land, and then -- I think we did a lot of
8 our -- our assessment that done over years, as to how
9 many crossings of the creeks and rivers, and the --
10 and so date -- and I just tried to give you some
11 comment. It's not a particular question. Thank you,
12 to -- to take part in the public hearing we want to
13 thank you again.

14

15 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

16

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. Questions
18 from elders?

19

20 (INTERPRETED FROM TLI CHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

21

22 ELDER PIERRE BEAVERHO: Yes, my name
23 is Pierre Beaverho, an elder from Whati. I'd like to
24 welcome all the participants in the public hearings
25 here in my home community, that -- with a great

1 respect -- you know, and I welcome you to our
2 community.

3 Yes, regarding -- regarding the -- the
4 all-weather highway coming in -- in to our area, I
5 guess, an all-weather road connecting to an outlying
6 community such as ours, we're quite happy that, you
7 know, that -- knowing that when we first that --
8 thought about it, we didn't think that, you know, that
9 it takes that many people to -- to finalize the
10 decision that we made, you know, with the consultation
11 of the elders.

12 Definitely, I guess, you know, you'll
13 have to respect the environment and the wildlife and
14 water and the land. And then, yes, that we -- our
15 younger days -- I guess, you know, we used to travel
16 by dog team on the -- on the corridor connecting to
17 the main highway from here. And then the -- knowing
18 that, over time I guess, you know, we knew exactly
19 what kind of a terrain that, you know, that they --
20 the proposed road is going to come through.

21 So understand that there are some
22 impact that, you know, we might see that -- you know,
23 that some other stakeholders might find that, you
24 know, that are too hard to deal with it and there are
25 people that -- they're the ones that considered as

1 resource people, and the departments looking under the
2 environment and the wildlife. And including the river
3 crossing and all that.

4 Yes, that the -- we're mostly concerned
5 about -- you see a wildlife on the land, I guess, you
6 know, because that they -- our ancestors, how they
7 survive was solely on the traditional hunting skills,
8 I guess, you know, so they like to preserve their
9 wildlife as much as possible. And that to date, I
10 guess, you know, we're not administering it or not
11 really living that way anymore. But nonetheless, I
12 think ENR, they're the ones that administering the --
13 the affairs of the wildlife on our behalf which is
14 good.

15 And to date, I guess, you know, we see
16 a lot of changes over time. We see a lot of -- a lot
17 of other abandoned mines that are created, a lot of
18 houses they sell up behind, and then -- you know,
19 these are some contaminations that is possible, that
20 we've been hearing from the other, you know, left --
21 abandoned mines and things like that, so that we don't
22 want to practice all that all over again.

23 And then the -- we know that the --
24 Fortune Mineral, too, I guess they have the -- a line
25 out there that they want to develop, and they want to

1 connect to our area to -- to extract resources and
2 then, you know, to have it processed down south. So I
3 don't know what's the impact it might have but...

4 Yes, I'd like to ask something similar
5 -- some type of a question but, you know, like I'm not
6 too sure whether they're real 'cause -- as a question
7 -- but nonetheless I, you know, that the -- when we
8 ask and elders -- I used to remember when the elders
9 are -- they were des -- there were a lot of talks
10 about on what the community impacts were at the time I
11 guess. You know, like they -- they had a lot of talks
12 about a winter road, a lot of contaminations that they
13 might create by dropping out the -- some seepage from
14 the tankers that go on the land, and then the -- so --
15 and then the -- we had a really short window
16 opportunity to have the winter (sic) open for us every
17 year.

18 So, nonetheless, the -- the outlying
19 community as it is -- and then we had -- we out price
20 -- the fruit price is pretty high out here, so in
21 order to reduce it, I guess the elders thought that
22 maybe we should consider looking into to see if could
23 have all-weather road built into our community.

24 So this is where the idea came about,
25 and this is what Charlie Jim Nitsiza talked about when

1 he was a leader. I guess this idea came to his
2 attention. And, you know, with the consultation with
3 the elders, I guess, you know, this is where the idea.

4 And then -- we didn't expect it to come
5 a reality one day, but today it finally came. So like
6 we say that, you know, like we have our own
7 environmental specialist that we tru -- our
8 traditional knowledge, you know, so that -- that tells
9 us that, you know, that viability of the all-weather
10 road is in evident. And, of course, we as the elders
11 true, I guess, with elders' group with the -- with the
12 Department of Transportation, we did explore the land
13 from the -- from the Highway Number 3 to -- connecting
14 to Whati I guess, along that roadway.

15 You flew over with the chopper with the
16 Department of Transportation so we noticed that we
17 didn't see a major lake out there along the route
18 except with a few a little ponds there and there and
19 then the -- so the -- due to overgrowth and all that
20 on the little creeks, I guess, you know, like it's no
21 -- no -- it's not considered as a river anymore, so
22 through the erosions and all that, and all that -- it
23 needs to be studied and then...

24 So, yes that we have to respect other
25 economic opportunities as well too which happen to be

1 the Fortune Mineral, I guess, knowing that the -- when
2 they strike, you know, in the mineral in that area,
3 that -- that's an eye-opener for Canadian Government
4 would think that, you know, had a good reason to build
5 a road connecting all the way to the Fortune Minerals'
6 site.

7 It's just that all these things, you
8 know, that -- you know, thing -- it's not the hidden
9 thing, I guess, you know, that it's been brought to
10 our National Assembly for one (1) time or another. So
11 I think the Tlicho region is very well aware -- pretty
12 well updated from time to time, you know, with such a
13 gathering like this and a hearing in order to further
14 ask question and understand, you know, what future
15 development of the all-weather road. It's all
16 about...

17 Yes, that we did have the -- we had
18 some department -- a visit from the community that the
19 -- we had Department of Transportation, I guess, you
20 know, they explored the land with the -- with the
21 skidoos, I guess. You know, they came and they told
22 us to come along with us, see whether -- to see for
23 ourselves, see where the -- the road, you know,
24 connections would be. And then with certain --
25 definitely we as -- elders went along, and then we --

1 so, we explored at the area where the -- the road bed
2 might, and I guess the -- there's a few river crossing
3 that they took us along to check on with them.

4 And then the -- and according to their
5 estimated time, I think, they -- they didn't think
6 that -- although, maybe the -- the residents out
7 Behchoko wanted to have a shortcut dealing directly to
8 -- linking to Edzo by which the -- the terrain --
9 terrain, it's all -- be too costly to go over through
10 the swampy area, that it might be not viable,
11 something that, you know, might deteriorate in your
12 future, that, you know, might get work done to -- to
13 repair it every year to avoid that. Today, existing
14 where they -- they mapped out the road -- this area is
15 -- was suitable.

16 So this is -- think that they consulted
17 with the community, with us, one (1) time or another.
18 And now that the -- talking about the -- the mineral
19 prospect of it, I guess, of Fortune Mineral too, I
20 guess, you know, that they have to have connection to
21 -- you have to connect the -- the route, I guess, and
22 have to have an access road from the mineral site to
23 existing road from Whati down -- down south, you know.
24 So these are all the -- in -- in the plans, in the
25 works.

1 So the -- when we -- somebody mention
2 about that they thought maybe they say something that
3 just brought to -- to the public's attention. It has
4 been for years. Like I said to my -- my great leader,
5 like it -- and the late elder, Chief Jimmy Nitsiza, I
6 guess, you know, he was -- back them days, I guess --
7 and they -- they talked about the all-weather road
8 even back then, back in the '70s and '80s.

9 And to date that -- knowing that I
10 don't have a right estimate as to the amount of money
11 that asked -- is assigned to -- to make this access --
12 accessible road, you know, profitable, and then the --
13 nonetheless, I guess, you know, once the resource has
14 been extracted, I guess, understand the government
15 might get his money back once it's been constructed
16 anyway.

17 But the -- I grown up from this
18 community of Whati, I guess, you know, like the --
19 we're isolated that, you know, that we don't have all
20 necessary tools and the -- we never had a modern
21 building, even back then, I guess. You know, we used
22 to have a lot houses covered with clay, you know, to
23 seal the, you know from the air to get through and all
24 that, and then -- that we used to have a fireplace,
25 once corner, and that's how that -- that's how we

1 survived, you know.

2 And so, you know, but -- but
3 nonetheless, I guess, you know, that it's always good
4 to bring back some of the history of how some people
5 have survived in the past. You know, that the -- and
6 I would understand that you people came here
7 understand that, you know, that there -- through the
8 history, it's written in the -- history book this is
9 where find all the history but me -- all you got to do
10 -- learn that from -- through our knowledge, through
11 our traditional knowledge.

12 And then the -- yes, that definitely
13 says, you know, like the -- we as an elder, I -- in
14 some cases, you know, like the -- we're kind of
15 reluctant to speak in a hearing like this because
16 we're not too clear whether -- if speaking, you know,
17 from the traditional activity, traditional way of
18 living, to the Western thin -- living, I guess, you
19 know, and that -- how you -- how you justify that,
20 which I don't know, and how well we are perceived, I
21 guess, you will receive.

22 But we should do -- respect one
23 another, and once a person speak in a -- public and --
24 that we should applaud one another. And even the --
25 even the Ottawa, same thing, you know, to ask my

1 eighty some odd six years old, I sound -- sound like a
2 young man here. Thank you.

3

4 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi for your
6 comments.

7

8 (INTERPRETED FROM TLI CHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

9

10 ELDER FRANCIS SIMPSON: My name is
11 Francis Simpson. I'm working with Chief Mati
12 (phonetic). When -- when Elders -- when Elders
13 speaking how they used to work before Elders -- that
14 is -- the chief going -- used to be lots of chief, now
15 mostly young people are leaving. Someday they just
16 want to -- and the elders, they want to speak how when
17 you live in the future, this is what they talking
18 about.

19 Now all in here, we don't want anything
20 to be damaged. All this thing we're talking about.
21 On our land there's going to be a road, all-season
22 road. We used to be all over. We don't really see
23 rocks around, mostly the lands.

24 If they start all-season road should be
25 okay. The road that they're going to make, the all-

1 season road, in August, when they have meeting, Rae --
2 in Behchoko, everybody was here -- everybody was
3 there; now you guys are here again. The -- the road
4 that they're making, we don't want anything to damage.
5 That's how people used to support each other. About
6 the animals, water, river, water, that's how ever --
7 everything living on the water.

8 Anybody or anything that drinks water,
9 that's how we're living. We're living with the water.
10 You guys know that.

11 And when the winter road, when we all
12 the road, that's not going to happen right away, but
13 it's going to happen in the future years. It might be
14 with us or it might be not with us; we don't know.

15 When we have kids or grandkids, it's
16 for them. That's why I want to have a good future for
17 them. We don't want anything to be negative.

18 All the -- all the -- all over around
19 us there's an all-weather road, we go on it. We and
20 Providence, everywhere in the region. Here too it's
21 going to be like that pretty soon. Anybody that --
22 who has a vehicle can -- they're going to visit us.

23 But if you don't talk about anything,
24 that's going to be -- we don't talk, everything is
25 going to be damaged. We need to talk about all these

1 things together. They might meet our cabin on that
2 road for here. We don't live in the big water if
3 there's no -- if there's no caribou -- or live with
4 fish. We have to watch everything.

5 I'm listening to you guys. You're
6 talking about our that. You guys are saying that.
7 Make sure everything is okay. I'm happy about these
8 things you guys talking about.

9 Here -- there's lots of people here.
10 We do know each other just like -- that -- just like
11 we know all each other. That's how we're living.
12 That's all I want to say. That's all I want to say
13 for now.

14

15 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

16

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions from
18 Tlicho elders?

19

20 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

21

22 ELDER JIMMY RABESCA: His -- his name
23 is Jimmy Rabesca. He forgot to introduce himself.

24 We just listen to each other. All the
25 -- at least they're talk -- they're speaking. As they

1 speak you guys listen to them. They're locking their
2 way, they talk about the all-season road.

3 We are talking about all these things.
4 We don't have road. It's too costly here.
5 Everything's expensive here. If we get all-weather
6 road, everything that expensive will being -- may go
7 cheaper.

8 If we go to Yellowknife to get some
9 stuff, that'll be good. That's all we talk about; it's
10 better for us to have that road.

11 In the past all the elders that are
12 living, they're seeing that. That's the -- they don't
13 want to let go of what the elders used to say. Now we
14 live here, we all have kids, we all have daughters and
15 son; we just want to -- them to have a good future.

16 We're talking about that all-weather
17 road now. As we're living here, that's the -- as the
18 elders -- all-weather road -- all the road in. We're
19 not going to say we don't want that all-weather in.

20 Some of them, they're talking about all
21 the animals which is right. We live with the animals.
22 And some of them they go trapping. We have to -- we
23 have to go trapping, that's how we make money. We
24 don't want anything to damage this -- the animals that
25 we -- we eat provide food.

1 All the elders that work -- that's how
2 we work together. We talk to each other good,
3 communicate good. We don't want anything to damage.
4 That's how we talk about all this stuff.

5 All of the elders that used to talk
6 about all this -- all -- all the -- past that -- as
7 we're living here, we want things to be good. We
8 don't want anything to damage. Everything will be
9 good for the generation that going to be living.
10 That's why we're talking about it.

11 Now they're talking about fish, water;
12 that's how -- we live with that. We try and wat -- we
13 want to watch everything for this. If the -- if the
14 all-weather road is in, it's going to be lots of
15 people from all over, non-Native, they might go
16 fishing. It would be good if they be watch out for
17 that because we live with fish. We don't want -- we
18 don't want them to go fishing and pick all the fish
19 out. If we set nets that's how we live.

20 They -- they need to be watched if
21 they're going to go on our land here to do fishing and
22 other -- setting nets. It'd be -- it will be good if
23 you guys were helping.

24 All the thing that -- all -- whatever -
25 - they talk about it, they -- they talk about already

1 some -- some stuff that he want to see. But I come --
2 I don't want to speak for a long time. We just -- I
3 just wanted to concern to what I'm talking about that
4 -- I just wanted to say that -- about the road. Thank
5 you, he said.

6

7 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

8

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Masi.

10 Questions from elders?

11 Someone's mic is on, I think, and
12 that's the feedback, the loud...

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions from

17 Tlicho women?

18 Questions from Tlicho women?

19

20 (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: I guess we're just

23 having some technical difficulties here. And,

24 Norbert, I think you're trying to work on that.

25 We can try to go ahead. Are -- Wendy,

1 are you able to hear okay?

2

3

(BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5

THE CHAIRPERSON: Question from Tlicho

6 women?

7

8

(BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10

THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions from

11 Tlicho youth?

12

13

(BRIEF PAUSE)

14

15

THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, we understand

16 that the youth will be here later, and they'll have

17 opportunities on the agenda for the next few days for

18 their voices to be heard.

19

THE CHAIRPERSON: Moving on with

20 questions then, if I could ask the parties.

21

Questions from Tlicho government?

22

MS. GINGER GIBSON: Ginger Gibson,

23 Tlicho Government. We have no questions.

24

THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions from

25 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resource Board?

1 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Thank you for the
2 opportunity. Boyan Tracz, Wek'eezhii Renewable
3 Resources Board. A question to GNWT.

4 Russ, on slide 18, you mention the
5 Corridor Working Group in passing. I'm just wondering
6 if you could elaborate a little bit whether or not, in
7 addition to the partners listed, if academic
8 partnerships are being considered?

9 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
10 Thank you for the question, Boyan.

11 So the Corridor Working Group was
12 started with our Inuvik-Tuk Highway project, and we
13 did -- as I indicated, we found quite successful.
14 It's -- we do have academics as part of that group
15 that come in.

16 One (1) of the things parties,
17 regulators are interested in is, you know, the
18 research that was undertaken -- or is being undertaken
19 as part of that road construction. It's fairly unique
20 because of where it's located in continuous
21 permafrost, and there's lots of research in it.

22 So we bring those parties, allow them
23 to come and present their projects, and -- and so that
24 everybody is aware of what's happening, right. The
25 main purpose is information sharing, so that -- and

1 there's an opportunity to dial -- dialogue back and
2 forth between the various parties.

3 And so we're not sure exactly how
4 that's going to go with our Tlicho All-season Road
5 Project, in terms of how much research is -- going to
6 be doing. We will have some, I'm sure.

7 We've already installed a few
8 thermistors along the alignment to -- so we can track
9 what happens with permafrost or frozen ground. And so
10 there will be some element of it.

11 And, you know, as much as that's
12 helpful for all parties to hear what's happening with
13 the researchers, will -- they come to that Corridor
14 Working Group. Thank you.

15 MR. BOYAN TRACZ: Boyan Tracz,
16 Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. No further
17 questions.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions, North
19 Slave Metis Alliance?

20 MR. SHIN SHIGA: Thank you, Madam
21 Chair. Shin Shiga, North Slave Metis Alliance. We
22 have no question. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions,
24 Yellowknives Dene First Nation?

25 MR. ALEX POWER: Alex Power,

1 Yellowknives Dene First Nation. I have -- I have a
2 couple questions, Madam Chair, if it pleases the
3 Board.

4 Okay. So my first question is just so
5 -- a bit of a clarification. So the NT-1 range for
6 the caribou, for the boreal caribou -- I think
7 everyone's -- for the NT-1 area. I don't know if a
8 range is the -- the right word.

9 How is that defined, just briefly...

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 MR. ALEX POWER: You know what, you
14 can -- you can just skip that for tomorrow. I'm going
15 to double check my notes here.

16

17 (BRIEF PAUSE)

18

19 MR. ALEX POWER: Yeah. I'm just going
20 to skip my question, actually. Thank you. Thank you,
21 everyone. I'm just keeping you on your toes, and you
22 all pass.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: All -- they were
24 trying to caucus over there, you saw them move, so.

25 Questions, Environment and Climate

1 Change Canada?

2 MR. BRADLEY SUMMERFIELD: Thanks,
3 Madam Chair. It's Bradley Summerfield, with
4 Environment and Climate Change Canada. We have no
5 questions.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions, Natural
7 Resources Canada?

8 MR. RACHELLE BESNER: Rachelle Besner,
9 Natural Resources Canada. I don't have any questions
10 at this time. Thank you.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions, Fisheries
12 and Oceans Canada.

13 MR. MARK D'AGUIAR: Thank you, Madam
14 Chair. Mark D'Aguiar, with Fisheries and Oceans
15 Canada. We have no questions.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Question from Review
17 Board? The staff.

18 MR. MARK CLIFFE-PHILLIPS: Madam
19 Chair, the staff do have some questions. I'll pass it
20 to Alan Ehrlich, manager of Environmental Assessment.

21 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Thank you, Mark.
22 Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm Alan Ehrlich.

23 The Board has more experience dealing
24 with projects that are not designed in a P3 kind of
25 way. So there are some questions that come up --

1 Norbert, I'm getting some serious feedback here. Is
2 there anything you can do about it?

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Much better.

7 Thanks.

8 So we're trying to figure out what that
9 P3 agreement really means, in terms of construction,
10 operation, and maintenance of the road, and what kind
11 of controls the GNWT is going to have which -- it
12 could be helpful to the Board to understand that a
13 little bit better. We've observed that the GNWT has
14 deferred certain recommendations from parties to the P
15 -- to the P3 contractor; for example, bird surveys,
16 some permafrost work.

17 So considering that, my first question
18 is that the Board understands that GNWT is responsible
19 for the management of the road, and that it must
20 ensure that all commitments and any measures from the
21 EA are implemented acceptably. Is that fair to say?

22 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
23 Yes, that's fair to say. And if -- I just -- if you
24 want, to take a moment to explain about P3s versus the
25 traditional approach.

1 So our traditional approach, that would
2 be the government that would either design the highway
3 itself, do the engineering itself in-house, or find a
4 contractor to do it directly for us. But we would
5 then own that design.

6 And then we would go out to find
7 somebody to construct the road. And once the road is
8 constructed, we would take it to operate it with our
9 own forces. So with people that are employed by the
10 department. Or we could contract out that operation
11 as well.

12 So what's different with the --
13 underneath the P3 approach, is that we're going to
14 find -- we will find one (1) company to do all of
15 those things. And we will enter into a project
16 agreement with that company, so there still is control
17 by the government, by the department, over all aspects
18 of what that proponent, the contractor, is going to be
19 doing. But it will be the -- the project company
20 then, our private sector partner, that will design the
21 road and construct the road and then operate the road
22 for a period of twenty-five (25) years.

23 And so -- and the reason we got -- or
24 how we got to that point was that we did a -- an
25 analysis; it's called a value-for-money analysis about

1 -- and it's a study to say which way will be most
2 cost-effective for the government to construct this
3 road. And the result -- the results of that said that
4 it would be more cost-effective to do it through a
5 public-private partnership. So that is why we're
6 going that way. Thank you.

7 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Thanks. Alan
8 Ehrlich, for the Review Board.

9 So, considering that agreement, how
10 will the GNWT's legal responsibility that we just
11 discussed be reflected in that area -- in the
12 agreement with the -- the party that will actually
13 build and operate the road?

14 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
15 That -- all of those commitments that we're agreeing
16 here -- to here today will need to make their way, one
17 (1) way or another, into the project agreement. So
18 that's into the agreement that we will be entering
19 into with the contractor.

20 Sor -- and -- and it's those
21 commitments I guess that are -- we're going to be
22 relying on our private sector partner in order to
23 implement. Some of those commitments are on the GNWT
24 as well though, so those -- are -- will not need to be
25 in the -- in the project agreement. But the ones that

1 we're relying on the contractor in order to meet will
2 need to be laid out in that project agreement.

3 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: So, Russ, in -- in
4 that -- it's Alan Ehrlich, for the Review Board, again

5 In that case, who would actually be the
6 permittee or the licensee for the work to be done?

7 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
8 So, assuming we're -- get through this process
9 positively, then it will be the department, or it
10 would be the Government of the Northwest Territories
11 Department of Infrastructure, that will a -- the land-
12 use permit, the water licence, and we will also be
13 responsible for the -- and will obtain the wildlife
14 management and monitoring plan. The rest of the
15 permits, authorizations, and required plans will be
16 obtained by and responsibility of the private sector
17 partner for the project.

18 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Thanks, Russ. Alan
19 Ehrlich, again.

20 Does the GNWT agree that it would be
21 beneficial to include certain best management pract --
22 best practices in the contract?

23 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
24 The government has been through several of these
25 public-private partnerships, recently, fib --

1 Mackenzie Valley Fibre Line and the Stanton Hospital,
2 and -- so we are continually looking at those and
3 improving the agreements that we have to come up with
4 the -- dealing with the project company. There is
5 lots of other information available on best practices
6 around dealing with -- in public-private partnerships.
7 So we are -- we will be very interested in
8 incorporating all of the available best management
9 practices into those agreements.

10 When it comes down to environmental
11 issues and management plans, those kind of things, we
12 want to do -- we do those -- we view those as, you
13 know, living things. We've -- we've incorporated
14 adaptive management into all of those, as we have done
15 in the past. So we -- those things are -- we would
16 like to continue to evolve them so that they continue
17 to meet the needs, and are adjusted to accommodate and
18 allow for new information, best ways and means of
19 doing. So all of those would be incorporated
20 ultimately then into the agreement that we have with
21 our private sector partner.

22 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Thank you. Alan
23 Ehrlich, for the Review Board.

24 So, considering that -- considering
25 what you've just said, once a contractor has been

1 selected and the contract signed, how much influence
2 will GNWT have on construction, operation, and
3 maintenance of the road?

4 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.

5 The GNWT will be one (1) party to the project
6 agreement. So we will have as much influence as is
7 outlined in that project agreement.

8 There will be a lot of management that
9 goes along with project agreement. So we do
10 anticipate that we will have individuals hired to help
11 oversee the contract, the project agreement, the work
12 that the contractor is undertaking, so that we can,
13 you know, ensure that everything we agreed to is -- is
14 being followed as part of -- as part of that
15 agreement.

16 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Thanks. Alan
17 Ehrlich.

18 Okay. Then let me then switch to the
19 subject of dispute resolution. If your contractor
20 determines, for example, that road clearing at a
21 certain interval, say weekly, is sufficient, but
22 communities and individuals want it cleared more
23 often, how would you resolve that?

24 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.

25 So we would certainly hope that the discussions around

1 when times for clearing are allowed would be part of
2 the discussions that were having now. It would go
3 into any permits and authorizations that we received,
4 so that we're well aware of any needs around that.

5 And I was going to mention before, is
6 when -- other thought in my mind -- there's also --
7 the project agreement would also have a role for an
8 independent engineer. So that's a third-party
9 engineering firm that would be hired by both the
10 government and the project company to oversee the
11 project and make sure that parties are -- are
12 undertaking work as they have indicated they were
13 going to in the project agreement; that there would be
14 dispute resolution that would be part of the project
15 agreement as well; the first level of that resolution
16 would be going to the engineer, independent engineer,
17 to -- to resolve that problem.

18 If, after all those good things are
19 done, the -- there is a change in requirements, so a
20 change in permit, and, you know, we need to clear at a
21 different time, there's a different rule, then that
22 would be something that we would bring up with the
23 project company and agree -- have a negotiated
24 associated agreement with the project company for how
25 that would -- how would that -- would -- would be

1 resolved and brought into the project.

2 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Thanks, Russ. Alan
3 Ehrlich, again.

4 So could you further describe that
5 dispute resolution mechanism. If there was a
6 disagreement over something important between
7 community governments, or the Tlicho government, and
8 the P -- P3 contractor, how would that be resolved?

9 You've indicated sort of the first
10 level, but how -- how does the rest of that work?

11 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
12 I'm not sure I'm the expert to lay out the dispute
13 resolution process in the agreement, and I don't think
14 -- yeah, it's -- it's quite extensive agreement. We
15 can, if it would please the Board, we can certainly
16 provide the detail -- or a summary of the dispute
17 resolution process that would be incorporated into the
18 project agreement for the Board staff.

19 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Madam Chair, with
20 your permission, I'd like to propose that that become
21 Undertaking Number 1 for the hearing, that the
22 Developer provide a summary of the dispute resolution
23 on the record for a date that, perhaps, we can discuss
24 a little bit later on in the hearing.

25 Russ, would that -- is it okay with you

1 then if I -- I take you up on that?

2 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: You an
3 definitely take me up on -- on it, but I would -- also
4 it was pointed out to me that tomorrow Sean Craig, who
5 works in the Department of Finance and helps manage,
6 oversee the public/private partnership, the P3 side of
7 this project, will be here. So we can gear him up and
8 ask to -- when -- as part of the discussions tomorrow
9 we can have him provide an overview of the dispute
10 resolution process, if you -- if that would work as
11 well.

12 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: With Madam Chair's
13 permission the Board would prefer to avoid the
14 undertaking. If you can answer the question during
15 the hearing, that sounds -- that sounds good. A
16 succinct answer would be fine from him. He doesn't
17 need to do a half hour presentation or anything.

18 In terms of best management practices,
19 if I was a P3 contractor, I have a responsibility to
20 my shareholders to maximize value.

21 Why would a P3 contractor use best
22 management practices, which may be costly when its
23 goal is to maximize profits?

24 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
25 You can -- probably better to ask a private sector

1 party about that. But I can imagine that the answer
2 would be that, yes, they are trying to maximize
3 profits, but the way you do that is by meeting all the
4 terms and conditions, being a good corporate citizen,
5 minimizing negative impacts on the environment.

6 I believe that, you know, it is in
7 their interest, regardless of the view that you take,
8 whether it's from a profit view or from a corporate
9 view or an environment view, that those things all are
10 intertwined enough that they go hand-in-hand. You
11 have -- in order to be successful from a profit
12 perspective you have to be successful from a managing
13 the environment, minimizing negative impacts, that
14 kind of thing.

15 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Thanks, Russ. And,
16 I mean, I think you would find the Board agrees that
17 corporate social responsibility is a good idea, and
18 also recognizes that, you know, some companies are
19 better than it -- at it than others and the P3 company
20 is to be determined.

21 Adaptive management is something that
22 the GNWT has said will be an aspect of this
23 development. Adaptive management could, perhaps,
24 involve changes from what's in the initial contract,
25 the initial agreement that you sign.

1 Can you talk about how results of
2 adaptive management and -- and future consultations
3 and -- and possible changes to management practices
4 would be captured with a P3 set up?

5 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
6 The other important part of the project company that
7 we're going to get to be the -- our, you know, private
8 sector portion of this is that they are going to be
9 around for twenty-five (25) years as well. And in
10 order to, you know, take that approach they will want
11 to build that long-term relationship with the
12 community, with other stakeholders, so that they are
13 successful at the end of the day.

14 In terms of adaptive management, we
15 have committed to that. It is part of our Wildlife
16 Management Monitoring Program. And we will, as part
17 of the project agreement, ensure that there is the --
18 I guess the ongoing or the ability to look at the
19 project agreement and -- and have mechanisms in there
20 to be able to incorporate any changes that are
21 required as a result of dap -- adaptive management.

22 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Thank you. It's
23 Alan Ehrlich again. Yeah, I -- I agree that arranged
24 marriage is a tricky business.

25 If management practices are identified

1 over time that are -- are better and are more
2 effective, but are -- are not necessarily cheaper, are
3 there any other reasons besides general corporate
4 social responsibility that would cause a P3 partner to
5 adopt them?

6 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf. I
7 think your corporate social responsibility is a big
8 reason for a private sector partner to want to adopt
9 them. If there is a new requirement as part of a
10 permit or resulting from adaptive management, then it
11 would be a negotiated process between the government
12 and the private sector partner to find the best way
13 and means to adopt those new processes, whatever that
14 might be.

15 I think -- I mean, at the end of the
16 day, if it's going to cost additional resources,
17 additional money by the government in order to do
18 that, then there are processes, mechanisms that we
19 would have in place that we could deal with that.

20 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Okay. That's it
21 for my quest -- Alan Ehrlich. That's it for my
22 questions on the P3 stuff. I want to switch gears to
23 something having to do with cumulative effects
24 assessment. A recent GNWT publication entitled
25 "Unlocking Our Potential: The NWT Is Open for

1 Business," stated that the all season road will, and I
2 quote:

3 "Allow mineral exploration and
4 development activities in the
5 Western Slave geological province
6 and adjacent region to proceed at a
7 much lower cost than is currently
8 possible."

9 Is the GNWT aware of any reasonably
10 foreseeable future developments, including exploration
11 in this part of the -- in the Western Slave geological
12 province or in the road region that have not been
13 considered in this environmental assessment?

14 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
15 I'll give a general answer to that and then turn it
16 over to Peter Fast with ITI, who can provide
17 additional details. So certainly we're -- we are
18 construction this road to improve access to the
19 community of Whati, full stop. That's the -- that's
20 the main -- that is the reason that we're constructing
21 this road.

22 We do realize that there's other
23 benefits that will come from that, one (1) of which is
24 Fortune Minerals who we've had, you know,
25 conversations with and they want to have this road in

1 order for their development to proceed. We're --
2 we're aware of that and that's -- that's in our
3 information.

4 Any time you provide improved access
5 into a region you are, you know, facilitating --
6 providing the opportunity for lower -- lowering
7 transportation costs, which will cause
8 explorationists, geologists, to take a look in a
9 little bit more detail at that region to see what the
10 opportunities are, because they know then they have a
11 better opportunity to be able to develop that mine.

12 One (1) of the big reasons -- one (1)
13 of the big cost drivers of developing a mine, of
14 course, is transportation costs. So those -- you
15 know, that's why, you know, we -- when any of our
16 transportation corridors we will always talk about
17 opportunity for economic development, because we
18 realize that, you know, lowering transportation costs
19 provide that opportunity.

20 So that's -- that's the general answer.
21 And we'll turn it over to Peter Fast with ITI, if he
22 wanted to get into a little more detail about other
23 deposits or potential in the region.

24 MR. PETER FAST: Certainly. Thank you
25 very much. Well, firstly I think it's important to

1 note that Whati and the proposed route of the Tliche--

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: State your name,
3 please, before you speak.

4 MR. PETER FAST: Pardon me. Thank
5 you. Peter Fast, GNWT Department of Industry,
6 Tourism, and Investment.

7 Firstly, I think it's important to note
8 that Whati and the route of the proposed all season
9 road are actually further away from the Slave
10 geological province than -- than Behchoko, which is
11 actually right on the edge of the Slave geological
12 province.

13 Secondly, the -- the PDR and ASR
14 acknowledged reasonably foreseeable activities and
15 local developments, including the -- the proposed NICO
16 mine and hydro electricity development at Lac la
17 Martre, exploration camps, remediation of contaminated
18 sites, the existing winter road, and possible
19 development of a future campground or a park.

20 And so -- and beyond that reasonably
21 foreseeable developments across the broader NT-1 range
22 of boreal woodland caribou included the -- the full
23 Mackenzie Highway Valley -- Mackenzie Valley Highway
24 development at Pine Point, and as well Canadian Zinc.
25 So broadly speaking we think these -- these

1 projections err on the side of caution to ensure
2 there's a full suite of possible activities that were
3 considered. And the tour for this review also
4 acknowledged that the reasonably foreseeable
5 developments discussed were -- were comprehensive.

6 If it would help with today's hearing,
7 I'd certainly be happy to go into further detail on
8 the development scenarios that were developed for the
9 Bathurst Caribou Range Plan that is currently
10 underway. I don't know if that would help provide for
11 the explanation or if that answers your question at
12 all.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Staff, is that
14 what's needed so that you have clear under --
15 clarification of the question?

16

17 (BRIEF PAUSE)

18

19 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Alan Ehrlich, for
20 the Board. No, Peter. Thanks for the -- the high
21 level overview. We have one (1) more question about
22 reasonably foreseeable future developments from
23 Officer Ruari Carthew.

24 MR. RUARI CARTHEW: Hi. Ruari Carthew,
25 officer with the Review Board. Thank you. So this is

1 a follow-up on the cumulative effects question. And,
2 Peter, thanks for just providing an overview of the
3 reasonably foreseeable future developments.

4 My question is related to some comments
5 that were included in the technical report provided by
6 the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resource Board that were
7 talking about some of the reasonably foreseeable
8 developments considered in the NICO mine EA. And that
9 included three (3) mineral development projects:
10 DEMCO (phonetic), Nighthawk (phonetic), BFR
11 (phonetic), copper, gold, as well as discussions on a
12 potential all season road to Gameti.

13 I'm -- I'm curious, with respect to the
14 Gameti Road, if the GNWT can comment on whether or not
15 there are still existing plans for that road, or if
16 there are no plans for that road? Thank you.

17 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,
18 with GNWT. There are -- there have been some
19 discussions about a potential all weather road to the
20 community of Gameti. There are no plans for a road to
21 Gameti. We have various -- you know, I talked about
22 in our presentation our strategic planning document,
23 "Connecting Us." It talked about three (3) corridors:
24 Mackenzie Valley Highway, Slave geologic province, and
25 then this Tlicho all weather road corridor.

1 The main focus for the Tlicho all
2 weather road corridor, all season road, is to connect
3 Ga -- Whati. Obviously the next step is that we could
4 consider extending the road to Gameti. There would be
5 a lot of work to do in order to get to that point. We
6 -- we have had recently one (1) discussion with the
7 community about it, but recognize that there's a lot
8 of ground to cover in order to get to the point where
9 we would consider ourselves to have a plan to
10 construct that road. Right now it's just some
11 discussions. Thank you.

12 MR. RUARI CARTHEW: Ruari Carthew,
13 with the Review Board. Thank you for that answer,
14 Russ. I do have an additional question on a related
15 topic. So -- so this one (1) is in regards to the
16 relationship with the GNWT and the Tlicho government.

17 We heard in the presentation that there
18 has been a tremendous amount of work in collaboration
19 with the Tlicho government and that many of the
20 challenges that are anticipated on the socio-economic
21 side are -- are going to be managed by the Tlicho
22 government or the Community Government of Whati.

23 So just want to -- and -- and maybe
24 this is a question that we can review in more detail
25 on -- on day 3, but the -- the project is the GNWT's

1 and -- and the Tlicho government is not a Developer.
2 So I'm -- I'm curious if you would be able to explain
3 to the Board how the GNWT is hoping to, I guess, make
4 sure that any programs or -- or mitigations designed
5 to reduce project impacts are going to be implemented
6 appropriately. Thank you.

7 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
8 So I indicated throughout my presentation that we do
9 have a very good -- have had a very good -- do have a
10 very good relationship with the Tlicho government as
11 we move forward with this project. And it is a
12 partnership approach.

13 In my view, that's the only way that we
14 can move forward with this type of transformative
15 project so that we can obtain the -- the social
16 licence in order to do it. We need to involve people.
17 We need to involve land claimant groups as part of
18 that process so that it's a collective decision moving
19 forward.

20 At the end of the day it is -- it -- it
21 was GNWT is the sole Developer. And again, that's in
22 discussion with the Tlicho government that it was
23 decided to proceed that way. At the end of the day
24 the corridor will be a -- and the road -- the land on
25 the corridor will be GNWT land in the name of the

1 commissioner, and the road will be a GNWT asset.

2 In terms of -- in -- in the
3 programming, the separation of ourselves between
4 Tlicho government, it's really just a recognition of
5 the responsibilities that have been devolved to the
6 Tlicho government as part of the land claimant self
7 government agreement that they have certain
8 responsibilities around social community issues. And
9 so we're just recognizing that in the programs and in
10 the mitigation measures that we are proposed as part
11 of the process going forward.

12 At the end of the day, in terms of how
13 these things get incorporated into the -- into
14 programs, it will be a process of looking at the
15 issues and adapting to make sure that the programming
16 is addressing the issues. This is what government
17 does all the time and -- and the Tlicho government,
18 working with ourselves, will be no different. We will
19 need to make sure that the issues that are identified
20 are being addressed in the most effective way
21 possible, whatever they are.

22 This infrastructure will be a new road.
23 It will create a new set of challenges, which will
24 then be incumbent on behalf of both governments in
25 order to modify, adapt existing program so that we can

1 address the potentially negative impacts that come as
2 part of the road project. Thank you.

3 MR. RUARI CARTHEW: Ruari Carthew,
4 with the Review Board. Thank you again, Russ, for
5 your answer. I have one (1) more question. This
6 relates to your opening presentation. You mentioned
7 with the Inuvik/Tuktoyaktuk Highway opening up there
8 is now, I think -- I think you said 2,360 kilometres
9 of highways in the NWT now that GNWT is responsible
10 for. The Tlicho all season road would bring that
11 closer to two thousand four hundred and fifty (2,450).

12 With -- with the additional length of
13 highway that's coming out, I'm -- I'm kind of curious
14 about the funding of it. And with the P3 arrangement
15 there's a twenty-five (25) commitment -- sorry,
16 twenty-five (25) year commitment on the contract.

17 I'm -- I'm curious then if there is a
18 corresponding timeline of commitments with the
19 programming and mitigation measures proposed to reduce
20 environmental impacts and -- well, which -- which
21 include social impacts in -- in the Act. Thank you.

22 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
23 Yesterday we had 2,200 kilometres of all -- all
24 weather road or all season road that the department
25 managed. I rounded and said another hundred and fifty

1 (150) for Inuvik/Tuk Highway as of 6:00 a.m. this
2 morning, so that brought it to 2,350 kilometres. The
3 Tlicho all season road about 97 -- 97 kilometres of
4 road to add to that, so twenty-four-fifty (2,450) --
5 two thousand four hundred and fifty (2,450) once it
6 comes into operation, if it -- if it comes into
7 operation.

8 We are following our public/private
9 partnership policy as part of the government and
10 receiving the approvals required as part of that
11 process. So that's what I mentioned in my
12 presentation that we'd been to the Financial
13 Management Board for its approvals. We've been to
14 standing committee on operation planning. That's a
15 committee of all ordinary MLAs. We've been to them
16 and let them know for information. And then we've
17 also been to the Legislative Assembly.

18 We have received approval formal fund -
19 - approval for funding on two (2) different occasions
20 already. The first was quite a significant amount of
21 money -- at least two (2) I should say, and recently.
22 And it's quite a significant amount of money in --
23 it's called "supplemental funding" for undertaking
24 additional planning work. So the work that we've been
25 doing to date, the geotechnical work would be the --

1 probably the biggest expenditure there, which is
2 several million dollars. We've been to the
3 Legislative Assembly. They've approved that. And then
4 also, just this last October, we were there to get
5 approval for the start of the capital funding.

6 Now, the world of public/private
7 partnerships and accounting, and how governments
8 properly account for projects that are being procured
9 underneath a P3 model is evolving and changing. So
10 this project is taking a little different process in
11 that we will go to our Legislative Assembly to seek
12 approval for funding as the expenditures are incurred.

13 So we are anticipating that the project
14 will start -- in anticipation that the project may
15 start next fiscal year, so the end of '18/'19 fiscal
16 year. There was money in the capital plan then for
17 '18/'19 fiscal year. And in October is when --
18 October of 2017 is when the beginning of the '18/'19
19 capital planning money is approved. So we've already
20 received approval for that project.

21 The monies for environmental
22 management, the commitments that we're making here,
23 are built into the capital costs of the project. So
24 when we seek approval for capital, we're seeking
25 approval for the entire project, which includes not

1 just the capital construction but all of the other
2 management that goes into the project.

3 Once the project comes into service,
4 and we -- so there will be another approval for the
5 annual appropriation or the annual expenditure, that
6 will be flowing to the private sector partner, and
7 there will be a process for approval of that. There
8 may also be some additional funding required on behalf
9 of departments.

10 In fact, we know that there is going to
11 be some additional funding required by Environment and
12 Natural Resources for its part of the Wildlife
13 Management and Monitoring Plan. And that will come
14 forward to the government as part of the -- as part of
15 the annual business planning process, the annual
16 process to develop the -- the annual budget of the
17 government. Thank you.

18 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: It's Alan Ehrlich,
19 for the Review Board. Madam Chair, with your
20 permission, our legal counsel John Donihee has some
21 questions.

22 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Madam
23 Chair. It's John Donihee. Mr. Neudorf, I'd -- I'd
24 just address your attention to slide number 16 of your
25 presentation. The first bullet caught -- caught my

1 attention and it was just the way that you phrased it.
2 It may just be language that was chosen. But -- but
3 what that bullet says, I'll just read it to you, "GNWT
4 is considered the Developer."

5 And that's somewhat interesting
6 language. I mean, you are the Developer, or you are
7 not the Developer? Or who is considering you the
8 Developer? Maybe you could just clarify that for us.

9 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf. It
10 likely was just language, as you point out. The GNWT
11 is the Developer for the project.

12 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, sir.
13 It's John Donihee again. Your -- your presentation
14 and your answers to the questions from my colleagues
15 indicate a long and very credible effort to work
16 directly with the Tlicho government in getting this
17 project to the stage that it's at.

18 I'm -- I'm wondering if you could help
19 the Board simply by explaining why it is that the GNWT
20 would say that it is the Developer, and perhaps at the
21 same time indicate to the Board why the Tlicho
22 government is not.

23 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
24 As I indicated we've worked in partnership with the
25 Tlicho government to get it to the point where we

1 needed to put in our applications for -- that would
2 trigger the environmental assessment process. And at
3 that point in time it was jointly decided between the
4 two (2) governments that it would be the GNWT as the
5 Developer for the project.

6 I've outlined -- indicated the reasons
7 for that before, but it was to -- because the GN --
8 because the land -- because we wanted to operate and
9 have this road similar to the rest of the highways in
10 the NWT. And the GNWT controls, owns, and operates
11 the rest of the highway infrastructure in the NWT, and
12 so we wanted to have that same situation.

13 I believe the Tlicho government also
14 wanted to retain the right, the authority to be a
15 responsible minister as part of the decision for the
16 project to go ahead. And so they couldn't do that
17 being a Developer of the project as well. They needed
18 to step back from -- from that. Thanks.

19 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, sir.
20 John Donihee again. That -- that does help. I -- I
21 then have a -- sort of a clean up question, if I may.
22 There are a number of commitments made by the
23 Government of the Northwest Territories over the
24 course of the process. And as you know well, the
25 Review Board tracks them. There's a list of them.

1 And it's the Board's practice in -- at
2 the end of a hearing process like this, once the
3 record is closed, to make a decision -- an
4 environmental impact assessment decision that will
5 certainly rely directly on that list of commitments
6 when the issues related to significance of impacts are
7 considered by the Board. So that -- that's one (1)
8 aspect of what I'm trying to -- to follow up with you.

9 The other aspect, of course, is that
10 under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act,
11 the Government of the Northwest Territories, it's
12 (130), 130(5). The Government of the Northwest
13 Territories is responsible for making sure that, you
14 know, not -- not just the -- the measures, you know,
15 that are going to be -- or -- or could be identified
16 by the Board and approved by decision-makers are
17 implemented.

18 But it says that a government --
19 affected by a decision made under this section shall
20 act in conformity with a decision to the extent of --
21 of it -- its respective authorities. So it's wider
22 language there. My -- my question really is, could --
23 could you confirm, really, we're -- we asked some
24 questions earlier about the P3 arrangements and what
25 the -- your contractor might be doing once -- once the

1 contract is let.

2 But would you just confirm that our
3 understanding is that -- that the Board -- pardon me,
4 that the Government of the Northwest Territories will
5 be responsible for meeting these commitments, and that
6 it's responsible for meeting it's obligations in law
7 implementing the measures and satisfying the MVRMA,
8 and that whatever arrangements are made with your P3
9 partner, all of those things are going to have to be
10 done by that P3 partner so that the GNWT's legal
11 obligations are satisfied?

12 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
13 Yes, I can confirm that that's the case. We will be
14 tracking commitments ourselves. And, in fact, I'll go
15 to our Inuvik/Tuk Highway where there was quite a
16 series of commitments there, over two hundred (200)
17 commitments. And we tracked them and we report on
18 them. We have a table to report on how we're doing
19 against our commitments that's up on our website for
20 the public to see how we're doing in -- in tracking
21 against our commitments, so. We are -- we will be
22 considering something very similar for this project.

23 The -- despite the fact that GNWT is
24 the Developer for the project, it does not take away
25 any authorities, responsibilities from any other

1 department that -- regulatory authorities that might
2 be vested in any other department . We still need to
3 go and get permits, authorizations required just as a
4 Developer would from other parts of the GNWT.

5 And, you know, the best example is the
6 Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan, where I
7 indicated in my notes that we will have to go back to
8 ENR they will -- they're -- they will approve that
9 plan at the end of the day. So, yes, we're a happy
10 Developer family, but there's also lots of
11 discussions, approvals that we will need to be
12 obtaining.

13 We -- sorry, the Department of
14 Infrastructure is actually at the end of the day going
15 to be constructing the road. That we'll have to get
16 from other parts of the regulatory agencies that are
17 housed around the Government of the Northwest
18 Territories.

19 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Madam
20 Chair. It's John Donihee again. And -- and thank
21 you, Mr. Neudorf. You anticipated at least part of my
22 next question. The GNWT uses a project assessment
23 policy in its approach to matters like this. So we've
24 got a whole government approach here. Not -- not
25 quite the whole of government, but you took a pretty

1 good run at it in terms of bringing your colleagues
2 with you.

3 So we do understand that, you know, the
4 input to the -- the development proposal reflects the
5 hard work and -- and knowledge of a number of -- of
6 Government of the Northwest Territories departments.
7 The question really is, once the approvals process is
8 completed and you're -- you're operating, is it
9 business as usual at that stage? So we step away from
10 whole of government?

11 And the concern, really, that I'm
12 trying to ask you to comment about is, you know, if
13 the Department of Lands had some concerns about the
14 way that their tenures were being -- or the terms and
15 conditions of their tenures were being addressed, or
16 ENR and the -- and the Wildlife Management and
17 Monitoring Plan, which is an enforceable instrument
18 once it's approved by the minister.

19 So will those other departments then
20 kind of step back and -- and, you know, they -- they
21 deal with the -- the Department of Infrastructure,
22 which I guess is going to own and operate the highway
23 in the same way as they would with a mining company.

24 If they found that there was something
25 that wasn't being done properly, you know, can we

1 ensure that -- or be certain, I suppose, that
2 appropriate steps and enforcement if necessary would
3 be taken?

4 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf. I
5 think it's a -- it's a -- you have a reasonable way to
6 characterize what would happen for many different
7 types of situations. At the present if the Department
8 of Infrastructure, as we operate the transportation
9 system, needs to get authorizations or licenses or --
10 from various GNWT departments then we would do that.

11 This -- the arrangement that we have
12 here with GNWT as Developer is really just for this
13 environmental assessment process. Once we get beyond
14 this, then it will be -- it's -- you know, essentially
15 business as usual as you -- that it will be -- you
16 know, we will be -- it will be the Department of
17 Infrastructure that will be undertaking the
18 construction, finalizing all the authorizations,
19 permits, working with our private sector partner and
20 all of our management plans. And we will be needing
21 to go to various GNWT departments and other regulatory
22 agencies to get those. So -- and just -- let's see if
23 Lorraine wants to add anything.

24 MS. LORRAINE SEALE: Thank you, Madam
25 Chair. Lorraine Seale, GNWT Department of Lands.

1 Just to add to the -- to Russ's comments.

2 The GNWT, as Developer, approaches the
3 intensive effort for the planning aspects of the
4 process. And I just wanted to comment that GNWT
5 business as usual involves a very large number of GNWT
6 as Proponent projects. Obviously, most of them are a
7 lot smaller than this project or the Inuvik to Tuk
8 Highway.

9 So departments are frequently applying
10 for permits from other departments or meeting other
11 departments' regulatory and administrative guidelines.
12 Their regular inspection authorities and procedures
13 apply. So it -- it's -- I would see this project,
14 once -- assuming it's in operations, that it would be
15 similar to the same -- subject to the same sorts of
16 considerations.

17 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you very
18 much. It's John Donihee again. I think I have one
19 (1) final question.

20 The submission, or technical report
21 from the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board proposed
22 the independent working group, somewhat like the one
23 (1) that was originally recommended by the
24 Environmental Impact Review Board for the Tuk Road.
25 GNWT rejected that recommendation on the Tuk Road.

1 And -- and you've been consistent with respect to your
2 response to the WRRB here.

3 I guess the -- the questions I have for
4 you is this. The working group that you described in
5 your materials, your presentation, you indicated was
6 for sort of information only and you were suggesting
7 that it would meet about twice a year. And it sounds
8 to me from what I heard from the WRRB and what I know
9 of the -- you know, the -- the Tuk Road situation as
10 well, that the hope, you know, that -- that stands
11 behind the recommendation that was made to GNWT is for
12 a little bit more of an opportunity for active
13 involvement than just meeting twice a year for
14 information only.

15 And so, you know, there's -- there's
16 some differences, I think, in -- in terms of the way
17 that the -- the Wildlife Board and -- and perhaps
18 others see wanting to participate and try to
19 contribute to what's being done to manage this project
20 in that GNWT's response.

21 And so my -- my question just in a --
22 in a -- the very broadest way is, you know, is there -
23 - how -- how will, given -- given the terms of
24 reference that you've provided to the Board, how will
25 GNWT work with some of these organizations to try to

1 ensure that this working group that -- approach that
2 you've proposed gets the information to them and gives
3 them the opportunity to help you to manage adaptively
4 that they seem to want?

5

6 (BRIEF PAUSE)

7

8 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,
9 with GNWT. The corridor working group was set up --
10 and it's really additional to the oversight that --
11 and involvement that any individual regulatory agency
12 would have over -- over the department. So we would
13 need to still be getting all required authorizations,
14 permits, licenses, from the individual Boards -- or
15 agencies as required for any project.

16 So nothing kind of changes the
17 relationship that we might have with any individual
18 regulatory agency. And if there's a need to meet more
19 often, set up a different process to -- in order to
20 meet their needs we can do that jointly. Then, you
21 know, we as the Developer would obviously be thinking
22 about that and considering that.

23 The corridor working group was just a -
24 - it's a means -- a way in addition to that, you know,
25 one-on-one individual relationship -- was a way for

1 all of the parties to get together to hear the common
2 discussion, to share common concerns, and to hear from
3 the Developer at same time.

4 And, you know, getting together in a
5 group like that, you can understand the issues that
6 might be on the other side and you can think about how
7 it affects you. And it -- it just encourages
8 additional discussion and dialogue on the project and
9 additional opportunities for kind of engaging with the
10 regulatory agencies. But, you know, nothing detracts
11 or takes away from the individual responsibility that
12 we would have to work with the agency one-on-one.

13 I would -- Stu Niven is here. He's
14 with Environmental Affairs and Infrastructure. He's
15 actually the current chair of that corridor working
16 group and he can, you know, tell you a little bit
17 about the relationships that we have there and the
18 workings of that group if you find it would be
19 helpful.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes. Go ahead,
21 please.

22 MR. STU NIVEN: Thank you, Madam
23 Chair. Stu Niven, with the GNWT.

24 I'm -- I'm -- we're talking about the
25 Inuvik/Tuk Highway corridor working group and how that

1 can translate into the -- the Tlicho all season road
2 corridor working group. And it is -- one (1) of the
3 key issues that you've raised, we raised it as well.
4 We -- we don't want to -- the corridor working group
5 meeting twice a year is there to share information, to
6 really -- looking at adaptive management as a
7 component and -- and building synergies so that way we
8 can all share resources, share helicopter time. You
9 know, all -- all the nuts and bolts to the bigger
10 picture, we're doing it there.

11 But in no way would that limit or
12 diminish the immediacy. If -- if there's a regulatory
13 need for me to see then that -- that happens, no
14 matter what. In fact, what we'll end up doing is
15 we'll end up talking about that at next quarter
16 working group. So that way of there is an issue,
17 everybody is aware of it, and -- and it's -- it's all
18 transparent and open forum so that there's no -- the
19 holistic approach to the entire project is -- is well
20 voiced discussed there.

21 And then a framework for that is that
22 commitment table that came out of the EA. We'd go
23 back to the commitment table and say, This is what we
24 need to do and this is what we're doing and -- and
25 we'll have those honest discussions. But if there's

1 any need for anybody to come in any other time, then
2 absolutely, yeah. They -- the -- another aspect of
3 the corridor working group, it keeps the -- the
4 distribution list current. So if you do have an issue
5 that pops up you know exactly who to go to right away.
6 Thank you.

7 MR. JOHN DONIHEE: Thank you, Madam
8 Chair. And thank you, GNWT for your -- for your
9 answers. I have no further questions.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you.
11 Questions from Review Board members?

12 MR. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam
13 Chair. It's Joe Handley. I -- I hope the -- this
14 private/public partnership becomes more clear over the
15 next three (3) days because really when I look at it,
16 what it sounds like is the GNWT is the Developer. And
17 the -- the private partner upfronts the money, or 75
18 percent of it; 25 percent goes to the federal
19 government. And in exchange gets to build -- design
20 and build the road, and also gets a twenty-five (25)
21 year operating contract.

22 So really it's just a way -- it seems
23 to me not -- not so much a partnership because clearly
24 -- you're making it clear that this -- it's GNWT that
25 is the Developer and that will make the decisions.

1 Just a -- it's basically a way of advancing money.
2 And I think we should call it what it is. But maybe
3 it'll come clear as we move along.

4 I have a question. In your verbal
5 presentation you said that there is no current plan
6 for this to be a toll road. But you kind of implied
7 that there might be in the future. I'd like you to
8 clarify that.

9 And I might as well throw out my third
10 question to you. And that goes back to what Mr.
11 Donihee is talking about. And -- and you were very
12 adamant and very firm in saying that there will be no
13 consideration of an independent monitoring group.
14 Maybe you could clarify that as well.

15 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
16 In terms of public/private partnerships we really are
17 -- I mean, this is obviously bigger than the GNWT.
18 This is international.

19 When we talk about public/ private
20 partnerships, this is the type of arrangement that's
21 being considered underneath that umbrella of
22 public/private partnership, where we as the government
23 are the Developer, which we are for this instance to
24 get these permits and get the environmental assessment
25 approval. And then we said getting the water licence,

1 the land use permit, and the WMMP.

2 But we'll be, as you said, congreg --
3 as you -- I mean, your summary was good in terms of
4 the arrangement that we will be finding a private
5 sector partner to do all of those things, to find the
6 money to get them through construction, so they will
7 have to finance the project. Because we only pay for
8 them once the road is in operation.

9 And so they have to find financing
10 through construction and then they have to provide
11 their own financial type of oversight to make sure
12 that, you know, the bankers that are involved with
13 that side of the private sector side will be putting
14 lots of discipline into the construction contractor to
15 make sure that the work is done.

16 And that's, you know, really the
17 benefit that you get from a public/private
18 partnership. As you have -- you can bring other means
19 to bring efficiencies and discipline into that -- into
20 that -- a private sector arrangement. So we are, you
21 know, there's all different ways to describe it and
22 talk about it. But we're following the -- kind of the
23 acceptable standards for that type work.

24 I said no plans for tolls at the
25 present time and I smiled to myself when I -- I wrote

1 that in there. I was wondering if somebody was going
2 to pick it up. But, really, it's -- it's -- there are
3 no plans for tolls at this per -- at this point in
4 time.

5 All I'm doing is covering myself to say
6 that, you know, twenty (20) years from now we might
7 get a different government that has different ideas
8 for how they might generate revenue and want to look
9 at tolls on commercial vehicles on the road. But
10 there are -- you know, for this individual project,
11 there are no plans at the present time. It would cost
12 us more in administration costs to actually collect
13 the tolls than we would actually get in revenue at the
14 present time, so it -- it doesn't make any sense.

15 In terms of the independent oversight,
16 obviously that's going to be -- all I've done is give
17 you the GNWT's opinion as the Developer for the
18 project that we would prefer -- that we do not like --
19 feel the need for independent oversight. The Board is
20 going to make their recommendations and then that goes
21 to responsible ministers. And -- and, you know,
22 ultimately if the responsible ministers agree at the
23 end of the day that independent oversight is required,
24 then that's where we'll have to go.

25 But we -- we don't think that it's

1 required for this type of project. We think it
2 creates confusion between the authorities of the
3 independent oversight board and the regulatory
4 agencies themselves. It is a relatively short
5 duration project, and we think, you know, kind of by
6 the time the independent board is set up to be a third
7 or half of the way through the project already.

8 And it is relatively well-known. We --
9 you know, we know how to construct roads. We've --
10 we've done it, so we don't think that there's, you
11 know, the need for independent third-party oversight
12 analysis required. Regulatory agencies know how to
13 deal with this, and we also think we've got a great
14 model with the Inuvik/Tuk Highway that's worked very
15 well for -- for the age -- the regulatory agencies
16 involved with that and then for us as the Developer as
17 well, so. Thank you.

18 MR. JOE HANDLEY: I -- I don't want to
19 debate this, but when -- when we first started talking
20 about private/public partnerships there was always
21 consideration of another source of revenue for the
22 private partner. There isn't in this case. It's just
23 -- they're just basically fronting the GNWT, who will
24 have to pay them back. And with regard to tolls, I
25 guess my concern is that I hope we're not going the

1 route of developing toll roads in the territories.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf. I
4 will just comment. The -- the model that we're
5 choosing, you're right, there's no other independent
6 third-party -- party source of revenue. All the
7 revenue is going to come from the GNWT and it's -- the
8 term that's used is "shadow tolls." That the GNWT is
9 essentially providing a shadow toll to the private
10 sector partner to provide the road for us.

11 Its interesting that that's really --
12 some of the current discussions with the federal
13 government these days and for creation of the Canada
14 Infrastructure Bank, which they're winding up P3
15 Canada, Public/Private Partnership Canada, and
16 creating Infrastructure Bank is because they want to
17 have more projects brought forward where there is
18 other third-party revenue, not just government
19 providing the tolls to it. So that's, you know,
20 you'll probably see more of that in the future, but as
21 I said, not planning on any of that for this project.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions, Review
23 Board members?

24 MR. DAVID KRUTKO: David Krutko. Yeah,
25 my concern is more around the working group that was

1 established in Tuk. I know the road from Inuvik to
2 Tuk, there were issues around fishing and Huskey
3 Lake's effect on the blue-nose caribou herd. And I
4 think we're hearing the same thing in regards to the
5 discussions from the Elders, is that they're concerned
6 about over fishing, the concern of other people
7 encroaching on their hunting territory.

8 So I'm just wondering, this mechanism
9 that you have on the Inuvik to Tuk Road in regards to
10 the corr -- the corridor working group, were those
11 issues dealt with through that mechanism? If not, is
12 there another mechanism that we can consider looking
13 at through this process? Thank you.

14 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
15 Sot the issues that you talked about are -- I would
16 say you're correct that similar types of things are
17 talked about on this, and that's why we've had the
18 discussions that we've had, and we put forward our --
19 I guess our summary that given the mitigation
20 management that we are proposing that we think that
21 there's going to be no likely significant
22 environmental impacts. So given the mitigation
23 management that's proposed.

24 The corridor working group, as I said,
25 is really just -- it's an information sharing

1 mechanism for all parties to get together and hear
2 what the current issues are; have an opportunity to
3 discuss, interact with the developer on the project,
4 but nothing detracts from the responsibility and the
5 authority of all of the individual agencies,
6 regulatory agencies that we will need to get permits,
7 authorizations from for this project to proceed.

8 That is -- at the end of the day,
9 that's where the -- the authority is and that's, you
10 know, where we have to go. Make sure that we've got
11 the right plans in place in order to mitigate and
12 manage that -- the issues.

13 MR. DAVID KRUTKO: David Krutko again.
14 Well, I think the concern I have is, you know, the
15 effects we see on the barren-ground caribou, the
16 effects on the different cariboo species throughout
17 the Northwest Territories, regardless it's Woodland
18 caribou, barren-ground or -- and I think it's
19 important that we try to work some mechanism in here
20 that basically will deal with that.

21 You -- you know, we talk about
22 enforcement, we talk about monitoring, we talk about
23 these other things, but it doesn't seem to be solving
24 the problem we're dealing with, especially with
25 barren-ground caribou. Aboriginal people are not able

1 to harvest cariboo because of impacts. Who knows
2 where they're coming from but I think if there are
3 ways we can mitigate these problems through this
4 mechanism because it -- there will be impacts, you
5 know, in regards to more people coming in by way of a
6 road because they're able to fish, they're able to
7 hunt, they're able to harvest trees, they're able to
8 do these things they can't do now. But with a
9 permanent road, you will see an increase in that
10 effect.

11 So, I'm just wondering is there a
12 system in place regardless if it's through the renewal
13 resource councils or dealing with your legislation
14 through the Wildlife Act or through some enforcement
15 tool that you have and put enough enforcement officers
16 at these monitoring stations, is there that type of
17 discussion that can take -- that -- take hold using a
18 similar mechanism you did in regards to corridor
19 working group for the next five (5) years or ten (10)
20 years and even the four (4) year timeline, I believe
21 that's what you said that this corridor working
22 group's going to be in place.

23 So what's going to be in place after
24 that? Is that the end of it once you have a four (4)
25 year timeline and the advisory board is done away

1 with? Cause most impacts you won't see for the next
2 five (5) or ten (10) years. So, I'm just wondering is
3 that something that you have thought about it or is
4 something that can be discussed.

5 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russell Neudorf.
6 I guess you're -- you're hitting on a lot of the
7 issues that we've had to deal with it as a developer
8 and moving forward with the project because we want to
9 minimize the negative impacts that the project has and
10 when I say, you know, given the mitigation and the
11 management that's proposed, that's really I think what
12 we're talking about here and I hope over the next two
13 (2) days that we'll be able to get into a lot more of
14 the details about, you know, what we're planning to do
15 to mitigate those negative impacts that -- that you
16 have -- had brought up.

17 The corridor working group itself is
18 meant really to oversee the construction aspect of it,
19 but it goes -- it will go for a year or two (2) beyond
20 up -- so the terms of reference that we had for the
21 ITH corridor working group said that it could meet up
22 to three (3) years after the project is complete.
23 But, it really is a construction thing.

24 After that, we've said as a developer
25 that this road is going to be managed like the rest of

1 our highways in the -- in the -- in our system. And
2 so -- and then that -- under that system
3 infrastructure manages the highway system but
4 Environmental and Natural Resources manages the
5 cariboo and there's lots of different activities that
6 they are undertaking at the present time to manage
7 caribou. This will be another one (1), I guess,
8 issues that they would have to deal with as part of
9 the -- the activities that they undertake to manage
10 caribou.

11 And the same way, you know, Health and
12 Social Services, the RCMP will -- working with the
13 Tlicho government will manage the social -- socio-
14 economic impacts on the road going forward.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions, Board
16 Members?

17 MS. BERTHA NORWEGIAN: Bertha
18 Norwegian. I'm pretty sure David was reading my
19 notes. He stole my questions.

20 So I had wanted to raise concerns
21 regarding the opening opportunity for non Dene to come
22 and fish in this region, and also talk about the --
23 the hunting seasons particularly, the fall hunt and
24 the opportunities that will be made available to the
25 public at large.

1 But seeing as how David has touched on
2 the -- those points, there's a couple of other points
3 that I would like to address. In one (1) of your
4 responses you referred to the fiber-optics lines that
5 were placed in the grounds for use of cell phones and
6 whatever else, and you seem to take pride in -- in the
7 work that was done when, in fact, there were a lot of
8 -- there were a lot of failures with respect to -- to
9 putting those wires into the ground, because in some
10 areas the wires were exposed to -- when they were
11 going across creeks and small rivers and there were
12 lawsuits of \$34 million. And these were from
13 agreements that the GNWT had made with developers.

14 So when you're making agreements with a
15 developer to actually build the road, what kind of
16 mitigations do you feel will be in place to ensure
17 that that road is going to be built to its highest
18 standards and that the maintenance of the road will
19 also be at its highest standards during the twenty-
20 five (25) year period that you have the ownership?

21 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
22 And -- on hunt -- on fishing and hunting and
23 understand the next couple of days that we'll lots of
24 opportunities to get it into more details on the
25 mitigation proposed and we'll be prepared to talk

1 about a lot more details around that.

2 I had brought up the Mackenzie Valley
3 fibre line as another example of a P3 project that the
4 government is undertaking and it -- like large,
5 complex projects, there are always challenges with it
6 and some of those are -- are being resolved now.

7 I do hope that we can learn and improve
8 on the agreements that we have with the contractors
9 for however that -- whatever those lessons might be so
10 that they can be incorporated. The private contractor
11 that will be constructing the road will also be
12 operating and maintaining it for twenty-five (25)
13 years, so they will -- and then at the end of the
14 twenty-five (25) years they have to turn it back to
15 the GNWT, the ownership of that, in a prescribed
16 condition. So in a good condition for a road that
17 would be twenty-five (25) years old.

18 So, it's incumbent on them to come up
19 with the appropriate construction, the appropriate
20 maintenance standards so that that road will continue
21 to be in good service. We do fully expect that there
22 will be Tlicho involvement with that project, Tlicho
23 businesses will be involved with the project company,
24 so. And those businesses will be invested in the
25 communities. They will be hearing -- getting feedback

1 first-hand I'm sure from the condition of the road and
2 how it's performing and they will want to, you know,
3 minimize the negative and enhance the positive.

4 So I -- it's one (1) of the benefits
5 that we will get by having Tlicho businesses involved
6 because of their -- they will have a desire to ensure
7 that the best service possible is being provided.

8 MS. BERTHA NORWEGIAN: Thank you. I'm
9 a little bit confused. I thought that during the
10 course of the discussions that the GNWT was going to
11 build and is going to own the road.

12 And so, after the twenty-five (25) year
13 period could you explain to me again who owns the
14 road?

15 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
16 The GNWT will always on the land on which the road is
17 constructed. So the highway right-of-way, the sixty
18 (60) metre right-of-way will be GNWT land. We are
19 going to -- underneath this public-private partnership
20 arrangement we're to find an independent third party
21 to actually construct the road and then to operate it
22 for a period of twenty-five (25) years.

23 So during that period of time they will
24 have control over that infrastructure, and the
25 maintenance of it. We, as a government, are going to

1 tell them how they need to do that and while I'm in
2 agreement with them to tell them how to do it, it will
3 be operated very similar to our other highways. So
4 it's not going to be unique in any way, except that
5 we've got this -- a twenty-five (25) year contract for
6 providing maintenance services on the road. So, that
7 would make it unique.

8 And then, yes, at the end of that
9 twenty-five (25) years, the GNWT will then be able to
10 take over the responsibility for maintenance of that
11 road. We, at that point in time, we may well decide
12 that we're going to maintain it with our own forces so
13 we'll hire people to actually do that or we may
14 contract out that operation again.

15 On our existing highway system now, it
16 is a combination of those two (2) things. Some of our
17 highways have GNWT employees that maintain them, and
18 some of our highways we actually have contractors that
19 maintain them underneath -- typically it's a five-year
20 contract for maintenance of the road.

21 MS. BERTHA NORWEGIAN: Bertha
22 Norwegian. No more questions.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions from Board
24 members?

25 MS. SUNNY MUNROE: Sunny Munroe,

1 Review Board. Mr. Neudorf, could you please tell me -
2 - or you referred to academic studies with respect to
3 this road say for permafrost versus that on the Tuk
4 Highway.

5 Would there be any academic studies for
6 socio-economic impacts particularly for the three (3)
7 communities that will be most affected by this road?

8 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
9 Interesting question and at the present time there's
10 nothing formal proposed for a study around the socio-
11 economic impact of the road.

12 There will be ongoing monitoring of
13 that both by the Tlicho government and by the GNWT,
14 particularly the Department of Health and Social
15 Services. But there is nothing formal proposed in
16 terms of research in that area at the present time.

17 MS. SUNNY MUNROE: Thank you.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions, Board
19 members?

20 MR. JAMES WAH-SHEE: James Wah-Shee.
21 I just want to ask, are you going to be making a
22 presentation tomorrow or the third day regarding the
23 corridor that GNWT will own in the land exchange
24 between the Tlicho government and GNWT?

25 If I understand it correctly, it's the

1 corridor from -- where the highway would connect to
2 Highway 3, not too far from Edzo, coming this way.

3 So, are you going to make a
4 presentation regarding the potential use of the
5 corridor and perhaps getting into the impact? Will
6 you be making that information available tomorrow or
7 on the third day is my question.

8 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
9 The -- there are presentations by the developer on day
10 2 and day 3, so tomorrow and -- and Friday but they
11 would focus on cariboo/wildlife on the first day, and
12 then on fish and water, and social economics stuff on
13 the third day.

14 But we'll be pleased to answer any
15 questions that you have on the -- on the corridor
16 itself and on the -- particularly on the land use and
17 access agreement that we entered into with the Tlicho
18 government.

19 The main reason for needing that
20 agreement was because the -- the 17 kilometres further
21 north or close to Whati are actually on Tlicho lands,
22 Tlicho private lands, and we do want to as I said have
23 it all be GNWT land at the end of the day. So the --
24 the land use -- access use agreement that we entered
25 into with the Tlicho allows for the orderly transfer

1 of that land at the -- and we want to be exchanging
2 lands so the GNWT will get the 60 metre wide right-of-
3 way for that top 17 kilometres and then in exchan --
4 we will provide the Tlicho government with other land
5 that would compensate for that. So it's a -- same
6 number of hectares of land will be exchanged.

7 And then that access agreement also
8 provides us the right to go on to Tlicho lands and
9 undertake -- or be able to do the work required in
10 order to construct a road. So to clear, to develop
11 gravel pits and construct the alignment as required.

12 MR. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Madam Chair,
13 James Wah-Shee. In regards to the -- the corridor
14 that will be created from Highway 3 to Whati here, as
15 I understand it correctly GNWT might consider
16 recreational fishing within that corridor between
17 Highway 3 and Whati here.

18 The other thing is that the possibility
19 of having GNWT give consideration and approval for
20 building cabins from -- within that corridor. I would
21 understand that that would be under the jurisdiction
22 of GNWT if that was made -- if an application was
23 received by GNWT for cabins.

24 And my question does not only confined
25 to the possibility of having cabins built along that

1 route but also the possibility for recreational
2 fishing, possibility of campsites and so forth,
3 because obviously we are fortune tellers. We don't
4 know what will be in store in the next fifty (50)
5 years or so but...

6 I just given the possibility of -- of
7 the land use within the corridor and also recreational
8 activities associated with fish and wildlife, I wonder
9 after all this project is -- is done, completed and
10 you're into the operation and management of the
11 highway, you also have responsibility for other
12 activities associated with -- on the land.

13 So my question is if -- if you are
14 going to contemplate and consider these activities,
15 could you give me a very clear idea in terms of how
16 you are going to give these applications
17 consideration? Are you going to still sit down and
18 work with the Tlicho government regarding those
19 activities starting from Highway 3 coming this way?

20 It's to give the people that reside in
21 this area a level of comfort. You might be aware
22 under the Tlicho land claims agreement that the Tlicho
23 government is the landowner. They are the ones that
24 hold land title on behalf of all the Tlicho citizens.
25 The Tlicho individual citizens do not own the land,

1 it's -- it's collective. It's owned by the Tlicho
2 nation, if you will.

3 So it seems to me that -- that the
4 Tlicho government will still have accountabilities in
5 regards to what happens on Highway 3 coming to Whatì;
6 in other words, I don't see the Tlicho government
7 washing their hands of their responsibility under the
8 Tlicho agreement nor should you as representing the
9 GNWT.

10 So you talk about the working
11 relationship between now and once the EA is completed
12 and then you get into the construction and then you
13 get into the O&M. So could I get an understanding in
14 regards to once this project is completed, what kind
15 of working relationship will you have between GNWT and
16 the Tlicho government regarding this area and,
17 obviously, there has to be a continued monitoring of
18 activities between Highway 3 and over here.

19 So, could you give me some idea after
20 the project is done and what kind of working
21 relationship you will have. Thank you.

22 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf.
23 Thanks for the comments and for the insight. The --
24 what we're proposing to construct is a all-weather
25 road from Highway 3 to Whatì.

1 We're not proposing any other changes
2 in terms of governmental responsibilities, oversight,
3 regulatory authorities, et cetera. All we're
4 proposing is to construct a road.

5 Now, when we construct that road that
6 obviously changes individual's opportunities. You
7 talked about the opportunity for people to go fishing,
8 to go hunting, to have cabins in the corridor. The
9 road -- the construction of the all-season road
10 changes those opportunities.

11 And we talked about our relationship we
12 have with the Tlicho government. We will -- that
13 relationship will continue it's just that we will also
14 have to manage the -- those additional
15 responsibilities or opportunities that are created as
16 a result of the -- this highway being constructed.

17 But, Tlicho government will maintain
18 its responsibilities that it always has. We talked
19 about a -- in my presentation working with Health and
20 Social Services and Tlicho community services agency.
21 They will still have their individual responsibilities
22 over the social programs and to mitigate the negative
23 social impacts. They will -- this road will be
24 another one (1) of the potential factors that they
25 will have to consider when they're developing their

1 programing but nothing changes in terms of the
2 individual responsibilities.

3 In terms of the land access, the top 17
4 kilometres are Tlicho lands held by the Tlicho
5 government. As you noted, the bottom portion of that
6 is actually within the Wek'eezhii land area but it's
7 controlled by the Government of the Northwest
8 Territories.

9 And we are -- have various work
10 underway to manage that land, one of which is the --
11 our discussion -- we brought it up in the slides about
12 wanting to -- or beginning work on a Wek'eezhii land
13 use plan that would dictate what uses are acceptable
14 on which -- different areas of the land. One (1) of
15 the things to be considered as part of that land use
16 planning activity will be the fact that there's now
17 access to the community of Whati.

18 So we'll have to incorporate that into
19 the -- to the land use plan. So, same
20 responsibilities as before but now there is -- is a
21 acquirement to consider the impacts of this road.

22 MR. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Thank you. I
23 have no further questions. Masi.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. At this time,
25 what I would like to do then is just for the next

1 couple of minutes because we have a few more people
2 that came in from the community, I would like to open
3 the floor up to questions from the elders, the women
4 or any youth that have come into the building.

5 So questions from any elders, women or
6 youth?

7

8 (BRIEF PAUSE)

9

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, no questions.
11 Just before we call a break, I would like to ask that
12 if there's extra headsets out there or someone that
13 isn't using their headsets if they can put it on the
14 table by Catherine -- just put up your hand there,
15 Catherine -- and return them because we are short of
16 headsets. So unfortunately. So if you're not using
17 them if you can just put them on the table so someone
18 else can use them.

19 Okay, we'll have a break for fifteen
20 (15) minutes.

21

22 --- Upon recessing at 2:46 p.m.

23 --- Upon resuming at 3:12 p.m.

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Are we ready

1 to start our next presentation, please. If we could
2 take our seats.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Our next
7 presentation this afternoon -- our next presentation
8 this afternoon is by the Tlicho Government, and
9 they'll be presenting their presentation to us here,
10 so the Tlicho Government, the floor is all yours.

11

12 PRESENTATION BY THE TLICHO GOVERNMENT:

13 MS. TAMMY STEINWOUND-DESCHAMBEAULT:

14 Madam Chair, members of the Board, Board staff,
15 Intervenors, Chief Nitsiza, community members of
16 Whati, Elders, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Tammy
17 Steinwound-Deschambeault. I'm born and raised in
18 Behchoko. (NATIVE TONGUE SPOKEN)

19 I'm here on behalf of the Tlicho
20 Government as a director of the Department of Culture
21 and Lands protection. Lisa Nitsiza, senior
22 administrative officer for Whati with the community
23 government will also be presenting with me.

24 Our Tlicho Government team consists of
25 the following members, and as I say their name, I'd

1 like for them to stand up, please. Elders Joe
2 Champlain, Francis Simpson, Charlie Apple, Louis
3 Flunkie, Jessica Hum, Tiana Steinwound, Georgina
4 Chocolate, Heather Jacobsen, Zabey Nevitt, Ginger
5 Gibson, and Lisa Nitsiza.

6

7

(BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9

MS. TAMMY STEINWOUND-DESCHAMBEAULT:

10 We would like to begin our pres -- presentation with
11 some background information. This has been a
12 community-led project and priority for the community
13 of Whati. The road has been requested for many years
14 by the people of Whati. Discussions have been taking
15 place within the community prior to 2008. This is
16 been a topic amongst leadership and community members
17 for some time now. Earlier this morning, we heard
18 from Elder Chief Charlie Jim Nitsiza, who said this is
19 been going on for nearly forty (40) years.

20 It's important for the people of Whati
21 and the rest of the people in the Tlicho region that
22 this road be connected to the main highway to give
23 year-round accessibility, making living in Whati more
24 affordable. And the road will help to create more job
25 opportunities for the community. It will also

1 increase economic development opportunities and
2 tourism for the people in Whati.

3 The Tlicho Government has built and
4 maintained many partnerships from this project
5 already. Tlicho Government has worked with various
6 governments and agencies on this file to ensure that
7 the work is being done right and in the manner that is
8 supportive and respectful of the Tlicho agreement.

9 The Tlicho government has maintained
10 relationships with the GNWT, the TCSA, the community
11 government of Behchoko, the community government of
12 Whati, Aurora College, the RCMP, and also with Tlicho
13 Elders, harvesters and community members. The Roads
14 Working Group and Committee has been working on this
15 project since 2007. Elders has give -- have given
16 guidance throughout their participation on this very
17 important project. In working with the community of
18 Whati, Elders have been helpful in identifying
19 possible routes since their discussions in 2007.

20 Initially, there were six (6) routes
21 for the Whati road. From there, it has been narrowed
22 down to one (1) route which has been previously used.
23 This route will help to minimize disturbance and
24 impact to untouched lands in our region.

25 The Tlicho Government has been running

1 community meetings consistently with Whati community
2 government and the GNWT's Department of
3 Transportation. In addition to working with the
4 community of Whati, interagency meetings have
5 commenced since 2013 and they still continue today.
6 Here is a listing of some meetings that have been held
7 over the years, not only in Whati but also in one (1)
8 of our three (3) other communities. These meetings
9 regarding the Tlicho all-season road is not only
10 important to the community of Whati, but to the other
11 communities within our region. It affects all our
12 people. The next Whati interagency meeting is
13 scheduled for the new year.

14 TG is in on -- is ongoing discussions
15 with the Government of the Northwest Territories
16 regarding request for proposals. This process will
17 determine a project builder for the Tlicho all-season
18 road. Important selection criteria we are looking for
19 in a good project builder includes a project builder
20 that will help to fulfil employment targets. Also
21 securing the contracting opportunities for Tlicho
22 businesses is also important. Some of that might
23 include brush cutting, clearing, other activities in
24 helping to build the road. Ensuring required training
25 programs will be developed to put -- in partnership

1 with local and regional training organizations
2 throughout the construction and maintenance phase.

3 Throughout the assessment phase, we
4 have been working on several key areas of focus.
5 Earlier we were saying how a lot of this is also the
6 same as what the GNWT has, so fish, caribou, and
7 wildlife, traditional use, cultural and heritage
8 resources, economic well-being, and stable and healthy
9 com -- communities. Through Elder interviews, these
10 areas of focus have been identified as the key
11 concerns. From this, further research was conducted.

12 Earlier, there was a question on the
13 socioeconomic study. You'll be happy to know that the
14 Tlicho Government has conducted their own traditional
15 knowledge study and socio-economic study. The Tlicho
16 Government has prepared those reports, and those two
17 (2) reports were reviewed by the Tlicho Government and
18 Whati community government.

19 From this research and its findings,
20 Tlicho Government and the community of Whati have
21 jointly developed a listing of commitments. Thirteen
22 (13) commitments have been identified under the
23 following six (6) headings: Community safety,
24 economic development, community preparedness,
25 governance, TCSA, and municipal collaboration.

1 The Tlicho Government has a variety of
2 monitoring programs that we have worked on in the past
3 and continue to carry out today. Three (3) in
4 particular connect with the Tlicho all-season road.
5 They are the Boots on the Ground Monitoring Program,
6 which looks at caribou and other wildlife, including
7 predators and their habitat in the Contwoyto Lake.
8 Boots on the Ground also looks at industrial
9 disturbance in the area.

10 The caribou in that area also come
11 through here, so this is an important monitoring
12 program for the Tlicho people. The Marian Watershed
13 Monitoring Program studies the water, the fish, and
14 sediment in the area. This year, they also took tree
15 core samples. The Tlicho Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring
16 Program studies water, fish, and sediment as well.
17 The Tlicho Government has been working on their own
18 monitoring programs because we feel that it's
19 important that our own people be given proper training
20 and be the eyes and the ears of our land.

21 Partnerships that make these monitoring
22 programs available include Wek'eezhii Renewable
23 Resources Board, Wek'eezhii Lands and Water Board,
24 Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Golder Associates,
25 Tlicho Government, and Tlicho communities of Behchoko,

1 Whati, Wekweti, and Gameti, and ENR, to name a few
2 partners.

3 In looking at new commitments, we'd
4 like to focus on traditional -- traditional knowledge.
5 So developing a monitoring strategy, for example, with
6 the Department of Fisheries and -- and Oceans, the
7 joint monitoring strategy developed between the Tlicho
8 Government and Department of Fisheries and Oceans is a
9 monitoring strategy which will be at the lake and its
10 creedal survey, which is an -- an observation method
11 documenting how many fish are taken from the lake at a
12 given point in time.

13 Other TK information that's related to
14 the fish (NATIVE TONGUE SPOKEN). That information
15 that the Elders have, that knowledge that they have is
16 also important to incorporate. With GNWT's Wildlife
17 Management and Monitoring Programs, TG is willing to
18 consider other traditional knowledge studies and
19 programs with the Elders leading the way in this area.

20 It is important that we continue to use
21 the land for traditional use, such as berry picking,
22 wood cutting, medicine harvesting, hunting, fishing,
23 trapping, just being out on the land, in the
24 environment. We know the land brings healing, and for
25 our people, this is really important. Culture and

1 heritage resources such as cabins, grave sites, and
2 other sacred sites are also to stay protected along
3 the Tlicho all-season road.

4 The Tlicho agreement and the Tlicho
5 land use plan outlined the Tlicho Government's
6 authority to manage and control access to Tlicho
7 lands, and outlines the goals and plans for economic
8 growth and land protection in the future. When we're
9 looking at buildings, or construction -- site
10 construction, as a general rule, no one can build a
11 cabin on Tlicho lands who is not Tlicho.

12 In terms of language programming, the
13 Tlicho Government supports the K to 12 Tlicho Yati
14 language programming at Mezi Community School in
15 Whati, as well as its locally developed courses Tlicho
16 Yati fifteen (15), twenty-five (25), thirty-five (35),
17 and other locally developed courses, such as the
18 Tlicho agreement course. These programs are offered
19 through Tlicho commun -- Tlicho Community Services
20 Agency, or TCSA.

21 The Tlicho Government is working in
22 partnership with the University of Victoria in
23 offering a variety of CALR, or Community Aboriginal
24 Language Revitalization courses in the past, and also
25 coming in the new year. This partnership with other

1 universities in terms of language revitalization is
2 very important, as language revitalization is key in
3 working with people to increase our Aboriginal
4 languages. As we all know from recent statistics, our
5 language speakers are -- are declining. This is a
6 area of huge importance, and an area that we really
7 need to focus on, and Tlicho Government is committed
8 to that.

9 Through the Tlicho Language Regional
10 Plan funding that we get from EC and E, we're planning
11 to have a variety of activities, programs running
12 throughout the region, including Whati. This will
13 include a variety of community initiatives to assist
14 with language maintenance and enhancement: Variety
15 shows, or what is like a talent show, but all
16 conducted in the language is one (1) example; a
17 master/apprentice program, or some of you might know
18 it as a mentor/apprentice program, where the Elder is
19 the teacher and they are partnered up with a youth,
20 working on a specific task.

21 As they work on that specific task,
22 they learn the language that it encompasses, that is
23 all about that task. We're also talking about
24 youth/Elder partner radio shows, where the youth
25 controls the technology, and the Elder is also

1 delivering the programs, and together, they are
2 delivering the whole radio show.

3 Community language classes will
4 continue. Elder interviews where youth who do not
5 speak the language are partnered up with a speaker --
6 a fluent speaker, and together, they work together in
7 working with the Elders in getting interviews on
8 various topics. From that information, we would like
9 to create a Elder's biography in print form, and also
10 for the -- for the web -- the internet. This way,
11 people that are not able to read, they can hear using
12 the audio files that are on the internet.

13 A focus on home language used is also
14 very important, and that will be done with the schools
15 and -- and working with parents. In terms of Tlicho
16 culture and way of life, programs that we annually --
17 annually plan for will continue, such as the trapping
18 programs, canoe trips around the lake, grave site
19 upkeep in town and out on the land, trails upkeep,
20 harvesting, including woodcutting, berry picking,
21 hunting, fishing, trapping. What we've always done in
22 the past, we will continue to support.

23

24

(BRIEF PAUSE)

25

1 MS. TAMMY STEINWOUND-DESCHAMBEAULT:
2 This map shows cultural values as the title of the
3 route along the Tlicho all-season road. So the TK
4 study identified sacred sites, grave sites, and all
5 our trail sites throughout this area. This map shows
6 the area around the proposed Tlicho all-season road.

7 I don't know if I mentioned cabins and
8 other important areas are identified. We continue to
9 work with the Elders about these sites, including
10 verifying them in the field before construction
11 starts. We would also like to have signage in both
12 English and Tlicho along this route.

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16 MS. TAMMY STEINWOUND-DESCHAMBEAULT:
17 The new Corridor Working Group was proposed by the
18 GNWT, which will consist of parties to the
19 environmental assessment with a mandate to provide
20 discussion, dialogue, and advice to the Proponent.
21 The new Corridor Working Group will oversee the
22 construction phase, and from this morning, about at
23 least three (3) years into the project. The Tlicho
24 Government is committed to assisting with that.

25 And now I'd like to turn over the rest

1 of the presentation to Lisa.

2 MS. LISA NITSIZA: Thank you, Madam
3 Chair, and Board members, and to everybody who is
4 here. Masi cho for coming to Whati.

5 Interagency committee -- sorry -- has
6 started in 2013 till 2017. We've called it a special
7 interagency meeting where we had groups come in from
8 Yellowknife to work with our local people in regards
9 to the all-season road. We did not have one in 2014
10 due to the fire season. We were nearly evacuated, but
11 therefore, we were not, and we were okay to stay. It
12 was a -- a tough year.

13 The goals: Strengthen community well-
14 being and prepare the committee for the road through
15 programming and interagency coordination, social and
16 community programming, the MOU with Tlicho Government,
17 TCSA, and RCMP. This MOU was recently signed. We've
18 had our first parenting class. This was the hard work
19 of the previous RCMP that was here. He left for Fort
20 Providence, but we've continued on with the program.
21 It's a program where we do a parenting class for the
22 youth, for the committee members on a monthly basis,
23 if we can. Our next one is scheduled for the end of
24 this month.

25 Thirteen (13) commit -- commitments

1 that deal with community safety, economic development,
2 community prep -- preparedness and governance,
3 economic well-being. Economic well-being is part of
4 the -- the Tlicho region Economic Development Working
5 Group that started a couple years ago. It started as
6 a small group with the all Tlicho SAOs from Gameti,
7 Wekweti, Behchoko, and Whati. It grew into the
8 economic development officers each community, along
9 with the com -- community directors of each community,
10 and therefore more have been added. Every year, this
11 group increases, therefore, a five (5) year strategic
12 plan has been in place, and we're now working on a
13 tourism package for the upcoming years.

14

(BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 MS. LISA NITSIZA: Strengthen
18 community economic development through programs and
19 resources, positive impacts expected by way of
20 economic development opportunities; investment and
21 training programs prep -- to prepare a Tlicho
22 workforce. Through this investment and training
23 programs is through the Tlicho region Economic
24 Development Working Group as part of the five (5) year
25 plan for each community to see what training is

1 needed.

2 For the all-season road coming up, if
3 it does come up, will be your heavy equipment
4 operators, your Class 5, just your basic class
5 driver's licence is too, is required. There is safety
6 boot camp as well. There is confined space part of
7 this training. It's all in this five (5) year plan
8 that we have for each community.

9 A commitment to improve women's safety
10 in the workplace and in the community. By saying this
11 is that we're trying to work towards the younger
12 generation, make sure that they're safe, that they
13 know how to work in a safe place, that they know their
14 safety protocols, and they know who to speak to if
15 anything does occur.

16 You don't see in there. Yeah. You
17 can't see it on there, on there, there's -- is that --
18 collaboration with MACA and emergency response,
19 community government of Whati has prepared in
20 training. We do have a Community Emergency Plan in
21 place. We've recently did an live airport exercise
22 here in Whati in October of last year where we did
23 triage. And -- and -- incident happens, there was an
24 airport accident, we have all community government
25 staff trained. We do table-top exercise yearly with

1 counsel and staff as well.

2

3

(BRIEF PAUSE)

4

5 MS. LISA NITSIKA: Sta -- stable and
6 healthy communities. We have been working hard since
7 the planning has started in 2007, but I've been with
8 the community government since 2013. I started as the
9 trainee for a two (2) year program, then became the SA
10 in 2015. Since I've been in there 2013, the all-
11 season road has been a topic. And that's when the
12 first special interagency meeting began.

13 Our goal in Whati are to strengthen
14 community security and safety through resilient
15 policies, policing, and programs, strengthen community
16 economic development through programs or resources,
17 prepare the community of Whati for road development
18 through programs, intergovernmental coordination and
19 provisions of resources, prepare the citizens and
20 governments for road development throughout
21 development of predictable regulations, policies and
22 supportive services.

23

MS. TAMMY STEINWOUND-DESCHAMBEAULT:

24 Masi, Lisa.

25

In closing, I just want to say that

1 Tlicho Government recognizes that there will be
2 impacts, and we do not have complete certainty on what
3 they will be. For the predicted impacts, we have a
4 plan and committed mitigations in place. We will
5 continue to adaptively manage impacts as need be. We
6 will monitor and adjust our plan accordingly.

7 Tlicho Government does not foresee any
8 significant impacts after application of monitoring,
9 management, and mitigations are applied. Tlicho
10 Government is in full support of the Tlicho all-season
11 road to Whati. Masi.

12

13 PUBLIC COMMENTS:

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you for
15 the presentation. The Chair would like to open up the
16 floor and entertain questions from the Elders, the
17 women, or youth, or any other members from the
18 community of Whati.

19

20 (BRIEF PAUSE)

21

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions from the
23 Elders, women, youth, or community members from Whati?

24

25 (BRIEF PAUSE)

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: I think we have the
2 technician just coming.

3

4 (BRIEF PAUSE)

5

6 MR. ISADORE ZOE: ...GNWT and the
7 Review Board to have this hearing here in Whati. I've
8 been a former Chief from 1990 -- '89 to 1997.

9 At the beginning, there was a really
10 strong message that was passed on to us, to hold it
11 and to and to pass it on for our future generations
12 that when we were starting negotiating, we used to go
13 to each communities about four (4) times a year to
14 make sure that we are satisfied with what was going to
15 come before we start negotiating with the land claims
16 and sat (phonetic) government. We wanted to make sure
17 that -- absolutely sure that everybody understood what
18 we are proposing, what we are planning to do.

19 Why did we wanted to settle the land
20 claim? There was many questions about what this from
21 -- with our Treaty. Why should we go ahead and settle
22 the land claims, and sat governments, and get into
23 something that which we totally didn't knew. It was
24 not our way. Over and over and over again, we ask the
25 same questions. Why do you want a land claim? Why do

1 you want sat government?

2 Over and over, the communities said the
3 same thing, because we wanted all our environment, the
4 animals, the air, the lands, the water to be protected
5 for as long as the lands will last. They said -- it's
6 the same message as what Mowfi had said -- said to the
7 land commissioner in 1920. He stated that, As long as
8 the lands will last, my people shall not be restricted
9 from hunting, fishing, and trapping.

10 It's the same thing. When you're
11 asking for all-season roads, it's going to be there
12 for as long as the lands will last. So before we see
13 -- we agree with the lawyer -- like, for me, I will
14 say -- for me, I will say -- I will carry the same
15 message. I'll pass it on to the -- other future
16 generation for them to know what our godfather, Chief
17 Mowfi has said, As long as the lands shall last.

18 People may think that I'm rejecting
19 this road. Now, when I know a road, I know what it
20 does. When you're talking about the airlines, we know
21 what it does. So there's two (2) kind of
22 transportation that comes -- are coming to our
23 community. There will be big changes. We know that,
24 but we'll have to be positive about what's going to
25 outcome.

1 What am I giving up for what? This is
2 what I think. What am I giving up for what? You have
3 all the lands, the water, animals, the clean air,
4 everything else is -- what am I giving up for what?

5 So to me, I would like to make sure
6 that we have whatever we have here are being saved,
7 protected, guided, policy in place to make sure that
8 everything is stable in the community.

9 There was a question that was asked to
10 interagency one time about the sustainable, alcohols,
11 drugs comes into the community. How are we going to
12 deal with it? That question's never been answered.

13 So I'm going to speak three (3) time,
14 tomorrow and Friday, but I wanted to make sure that we
15 have something in place, the policies, rules,
16 regulations, everything that's in place to make sure
17 that all of these have been protected before I can say
18 yes, I approve, I will accept the all-season roads,
19 because I have a -- great concerns.

20 You see, I used to be a translator. I
21 used to translate for you guys here before. What,
22 like -- like these translators, but I don't now
23 because I didn't like the -- the kind of money they're
24 giving us. They never change. The same payment we
25 receive. This year, in here, we're talking about a

1 billion dollars projects, a billion dollars project,
2 that once the road is in, there's going to be other
3 mines that are going to say, I want to set up -- I
4 want to start a mine here. On the west side of our
5 community, there was all exploration was done years
6 ago. And the Colomac Mine, there's other mine they
7 wanted to open.

8 And here in Whati, the water flows in
9 from Rae, the mine it's proposing now it goes between
10 Gameti and Behchoko. We'll have nothing to do with
11 it, but here we say we act like we will have something
12 to do with it.

13 So the mines, I have lots of questions
14 for that. Very simple. I will be speaking about --
15 on it. And they do not have to answer my questions.
16 When I talk about the translators, they've been paid
17 less than any other translators in the Northwest
18 Territories. That is why I've given up, and I wanted
19 to speak for them. There's billions of dollars of
20 project we're talking about here, and here, discuss a
21 -- translating here. From the payment that they're
22 receiving, but from the beginning of the whole thing,
23 they're still getting paid the same. That's message
24 1.

25 And there are some other things that

1 tomorrow, I'm going to be asking the questions, so I
2 just wanted you to make sure that where -- I'm not
3 opposing, but I wanted to see what I'm giving up for
4 what? What kind of policy you're going to have in
5 place? How is the community going to be sustainable?
6 How it will be protected? How all the animal --
7 animals will be protected, even the trees?

8 Look in other communities. Look in
9 Behchoko highway, what's happened to the community.
10 Look in Yellowknife.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 MR. ISADORE ZOE: So I'm going talk
15 about this Fortune Mineral mines, how long it's going
16 to be open for when you look at it. There was a
17 question -- there is a -- a question of which I want
18 you to look into it. I think it was only 2 -- 2013 or
19 2014, there was a questionnaire -- I think it was done
20 here -- that there was no follow-up on it. I think
21 I've got a copy of the questionnaire someplace in my -
22 - in my house, which stated that, Do you want all the
23 season roads?

24 The majority of the people that were
25 asked, Elders, the youth, that people got -- use the

1 land, hunters, trappers, and the youth, about 93 or 97
2 percent that said, No, they don't want a road. About
3 93 or 90 -- 97 percent said -- they asked again, What
4 about these Fortune Mineral Mines? And they said the
5 Fortune Mineral Mines, they can build a road directly
6 from Behchoko, Waso Lake directly to the mines. It
7 doesn't have to have a -- build the road here too,
8 because most of the time we'll be using Yellowknife as
9 our national headquarter -- a capital city, hospitals,
10 government agencies, income taxes. Everything that we
11 use is Yellowknife -- knife and Fort Providence, or
12 Alberta.

13 So what happened to the question there?
14 How come there's never been a review or -- or a
15 follow-up. How come it's that we've never had no
16 public meetings in this community, and why did the
17 people they come with number 2?

18 So I want you to -- to look that up as
19 a Review Board. Maybe you have the -- maybe you have
20 that informations. I'd like you got you to share that
21 with us, about the questionnaire that was done.

22 So tomorrow, I will be speaking on the
23 mines. On -- on Friday, I will speak about something
24 else. So thank you, every one of you for being here.
25 I know I see some old friends here who I've seen in a

1 different board, the GNWT, the federal government
2 representative. This is really important.

3 Remember, I told you, I didn't oppose
4 but I want to see what -- what should be there.
5 Notify us to make sure that everybody go home, please
6 in -- in the hearts and mind, because this is biggest
7 history's decision that we're going to be making
8 today, not only for us, but our future generations to
9 protect our lake, our land, our animals, our health,
10 our community. Thank you.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. The floor is
12 open to Elders, women, youth, or other members of
13 Whati to speak in regards to the presentation.

14

15 (BRIEF PAUSE)

16

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: One (1) last call,
18 and then we'll move on to the parties. Anyone else
19 that wants to speak in regards to the presentation?
20 Okay.

21

22 (BRIEF PAUSE)

23

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, we -- we have
25 two (2) -- we have two (2) mics, so we'll go with this

1 one first, and if you could just wait, okay? Brad,
2 if we could just wait, then. Okay.

3

4 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

5

6 MR. FRANCIS SIMPSON: Francis Simpson.

7 I just spoke just while ago but we live in Whati. And
8 there's a lot of people here, living here. There's
9 quite a bit of people living here by this -- with a --
10 with the youth, there's about seven hundred (700)
11 people living here, but there's a lot of people living
12 here, but not even twenty (20) people, for me, it's
13 not that -- very much people attending meeting. Why
14 is this going? What -- why is that? I'm saying that
15 because I want people to receive the message around.

16 I just thank -- it's good to say thank
17 you very -- thank you for respect here in our land.
18 There's going to be all-weather road. When people are
19 living here -- people are living that -- who are not
20 attending meeting. They might say that, Why is that -
21 - what -- what do -- all-weather road is coming
22 through, and they nev -- they don't agree to it. If
23 they don't agree to it, they should be at the meeting.

24 All the -- this is -- all the people
25 that has the social service, all the development

1 corporation, everybody that -- who's here, they're
2 trying to help out. They talk about the animals,
3 about the -- after we went through all the winter road
4 is finished, we didn't know -- I don't know when it's
5 going to be done, but when the -- during the -- the
6 road -- when the road is done, there might be some
7 alcohol, there might be some accident. We'll have to
8 be prepared for it. We'll need to talk about that
9 too.

10 All these things that -- and drugs, or
11 something happened. It's good to have an ambulance,
12 water truck, all that should have -- be -- have --
13 better if they have all that; when somebody's sick in
14 town, if something happen, they need water truck, for
15 ambulance, for a medivac. We want to have a road on -
16 - on the future. It would be better if they have all
17 -- all that -- all this fire truck, ambulance, and all
18 the stuff that people can use, they should have it in
19 place.

20 You -- you guys probably know about it,
21 but we're just -- I just wanted to say that. Thank
22 you very much.

23

24 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

25

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Masi for your
2 comments.

3

4 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

5

6 MR. CHARLIE JEREMICK'IM: I say thank
7 you. My name is Charlie Jeremick'im. I live in
8 Whati, and I'm on a board, Renewable Resource Board.
9 That's the only one that I'm on the Board, and also
10 I'm working for community government, and I also work
11 at my home.

12 Thank you very much for attending all
13 the meeting. We have to say -- it's better to say
14 thank you for -- as respect and today and starting the
15 meeting for three (3) days, but while we're having a
16 meeting, I just -- now, I just attend first time.

17 They had -- they've been having a
18 meeting as a Tlicho agency meeting, but I haven't
19 attend. But I always -- I'm listening -- listening
20 out for information, because sometime I'm thinking I
21 might say something wrong, but I try to do the best I
22 can.

23 You guys are right when our government
24 or -- sit on something -- Board, you can -- you can be
25 talking good, you can do, like, you know, you think

1 you're saying right. You -- always thinking that
2 we're doing this behind people's back, but us,
3 Aboriginal people, we want everything to -- try to do
4 everything right. I know we have to sit together as
5 the Tlicho people, and I want to work with people.

6 You guys in -- are sitting in like that
7 board, all the Elders. Who we're going to talk to,
8 all the Elders, we're supposed to talk to the
9 government. Who's -- we ask all the government for
10 all the information, how they're going to work, but is
11 it right or not? But still, we have to -- you -- you
12 still have to say thank you to them.

13 By listening, I'm thank -- thank you
14 guys for listening to you guys. Yes, I guess the --
15 when we sit on the various boards, I guess, that we --
16 in good spirit and good cooperation with the various
17 boards, I guess, we could go a long way.

18 And definitely, I guess, you know, that
19 the -- there are some exceptions in a community that
20 might -- that might not agree with the decisions that
21 has been made by the -- by our government of --
22 impossible, the board, as well, too, but nonetheless,
23 the -- our ancestors did operate in a -- in a similar
24 way in the past. When they used to operate as a
25 consensus government, majority agrees, that's how they

1 -- they come out to a conclusion.

2 And I believe strongly in that area.

3 And I too like to -- to promote and, you know, make
4 life -- life better for the future generation, because
5 nothing -- our ancestors did that for us, and
6 likewise, you had to do that for our future
7 generation. Definitely since the -- the all-season
8 road that is under discussion here so we're all
9 concern about. And we're aware of it, because the,
10 you know, we always did rely heavily on our Elders,
11 and very few Elders are living with us today, maybe
12 four (4) or five (5). And I too, I happen to be
13 sixty-eight (68) years old right now, -- probably what
14 -- you're still looking younger, he says. But
15 nonetheless it's at the -- some people, you know, look
16 older and there is sometimes, you know, look younger,
17 whatever, maybe.

18 Yes, as -- definitely he says we work
19 with lot of levels of various governments of the past
20 as to what Chief Isadore officially -- he was a chief
21 back in the time, I guess, he mentioned that he was
22 right, and Chief Charlie Jim Nitsiza did the same
23 thing too, I guess.

24 You know we all had -- pretty well with
25 all our leadership. A lot of changeover from, you

1 know, from past, and that's including James Wah-Shee.
2 I guess you must have went through a lot of different
3 port folios such as leaderships, and to the
4 government, ministers and that. So nonetheless, he
5 says, you know, we're all in the same, you know, the
6 society that we would like to promote, a society all
7 together.

8 Yes, that the -- the some -- some
9 cases, I guess, you know, like the -- a lot of times,
10 I like to promote the community, but, you know,
11 there's some individuals that, you know, like doing
12 all the -- they didn't really want me to, you know, to
13 promote, you know, success or, I don't know, some kind
14 of backed off. And in some years, and then I -- but
15 today, they, you know, like to come back and try to
16 help the organization so that, you know, maybe our
17 government, you know, to promote the industry and the
18 society to develop into the future.

19 Yes, that the -- it, like, takes out of
20 teamwork, you know, that the -- and the -- have a good
21 -- a lot of good working relationship, a good dialogue
22 between territorial and federal, and including Tlicho
23 Government as well, and the companies, because, you
24 know, that what we're doing here today, I guess we're
25 making the history, I guess, you know, like something

1 that hasn't been done before now is going to come into
2 place, that the -- definitely, I think our Elders done
3 their part of working the past, and now whatever they
4 left off, I guess, is where we com -- we completed it.
5 And now that it's our future generation to -- we more
6 or less set up a foundation for them, and now they
7 have to build a seclu -- institution, and build their
8 own from here on.

9 But I -- I -- like I said, I think the
10 -- we as -- as an Aboriginal people in a community, we
11 should be supporting, you know, the -- what, you know,
12 that could improve our life into the future. And I
13 think all the resource people are here, technical
14 people are here to date, I guess. You know, they're
15 here to help us, I guess, you know, with -- they're
16 here to assist us, and then the -- we even got their -
17 - even them, they're not too sure what they're getting
18 into. So that's the reason why they got their own
19 legal counsel along with them to advise them. So we
20 have to support one another.

21 And we definitely -- he says, I -- too,
22 he says, you know, like, they had the social impact --
23 social issues in the past. And to date, I have some
24 grownup children that I have, a lot of thought over
25 for them. But nonetheless, he says the -- like I

1 said, you know, that if -- if there are some problems
2 out there in the future that you see that, you know,
3 we have to find some people that would be able to work
4 it out so that, you know, the problem thinking their
5 way. If we have some social, you know, impact coming
6 up, and I guess we will have to have some
7 professional, you know, people there to assist them to
8 get through the hardships, and to get -- to get out --
9 and to get around and then get -- get into a better
10 life into the future.

11 And yes, that the -- the -- if we look
12 around the world, I guess, you know, that we see a lot
13 of -- a lot of good prosperity that, you know, has
14 been developed, and there's been in -- in this plan
15 and then the -- and the population seems to be growing
16 over there, nowhere else to go, so where else do they
17 end up, you know, some -- some cases end up in the big
18 cities like Yellowknife, and then eventually, they
19 might end up in the, you know, a smaller community
20 like ours.

21 So how are we going to deal with the
22 influx of the -- all people from the -- a different
23 part of the world, you know? So these are -- there's
24 a lot of things that, you know, might come into play
25 into the future. So now that we have to have -- we

1 have to do a lot of research in that area to be
2 prepared for, you know, these type of things that
3 might happen.

4 So today, I guess, that I said my
5 piece, and then I know that you'll be here for the
6 next three (3) days. And then I -- you got my
7 message, I guess, is the only comment that I have to
8 make. And I -- I'm always like to hope that, you
9 know, the Board does its best for the people, and that
10 all the people support them. Thank you.

11

12 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

13

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. The floor is
15 open to comments from Whati members, Elders, youth,
16 women. Just put your hand up if you would like the
17 mic.

18

19 (BRIEF PAUSE)

20

21 MR. JOSEPH ALEXS: Hello, is this --
22 yes. My name is Joseph Alexs. I'm from Whati.

23

24 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

25

1 MR. JOSEPH ALEXS: Yes. I've been
2 here, living here in Whati since back in 1972. I will
3 say I went to a lot of public meetings, and -- and
4 then the -- and I have attended a lot of meetings that
5 are really -- have -- I'm not a type of person that
6 speak in public and, you know, but for some reason I
7 am wanted to speak.

8 And the -- it's not that I'm thinking
9 that whatever it has been discussed in the past wasn't
10 so important, but nonetheless, to date, I guess, you
11 know, that I kind of got a wake-up call and here
12 wanted to speak.

13 Because I agree with the Elders, and --
14 and then the -- what the Elders are trying to pass the
15 message on to the future generation that, you know,
16 that's their future that the Elders are discussing.
17 So -- and I kind of thought it over, and I thought
18 maybe all the Elders, what they did in the past, you
19 know, today became in reality. And then the -- in --
20 in the past, I guess, you know, a lot of Elders of the
21 past had a long-term vision, I guess, you know. So
22 they're the ones that used to know what's going to
23 happen in the future.

24 And to date, I guess, you know, that
25 we've got our own traditional knowledge that you know,

1 and working with the Western science, I guess, you
2 know, and that, you know. So that -- that even itself
3 right now could take us a long way into the future.

4 So last time, it was December 15, I
5 guess, we had a public meeting, and I heard a lot of
6 good discussions about the Elders, I guess, you know,
7 that in the past, I guess, you know, we had our annual
8 assemblies, as well too, I guess, you know, and
9 through the Tlicho Government report, I guess, they're
10 telling us that the -- there's a lot of things that --
11 that we didn't had any controls over the past, I
12 guess. There were a lot of things that came around
13 without no consultations and things like that. To
14 date, I guess, the government had to implement it. No
15 consultations, just where the public hearing came
16 about.

17 And now that the -- so I had -- I agree
18 with the Elders, because they have a long-term, you --
19 you know, plan, vision for the future. And now it's
20 our turn to plan into the future so something that,
21 you know, that our future generation will prosper
22 with.

23 Definitely, he says, that the -- like,
24 one (1) Elder will say that, you know, that I think we
25 did our part of the workload. And to date, our future

1 generations are -- we're setting a foundation for them
2 to develop this nation on, which is -- but, you know,
3 like, today, I guess, you know, that we don't seem to
4 see people live too long anymore. Now that, you know,
5 that -- so since September 18, the last time that they
6 had, I guess, you know, that the -- like I said, I
7 agree with the Elders, and then the -- somewhere along
8 the road, I guess, all the youth, I guess, they're the
9 one that we're discussing their future.

10 I thought they're the one that should
11 be here listening to us. Maybe they should try to
12 assist us to make a, you know, that -- some comments
13 that, you know, because some young people are well-
14 educated, and they -- they find -- do a lot of
15 research through the internet, computers and that.

16 Back in the days when I grew up, the
17 only communication linked to a remote community like
18 us -- like this was to buy the bush radios, and then
19 the -- so now that the -- so communications, you know,
20 they came a long way. To date, I guess, you know,
21 that information is right at our fingertips, you know,
22 compared to what it was back then.

23 So yes, that -- like I say, that, you
24 know, like, one (1) person would say that the -- the
25 youth, I guess, you know, the knowledge in the

1 computer system, and then they collect all that
2 information from the Elders, and then try to prepare
3 for themselves into the future generation, which is a
4 good idea.

5 So Sember -- September 18, 2015, I
6 guess, it was discussed back then, I guess, you know,
7 and so there were a -- but a lot of plans that, you
8 know, we have a plan over there. But, you know, that
9 -- that it's not implemented. Or either that, or, you
10 know, so it's just -- but to date, I think the -- when
11 the -- the highways that, you know, crew came in back
12 then, I guess, you know, planning and where they'd --
13 future -- the roadbed might be sitting, I guess, you
14 know. And they were happy, and then today, we didn't
15 know it was going to come into reality today. I think
16 it's coming up to conclusion which he's really happy
17 about.

18 Yes, the -- now that we have our own
19 self-government, I guess, you know, we have leverage
20 now that we have to be held the same government, and
21 then which is even better than before. But the -- a
22 lot of times I -- I guess the -- that we -- back in
23 the '72 -- the '70s, I guess, you know, like, I was
24 young at a time, and I -- I -- I did participate in
25 the public activities, such as public boards. I sat

1 on a few boards when Charlie Jim was -- under his
2 leadership.

3 The -- yes, we -- in the past, I guess,
4 you know, we -- we never had a -- a leader that well-
5 educated or, you know, some of the Elders, I -- they
6 don't know how to read and write, but they led us, you
7 know, and the -- into the pro -- the proper -- and to
8 date now that they -- we have a lot of good, educated
9 people that and -- but nonetheless, you know, and that
10 true what the public scrutiny I think things, you
11 know, it takes a while before it comes into reality.

12 Yes, I -- I've listened to my great-
13 great-grandfathers, I guess, you know. They had a
14 long-term vision, I guess, you know, and that the --
15 in some days in the future, that, you know, you might
16 see influx of the -- now, to a population where itself
17 might come into your way. And if you live out on the
18 lake, he says that the -- someday, that the -- someday
19 that, in the future, that you might see the highway
20 coming into your home and your community. And -- and
21 when my grandfather said that, I didn't really believe
22 it. And today, I think he says it's coming up pretty
23 close now. So that the -- that's the reason why I
24 just said that the Elders had a long-term vision.

25 Yes, but the -- we have a lot of eco --

1 economic opportunity, and that we even ran our own
2 community, you know, fishing lodge in this community
3 one time, a commercial fishing lodge. So what's --
4 what's the impact it might have on the tourism in the
5 future? Is that going to have, you know, control, you
6 know, economic spinoff, you know, you know, kind of
7 how to control the influx of the tourists coming into
8 our communities. So these are a lot of work to be
9 done, you know, and into -- how to come into a -- so
10 sufficient, you know, and tourism operators.

11 Yes, definitely, he says, you know,
12 that I, too, was raised on the land, you know, and I
13 like to see that, you know, that the -- how to monitor
14 the -- the fish stocks in the lake, and then including
15 the possibility of, you know, fish study and all that,
16 and then the samplings, and then, you know, pollution
17 monitoring and all that to be looked after.

18 So I -- in some years in the past, I
19 did -- took part in these type of studies, and then I
20 -- so I -- I -- I know that there's a lot of students
21 that are out there, when they're out in the land, I
22 guess, you know, and with a good instructor like us, I
23 guess, you know, that, you know, the, you know, the
24 young people do listen. And the -- if we listen to
25 the Elder -- youth, I guess, you know, they give you a

1 lot of good, you know, possible ideas about into the
2 future.

3 I've seen the one (1) young person
4 that, you know, that -- and the -- the young person
5 was asking me a question went I -- went lunch break on
6 a land trip, I guess, you know, he says that the, What
7 might happen if the future, you know, all-weather road
8 links into our community, what would happen? Are we
9 going to have any control over -- or are we going to
10 have freedom like we're having to date?

11 And I -- I told him that I -- I
12 wouldn't know, but, you know, that with the good
13 intentions, and if you have our Creator on side maybe
14 thing turn out the way you want it, but, you know,
15 it's not for me to answer. But nonetheless, I gave
16 him some -- some spiritual guidance as well too, so.

17 Yes, we listened to some Elders that
18 they speak on the -- on the public -- public
19 broadcasting, and then the -- to date, I think we are
20 experiencing the Inuvik/Tuk road opening -- official
21 opening to date. And then the -- so we're happy to
22 hear about that, and then if someday that we might
23 have to experience all that ourself too, but -- so
24 these -- all the necessarily and all approvals and all
25 that has to be done with -- by all levels of

1 government, so I'm happy about that. Thank you.

2

3 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

4

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi for your
6 comments. Questions from the presentation open up to
7 the floor. Members of Whati, Elders, women, youth.

8

9 (BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

12

13 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

14

15 MR. RICHARD WILLIAH: My name is
16 Richard Williah, and I thank you for everything that
17 the Elders spoke. In the future, when the -- when the
18 all-weather road is open, if it's open, I don't know
19 what's going to happen.

20 I'm just going to -- we're just talking
21 about it now. We're just preparing for our open all-
22 season road. But if it's open, we don't know if it's
23 with Elders or people -- people won't listen. People
24 are going to go back and forth as an individual.
25 Whenever they want to take off, they're going to take

1 off to Yellowknife. And at this point, we need to
2 restrict the alcohol. And after -- maybe after twenty
3 (20), twenty-five (25) years, we need to start --
4 start working together, with our Chief in Whati. We
5 need to work together.

6 We need to do something for ourself
7 because it's going to be open pretty soon after twenty
8 (20), twenty-five (25) years. We -- we need to just
9 kind of put twenty (20) or twenty-five (25) years
10 ahead of us and about ten (10) years maybe, we're not
11 going to speak about this.

12 The Chief -- it would be good if the
13 Chief would think about all this, when the winter road
14 is open, it's going to be -- and too much activities
15 going on. It's going to be up to people whoever wants
16 to go out on the road.

17 And I'm thinking about the alcohol.
18 There's lots of -- there's lots of things that alcohol
19 -- that it -- it's up to us but if you want to -- if
20 you want to give up and quit your drinking, it's up to
21 you. But we'll have to pray for it. That's hard.
22 That's what I did for myself. I'm not thinking about
23 it because I've prayed for myself, but I'm worried
24 about my kids, my -- my grandkids. I'm worried about
25 their kids and my kids.

1 If anything happened by drinking with
2 the alcohol with my kids or my grandkids, it's going
3 to be hard, so it's better to -- all the -- come in to
4 get together and put it -- how many years we should
5 extend it -- for alcohol to be closed. And that's all
6 I wanted to say.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. The floor is
8 open for questions in regards to the presentation from
9 Elders, women, youth, and members of Whati.

10

11 (BRIEF PAUSE)

12

13 QUESTION PERIOD:

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. We'll move
15 on, then. I would like to now ask the parties in
16 regards to the Tlichos' presentation. I would like to
17 ask the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board if they
18 have any questions.

19 MS. JODY PELLISSEY: Jody Pellissey,
20 with the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. No
21 questions at this time. Thank you.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Questions
23 from the North Slave Metis Alliance?

24 MS. NICOLE GOODMAN: Nicole Goodman,
25 with the North Slave Metis Alliance. No questions at

1 this time.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions from the
3 Yellowknives Dene First Nation?

4 MR. ALEX POWER: Alex Power,
5 Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

6 I have one (1) question, and I promise
7 it's a real question. Thank -- thank you. So thank
8 you for the presentation. So the Yellowknives have
9 all sorts of problems with -- with squatters and --
10 and cabin builders.

11 Every time there's, like a new road,
12 even if it's just like a, you know, like a -- a winter
13 road, there seems to be cabins popping up. And so,
14 you know, the Yellowknives' experience with this and -
15 - and dealing with it hasn't been -- it hasn't been
16 easy, and we, you know, we look to GNWT, and -- and
17 sort of gotten a lukewarm response from them in terms
18 of dealing with squatters.

19 And, I mean, you know, now, there's
20 like -- across the bay from Dettah, there's, like,
21 twenty thousand (20,000) of them. So, I don't know.
22 So I -- what I'd like to hear from the Tlicho
23 Government is -- it would -- it would mean more to us
24 coming from you to hear sort of how you deal with
25 squatters, or if this has even been an issue for you.

1 And -- because I -- it's unclear to me, sir, where the
2 responsibility lies for that, and how the enforcement
3 is undertaken.

4 And, you know, if -- if, for instance,
5 on this road, if -- if it opens up, you know, new
6 trails and -- and there are cabins or squatters, how
7 is that dealt with? Do you have previous experience
8 with that? And if you could just, you know, maybe by
9 way of example, again, just because it -- it would
10 mean more coming from the Tlicho Government than
11 anyone else in terms of, you know, speaking to the
12 concerns around impacts and wildlife. Thank you.

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Tlicho Government,
17 is -- are you ready to respond?

18 MS. JESSICA HUM: Thank you, Madam
19 Chair. Jessica Hum, from Tlicho Government.

20 To the Yellowknives Dene first
21 question, the Tlicho Government has authority to
22 manage, to create laws, for Tlicho lands, and that
23 authority has come from the Tlicho Agreement. And the
24 Tlicho Agreement is quite clear on what are the rights
25 and authorities for Tlicho citizens.

1 Where there are the authority to manage
2 cabins, for example, and access to Tlicho lands, the
3 Tlicho citizens have rights to build cabins anywhere
4 on Tlicho lands, and the Tlicho Government has an
5 internal process in place to manage those -- those
6 land uses, as well as additional land uses in the Land
7 Use Plan.

8

9

(BRIEF PAUSE)

10

11 MS. JESSICA HUM: The -- I will also
12 clarify that there are restrictions. No -- no one
13 except for Tlicho citizens may build cabins on Tlicho
14 lands. As -- as Tammy mentioned, that's a general
15 rule, and we have created land use cabin guidelines to
16 outline those -- those rules, and regulations, and
17 policies, and procedures for building, for example,
18 cabins on Tlicho lands.

19

 MR. ALEX POWER: Thank you. Yeah, no.
20 The -- that partly answers what I was asking. I
21 guess, more what I was trying to get information on is
22 that have you had any trouble people being there who
23 shouldn't? And have you had any luck getting them
24 out?

25

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 MS. JESSICA HUM: Okay. Okay. So the
4 -- the reason that we create -- I'll just go into what
5 the exceptions are.

6 When the cabin land use guidelines were
7 created, there were several -- or a couple of cabins
8 created by non-Tlicho people prior to the land use
9 plan taking effect. And so one (1) of those
10 exceptions is a grandfathered lease agreement for non-
11 Tlicho who had constructed their cabins prior to the
12 land use plan and the restrictions taking place.

13 Otherwise, cabin construction and
14 leases outside of Tlicho lands are under the
15 jurisdiction of the GNWT. They've developed a
16 recreation land management framework. They also have
17 a land use and sustainability framework. Those are 24
18 -- 2017 and 2014 documents, and these address the
19 recreational uses of the public lands.

20 The Tlicho Government has been
21 consulted on the development of both of those
22 documents, and so we will continue to work with the
23 GNWT for those -- to enact the recreational land
24 management framework, including the review of
25 applications for cabins outside of Tlicho lands. But

1 within -- within the Wek'eezhii, or within the Mowfi
2 Koca Dene K'e (phonetic) area.

3 MR. ALEX POWER: Alex Power, YKDFN.

4 Yeah, no, maybe I mean -- sorry, I'm --
5 I'm a little -- a little thick, I guess. I was just
6 trying to see if you had any -- if there -- have you
7 had any trouble with people who are not Tlicho
8 citizens setting up cabins on Tlicho land?

9 Like, has that been a -- something that
10 the Tlicho Government has had to deal with? And how -
11 - how has it gone? Like, have you effectively -- were
12 you able to get them out?

13

14 (BRIEF PAUSE)

15

16 MS. JESSICA HUM: Jessica Hum from
17 Tlicho Government. Thank you, Alex.

18 We feel that we've answered that
19 question in terms of developing our cabin land use
20 guidelines and how we have enacted those guidelines
21 for both citizens, Tlicho citizens and -- and non-
22 Tlicho citizens with cabins constructed prior to 2013.
23 We'll also be discussing this much further as well on
24 Friday when we get to socioeconomic level of
25 presentations as well. Masi.

1 MR. ALEX POWER: Thank you. Masi.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions from
3 Environment and Climate Change Canada?

4 BRADLEY SUMMERFIELD: Bradley
5 Summerfield, with Environment and Climate Change
6 Canada. We have no questions for the Tlicho
7 Government. Thanks.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions, Natural
9 Resources Canada?

10 MR. UMAR HUSANY: Madam Chair, my name
11 is Umar Husany. On behalf of Natural Resources Canada
12 we don't have any questions at this time.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions, Fisheries
14 and Oceans Canada?

15 MR. UMAR HUSANY: Madam Chair, again,
16 Umar Husany, on behalf of Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
17 at this time, we don't have any questions.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions,
19 Government of the Northwest Territories?

20 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,
21 GNWT.

22 We don't have any questions for the
23 Tlicho Government.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions from the
25 Review Board staff?

1 MR. RUARI CARTHEW: Thank you. Ruari
2 Carthew, with the Review Board.

3 I -- I don't recall seeing on the
4 public registry the -- the guidelines you're referring
5 to for cabin building. I think that's something that
6 was more recently developed. I'm just wondering if
7 you'd be able to provide that to us so we can consider
8 it. Thank you.

9 MS. GINGER GIBSON: Ginger Gibson,
10 Tlicho Government. Yes, we will provide them.

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 MR. RUARI CARTHEW: Ruari Carthew,
15 with the Review Board.

16 Sorry, I'm just getting some
17 clarification. If you're able to provide that within
18 the hearing timeline, so either, you know, in today or
19 tomorrow, in time for Friday's discussion, that would
20 be great, and then we don't need to have an
21 undertaking.

22 MS. GINGER GIBSON: Ginger Gibson,
23 Tlicho Government. We'll email those to you today or
24 tomorrow morning.

25 MR. ALAN EHRLICH: Madam Chair, that

1 concludes the questions from Review Board staff and
2 counsel.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Review Board
4 members.

5 MR. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam
6 Chair. I'd first like to -- to just congratulate the
7 Tlicho Government for the work you've done in
8 preparation for the road, our increased access.

9 It seems that there's a assumption that
10 -- that the road is going ahead, and -- and so on, but
11 -- but there are two (2) different scenarios we have
12 to look at, and what one (1) is that NICO or some
13 other mine goes ahead, and that presents one (1) kind
14 of situation. And the other one, that they have a
15 road, but there's no economic -- no new economic
16 development happening here, possibly with the
17 exception of tourism.

18 I hope over the next couple of days as
19 we look at the socioeconomic impacts, in particular
20 that if you have any recommendations to the Board of
21 things that we should be considering with regard to
22 preparing the community for the road, that those are
23 going to be mentioned to -- to us, and where you would
24 need that kind of support. Thank you. Really, no
25 question.

1 MS. LISA NITSIZA: Lisa Nitsiza,
2 community government of Whatì. Yes, we'll provide
3 that more if we can on Friday.

4 MR. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you. And for
5 the -- the transcriber, it's my name, Joe Handley.
6 Sorry about that.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Don't forget,
8 because we don't know you. Questions from Review
9 Board members?

10 MR. DAVID KRUTKO: David Krutko. In
11 regards to the map that you presented in your
12 presentation, in regards to the traditional land use,
13 and your cabin sites, and trail maps, it's very
14 interesting that it seemed like a lot of those trails
15 are overlapping the right-of-way of the road.

16 And also, with the expropriation of
17 Tlichò lands for the right-of-way of the roads, I'm
18 just wondering what type of arrangements are you going
19 to make to ensure that you are able to preserve and
20 protect these trails for future generation, not for --
21 for usage, but also your sites?

22 So I know that the government's asking
23 for an expropriation authority, so I'm wondering if
24 you're also asking for an easement authority so that
25 you can have easement to these trails for future

1 generations, so that you're not restricted by a 60
2 metre right-of-way to be able to get in and off that
3 road to -- to continue using these trails and right-
4 of-way, so -- and also being able to protect your
5 sites, and our burial sites, and whatnot.

6 So I'd just like to know, is that
7 something that you're looking at when you talk about
8 protection of these sites, and also how you're going
9 to be able to preserve those sites for future
10 generations?

11

12 (BRIEF PAUSE)

13

14 MS. GINGER GIBSON: Thank you very
15 much for the question. Ginger Gibson, Tlicho
16 Government.

17 We have worked carefully with the GNWT
18 on the question of the trails on that map. So the map
19 indicates all of the trails, sacred sites, and
20 locations, and there's many of them along the -- the
21 way. The -- in the technical sessions in August, the
22 Tlicho Government committed to -- under Commitment 21
23 to ground-truthing trails and trapping routes, so we
24 will be ground-truthing those with the Elders and
25 harvesters so that the -- we have very precise

1 information.

2 I think part of your concern that
3 you're raising is that -- the question of travelling
4 safety on the land -- safely on the land. It's vital
5 for Tlicho citizens' ability to enjoy and use the
6 land. So with that, we are going to be providing that
7 information to the Department of Infrastructure, and
8 then ensure that we work together to make sure that
9 the land route is -- or the -- the TASR has signage in
10 both Tlicho and in English to ensure that there's
11 signs where there is trail crossings. And in
12 addition, there's pullouts in areas where there's --
13 there's -- there needs to be safety kind of areas pull
14 -- for the -- the route itself.

15 We will also have, from a highway
16 safety pros -- perspective, we're going to have a con
17 -- a cohesive plan for all of those access points and
18 rest stops on the highway, making sure that signage is
19 -- is in place.

20 Your other question with respect to
21 easement is -- is different.

22 MR. ZABEY NEVITT: Zabey Nevitt, Tlicho
23 Government.

24 The GNWT spoke earlier about the land
25 access and land swap agreement that we -- we have

1 signed with the GNWT to allow them access and
2 eventually to turn over those portions of land for the
3 construction and operation of the road. There is a
4 clause in there that specifically says the agreement
5 does not limit the rights of use or access of Tlicho
6 citizens. So Tlicho citizens will continue to have
7 the ability to cross those lands for trails, et
8 cetera.

9

10 (BRIEF PAUSE)

11

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Questions from
13 Review Board members? James?

14 MR. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Thank you, Madam
15 Chair. My --

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Say your name.

17 MR. JAMES WAH-SHEE: -- question
18 really is related to the corridor from Highway 3 to
19 Whati. I appreciate your explanation regarding the
20 land use planning that the will ensure that the Tlicho
21 citizens have the right to build cabins and use the
22 land traditionally, as we used to and will continue to
23 do so.

24 But regarding the -- the right-of-way
25 from Highway 3 to Whati, the right-of-way consists of

1 60 metres, as I understand. And the -- the width of
2 the highway will be somewhere around 8 metres
3 approximately, if I understand correctly. Now on each
4 side of the easement, along the corridor, I -- I
5 understand that there was a -- a land exchange.

6 And once the -- all the permits and --
7 has been issued, and even prior to that, once the
8 agreement of land exchange kicks in between GNWT and
9 the Tlicho Government, you're losing the -- the title
10 -- land title to the corridor. In other words, the 60
11 metre wide corridor from Whati all the way down to
12 Highway 3 will be under the administration, policies,
13 economic plans, and even land use. And that will be
14 the responsibility of the Government of the Northwest
15 Territories.

16 So if -- if they plan to get into
17 recreational fishing, for instance -- the other thing
18 is that if the GNWT decides as a -- as a matter of
19 policy for land use to have non-Tlicho people build
20 cabins on that 60 metre corridor from Highway 3 to
21 here, that would be under the administration of the
22 Government of Northwest Territories. So you have to
23 respect the -- the land exchange.

24 So I guess my question is is that if
25 the Government of the Northwest Territories decides to

1 open that corridor for -- to build cabins and so
2 forth, what would be the position of the -- I said,
3 Tlicho Government, where you have non-Tlicho building
4 road -- cabins and having land leases within that 60
5 metre corridor would be my first question. Thank you.

6

7

(BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9

MS. GINGER GIBSON: Masi for your
10 question Board member James Wah-Shee. There's three
11 (3) questions I heard, and I'm just going to address
12 the first two (2) briefly to say -- you asked
13 questions about -- or referred to questions about
14 fishing, which we will address. We hear your concern
15 on -- on fishing, and we will address those questions
16 on Friday.

17

In addition, you raise that same issue
18 as Mr. Alex Power from the Yellowknives Dene First
19 Nation with respect to cabin and cabin building. And
20 we are going to -- again, address that question as
21 well on -- on Friday.

22

We have an agreement. Our legal has
23 drafted an agreement. The purpose for the highway is
24 -- is solely for public highway. So the -- the land
25 swap that we have negotiated is -- intends the land

1 only as a public highway, and it -- and so that
2 includes the corridor. They don't have subsurface,
3 and -- and so therefore they're building the road.
4 The intent is to build the road, and -- and -- and so
5 I hope that answers your question.

6

7

(BRIEF PAUSE)

8

9 MS. GINGER GIBSON: Ginger Gibson,
10 Tlicho Government. Masi..

11 MR. JAMES WAH-SHEE: James Wah-Shee,
12 Board member.

13 I think the -- that really hasn't
14 answered my question. My question is a component to
15 the corridor, not from Edzo all the way down to
16 Yellowknife, where you have Tlicho lands that's been
17 selected.

18 I'm only interested in the corridor
19 because the reason why I'm raising it is that in the
20 presentation of the Government of the Northwest
21 Territories, it makes reference to cabins within the
22 corridor, within the 60 metre corridor. And that
23 corridor is from Whati all the way down to Highway 3,
24 pretty close to Edzo, anyway.

25 So that's -- that's quite a -- a fair

1 stretch of land. And I -- I guess my interest is if -
2 - if GNWT was to embark on opening up the corridor for
3 non-Tlicho cabins, my question would be is: How would
4 this working relationship between GNWT and the Tlicho
5 government would deal with this particular issue,
6 because from my point of view, it -- what will happen
7 is that the country will be open up from Highway 3 to
8 Whati, and since GNWT will be requiring the -- the
9 right-of-way lands, they will essentially be the
10 holding title -- not only title, but they would have
11 the responsibility for administering the lands.
12 That's what I'm referring to. Thank you.

13 MR. ZABEY NEVITT: Zabey Nevitt,
14 Tlicho Government.

15 I moved over here because Alfonz said
16 he was lonely sitting by himself all day.

17 CHIEF ALFONZ NITSIZA: Thank you.

18 MR. ZABEY NEVITT: So the corridor
19 that is being swapped is only for the portion of
20 Tlicho lands, which is 17 kilometres from the bord --
21 from the boundary of Whati community lands, so the
22 boundary of Tlicho lands. That's a 17 kilometre strip
23 that is 60 metres wide, as you pointed out, and 17
24 kilometres long.

25 The land swap that we have with the --

1 with the GNWT says that in that corridor there, they
2 can't do anything but build a road. They can't use
3 that corridor to then suddenly start issuing cabin
4 leases. So for this area that is just over here, they
5 can't issue cabin leases on those areas. It's -- it's
6 to build a road. That's the only reason we -- we
7 agreed to the land swap -- why Tlicho Government
8 agreed to the land swap.

9 For the rest of the area, which is now
10 GNWT lands, after you leave Tlicho lands, you're
11 hitting GNWT lands, there isn't a corridor as such
12 because it's just Crown lands, that -- building the
13 road all the way down. There is -- there are policies
14 that the GNWT has in place, and we've been working
15 with them, and Jessica spoke to some of them earlier,
16 the recreational land use framework, the land
17 sustainability framework. Those -- those policies the
18 Tlicho Government's been working with the GNWT to say,
19 What do we want, whe -- and where do we want it?

20 And the other important is the Land Use
21 Plan. And the Land Use Plan for Wek'eezhii will say
22 exactly what kind of developments we want to see and
23 where.

24 There's one (1) more piece I want to
25 add just to speak of, which is right now, the GNWT

1 won't issue any leases between basically the border of
2 Yellowknife, and I -- I -- if the Board will allow,
3 I'd like to ask the GNWT to make a comment on this, so
4 I have to ask Madam Chair if you -- if that's going to
5 be permissible, because they have some -- some thought
6 -- they have some background that you can't get a
7 lease between Yellowknife and Tlicho lands,
8 essentially, because it's a zoned out area. And there
9 are opportunities for the same kind of thing to be put
10 in place for the area along the Tlicho all-season
11 road.

12 So, Madam Chair, if -- if it's okay,
13 and if the GNWT agrees, I -- I'd like to ask if they
14 would respond here as well.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. If the GNWT
16 has an answer to clarify the question?

17 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf,
18 with GNWT.

19 Just to say we agree with the -- the
20 comments from the Tlicho Government that we are
21 acquiring the land for that corridor for the purposes
22 of constructing a highway. We do not permit other
23 developments within that right-of-way, because our
24 main purpose is to make sure that the highway is safe
25 for operations, and any time you have another

1 development within that corridor, it will impact on
2 the safety of those operations.

3 So -- and I'll turn it over to my
4 colleague from Lands who can comment as well about --
5 on the recreational leasing framework.

6 MS. LORRAINE SEALE: Thank you.
7 Lorraine Seale, GNWT Department of Lands.

8 So we are going to have some more
9 discussion on this on Friday, so what I'd like to
10 propose is that GNWT take the question and the example
11 that the Tlicho Government has raised, that we take
12 that as homework and be prepared to speak to it on
13 Friday.

14 MR. JAMES WAH-SHEE: Thank you for the
15 clarification. Thank you. Masi cho.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. No more
17 questions from the Review Board, then. At this time,
18 then, I think what we'd like to do is just call an
19 early supper, and we could just let the members of
20 Whati, the committee members know that they're --
21 bring their friends, go next door.

22 And we have communication. Everybody
23 has a cell phone, by the sounds of it, that you can
24 call everyone and let them know that they're more than
25 welcome to come out for supper tonight. And we'll --

1 we'll con -- convene after supper break, around 5:30
2 or so. So we have an extended supper break. Thank
3 you.

4

5 --- Upon recessing at 4:48 p.m.

6 --- Upon resuming at 5:53 p.m.

7

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: If we could take our
9 seats. Please, and reconvene at this time. Okay, we
10 would like to ask the developer and the Tlicho
11 government to do a short recap of their presentation.

12 So if I could ask the developer to go
13 first with their presentation.

14

15 RECAP OF GNWT PRESENTATION:

16 MR. RUSSELL NEUDORF: Russ Neudorf
17 with GNWT. Thank you for the opportunity and so we
18 did give a detailed presentation this morning about
19 our project, which is to construct 97 kilometres of
20 new all-season road to the community of Whati. We
21 would have four (4) bridges and 11 large diameter
22 culverts and then any number of smaller drainage
23 culverts.

24 We do have a few posters on the walls
25 and -- and quite a few maps around that if people are

1 interested in some of the technical aspects of the
2 project, I think they can just take a look at those
3 and then come and ask anybody on the developer team if
4 you have any questions about that.

5 We talked as well this morning about
6 the key areas of focus for our environmental
7 assessment. So those being caribou, wildlife, fish
8 and species at risk, traditional use impacts and
9 culture and heritage resources, economic well-being,
10 stable and healthy communities, and water, permafrost.

11 So we walked through some of the
12 details about impacts on those. The concerns that are
13 represented in what our management mitigation plans
14 are for addressing that.

15 I'd like to say that I appreciate the
16 comments that we got -- received from the public so
17 far, particularly from the elders. I think it's very
18 interesting to hear the positive comments and -- and
19 then also the concerns for the project. It's part of
20 what makes this country a great place to be is that we
21 can come to forums like this and have that type of
22 discussion and talk about our differences and decide
23 on how we need to move forward in order to continue to
24 live together.

25 And, you know, it's why we're here is

1 to discuss the concerns and then to talk about how we
2 do propose to manage and mitigate the -- some of the
3 concerns that have been talked about today.

4 I would need to emphasize as well that
5 we have been working very closely with the Tlicho
6 government on the project. We get our approval or our
7 right to construct this road because we have the
8 approval of the Tlicho government and the community of
9 Whati and both -- both organizations have done lots of
10 work to promote the project, to talk about the need
11 for it and to ask people if it's wanted or not and so
12 we get good strong support from the people and from
13 the organizations, the Tlicho government and the
14 community government of Whati.

15 I just want -- comment about land
16 management as well which we talked about. We have
17 entered into an agreement with the Tlicho government
18 to -- for the highway right-of-way and that we will
19 acquiring a highway right-of-way for the exclusive
20 purpose of constructing a road. There will be no
21 other development within that highway right-of-way
22 corridor.

23 I'd also say that with devolution, the
24 govern -- our territorial government is now much more
25 proactive, have much more responsibility to manage

1 lands within the GNWT -- within the Northwest
2 Territories, sorry. And we are undertaking work to --
3 to do that. Our Department of Lands within the
4 government is leading that work and of relevance here
5 we talked about it was a recreational leasing
6 management framework. So that is being -- there are
7 consultations underway now with various Aboriginal
8 governments to move that framework forward so that we
9 can work together to outline how recreational leasing
10 opportunities will occur.

11 And then within this area as well,
12 there -- we are beginning work on a -- on the
13 Wek'eezhii land use plan. It is three (3) parties
14 that would be part of that; the federal government,
15 the territorial government and the Tlicho government
16 and lots of work to get that organized but that work
17 is very underway, and it will important -- and it will
18 determine what land uses would be available -- or
19 would be allowed in various portions of the Wek'eezhii
20 land area, and obviously one (1) of the items to
21 consider as part of that will be the -- this Tlicho
22 all-season road.

23 So, thank you, Madam Chair, I'll end
24 the comments there.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. I would

1 like to give the Tlicho government an opportunity now
2 to do a short recap.

3

4 RECAP OF TLICHO GOVERNMENT PRESENTATION:

5 MS. LISA NITSIKA: Thank you, Madam
6 Chair. Economic well-being is part of the Tlicho
7 regional economic working group that we've part of the
8 past few years. The mandate for this criteria is to
9 have education information to the public as possible,
10 training and employment.

11 On another note too as well, it's --
12 this gives the opportunity for the community members
13 of Whati the ability to be part of the -- the
14 mainstream society by have this all-season road.
15 Without the road we don't have schools that can
16 participate in sporting events. The cost for freight.
17 The cost for a charter. The cost for a child to be
18 sent out is quite costly and for families who live on
19 the other side of the -- the river, it more --
20 opportunity visit them as well.

21 Charters that come into community,
22 people try to utilize as much as they can. I've been
23 approached twice already to see if people could hope
24 on a charter tonight to save cost.

25 But the Tlicho regional economic

1 development working group is to participate and help
2 with training for each community. Heavy equipment
3 operators is a need in each community, especially, for
4 the community government -- of any community
5 government. Class 5 is needed for water and sewer
6 truck drivers. Those could be needed as well for the
7 all-season road. A class 5 your basic driver's
8 license too is needed and that could be needed for the
9 road to do errands.

10 So we're trying to work towards
11 education, training, to make sure there's training for
12 the people, for the youth to come. Employment, that
13 there is employment for them. As a small isolated
14 community as community government of Whati, there's
15 not so many jobs there is. We're a community of 500
16 plus and the main income in this committee is through
17 the organization of Whati community government, Tlicho
18 government. You have your story. You've got your
19 development corp and we try to do information. We try
20 to inform the public that, okay, there's a course
21 coming up, please contact this person in order to sign
22 up. There's going to be a possibility of jobs coming
23 down in the next few years, please sign up. It's --
24 it's needed. Thank you.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi. Thank you for

1 the recaps. At this time then I would like to open up
2 the floor and I would like to -- oh sorry, Tlicho
3 government. Sorry Tammy.

4 MS. TAMMY STEINWOUND-DESCHAMBEAULT:

5 That's all right. Masi, Madam Chair.

6 For my section of -- of the
7 presentation, I'd just like to recap in saying that
8 the community of Whati has been talking about the road
9 for many years, 30 to 40 years of discussions and only
10 in the last 10 years or so something's really been put
11 into place and -- and worked upon it. That's a lot of
12 time for -- for talk.

13 Now, we'd like to see something in --
14 in place for the people. So the new road we know will
15 bring many benefits to the people of Whati, including,
16 like Lisa stated, a lower cost of living, regular
17 relationships with extended family members outside of
18 Whati. And it's not only for people to go out, it's
19 also for people to come in as Elder Francis Simpson
20 spoke to this morning.

21 Opportunities for more employment. For
22 a community of 500 there's limited jobs here. The
23 road will help to create additional jobs for the
24 people. Even when we look at training, building
25 skills in our people that alone helps with people's

1 mental health and well-being, knowing that they can do
2 something; that they can contribute to the community;
3 that their children can see them making a positive
4 impact in their community. There's a lot of positive
5 spinoffs.

6 Also opportunity for economic
7 development and tourism in our region. We hear that
8 the land, water, fish and other wildlife in our area
9 of -- in the area of the Tlicho all-season road needs
10 to be protected. Tlicho's government's Department of
11 Culture and Lands protection wholeheartedly agrees.
12 This is our main priority, as this is our mandate
13 under our highest law, which is our Tlicho
14 Constitution.

15 Guidance from our elders, our
16 monitoring programs and other partnerships with the
17 GNWT, TCSA, community government of Whati and other
18 partners will help us to ensure unforeseen negative
19 impacts are minimized, if not eliminated. For
20 unforeseen negative impacts, TG is committed to
21 altering their plans to address these concerns.

22 It is important to the Tlicho
23 government that our people are taken care of, the
24 people of Whati. It is equally important that our
25 language, culture and way of life are also protected.

1 This is what Tlicho government is all about.

2 Tlicho government does not foresee any
3 significant impacts after application of monitoring,
4 management, and mitigations are applied. Tlicho
5 government is in full support of the Tlicho all-season
6 road to Whati.

7

8 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

9

10 MS. TAMMY STEINWOUND-DESCHAMBEAULT:

11 Yes, it's very important regarding the all-season
12 road, is very important for our community of Whati.
13 We know that the Elders are quite concerned about the
14 environment, the land and -- and wildlife especially
15 the cariboo.

16 That the Elder land that -- it's very
17 important because the -- all walks of life depends on
18 it. On the -- anybody that would be able to monitor
19 it, I guess is responsibility of the Tlicho
20 government. And then the -- definitely he said when
21 we heard one Elder said there's no water how are the
22 animals going to survive, how we, as a human people,
23 going to survive, how the aquatic life in the water
24 will survive as well too?

25 Definitely he said the -- I think the -

1 - we are fortunate that we have our own agreement in
2 place at that -- under Tlicho government, you know,
3 and so that's just that -- you know, something that we
4 should be proud of and trying and make -- make use of
5 it. Thank you.

6

7

(INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

8

9 PUBLIC COMMENTS:

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, masi for your
11 recap and thank you to the GNWT for your recap as
12 well.

13 With those comments being said, I would
14 like to open the floor and this time I would like to
15 start with the Tlicho women. If any women would like
16 to speak to the issue. Please state your name.

17 MS. LISA MARIE ZOE: Hi, my name is
18 Lisa Marie Zoe. I really support the all-season road
19 because -- due to the fact of what I'm experiencing.
20 I have a -- a 14 year old that is visually impaired
21 and I have an eight-year-old that is -- has a disorder
22 and lack of resources, lack of support on -- for me on
23 -- towards my kids.

24 Like, I have a 14 year old that is
25 visually impaired; is not able to read and write. And

1 my eight-year-old is able to read and write and -- and
2 it hurts me the fact that we have lack of support in
3 our community and our children should be a priority
4 for our future, regardless disability or not. And
5 it's like I'm screaming out of a tunnel. I don't know
6 who to contact, who -- who can help me out on to
7 getting the resources that my kids need. Not only for
8 myself but for other people, other families that are
9 going through the same situation as I am.

10 I just thought I'd like to mention that
11 because I hear -- I hear a lot of feedback from
12 others, and I also want to say as living in a remote
13 community not much opportunity. Any -- any
14 opportunity training that is up I take and I have a
15 lot of skills. I have a lot of hats on me. It's just
16 that no opportunity.

17 So once the road opens up, there'll be
18 a lot of opportunities for such -- people such as I.
19 I'm -- I'm very grateful for hearing feedback from
20 others, and -- and some -- so forth. Thank you for
21 hearing me out.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi for your
23 comments. I'm inviting the Tlicho women. Any Tlicho
24 women that would like to speak, and then I'll go to
25 you, Alex.

1 (BRIEF PAUSE)

2

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay Alex.

4 MR. ALEX NITSIZA: Hello.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: You don't -- you
6 don't fit the name but anyway, I'll -- I'll allow you
7 to speak.

8 MR. ALEX NITSIZA: Thank you, my name
9 is Alex Nitsiza. I don't know if I'm qualified to be
10 an elder but it's always good to try and help and this
11 kind of meeting where it's needed.

12 I used to be in business here. I
13 managed to hold that business for twenty-two (22)
14 years. I can't say I can't do it, I done it. So, in
15 terms of this all-season road, what are we waiting
16 for?

17 If you look around in this small
18 community here, it's hardly any job. That's why at
19 one time I create a job, now I don't have that but I
20 still do some other things, I just can't see myself
21 sitting around doing nothing; that's not in me.

22 It's always fear when it comes to
23 talking about a big project like all-season road.
24 Long time ago our -- our elders talk about this. They
25 knew sooner or later something -- it might happen like

1 this. That's why there was talk about that. Going
2 back to a small community here sometimes people get
3 frustrated. There were no things at one store. They
4 don't have the proper food for the children. Name it.
5 Sometimes people get very sick. They can't send them
6 out due to bad weather.

7 There are a lot of reasons that the
8 elders spoke about in the past; that's why we need the
9 road. We need to open up. We are already doing that,
10 but only on the short season. Sometimes our small
11 town gets detowe (phonetic) on the weekend. We've
12 been doing that, going back and forth. We need jobs.
13 If there's a fear about certain things we're the
14 people we can talk about it. Instead of being --
15 trying to go certain ways; that way is not our way.

16 If we want to be strong like two people
17 let's show it. We've gotta have some people that
18 should have good knowledge and have the drive to go
19 forward on these things. But I'd like to go back in
20 business and I'd like to help somebody if they need it
21 to go back and help them out. I'm willing to do that.

22 But I've got to wait. I hope it
23 doesn't take too long. Masi cho.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi for your
25 comments.

1 If we could open up the floor for
2 comments? Any Tlicho women? Anyone else? Any other
3 Whati residents?

4

5 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

6

7 MS. LOUISE ZOE: Thank you for --
8 thank you for everything. And sometime we'll go out
9 for a patient and if they don't make it and then they
10 buy groceries, everything, they have to pay for the
11 freight. And then when -- the doctor pays for us but
12 -- everything is so expensive here and at the store is
13 so expensive. It's too costly. And small kids, they
14 ask for the money. If you have no money...

15 Every month -- every month she gets
16 food from there but she's -- it's not -- it's not
17 worth it. And then it goes to Yellowknife. Cost too
18 money to go a round trip and to go to hospital.

19

20 (NOT INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

21

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: I hope the
23 translators got her name because I -- I didn't hear it
24 on mine. And then it kind of skipped out towards the
25 end.

1 Masi for your comments. I'd like to
2 open up the floor for any other comments.

3

4 (INTERPRETED FROM TLICHO LANGUAGE INTO ENGLISH)

5

6 MR. LOUIS WEDERIN: Yes, my name is
7 Louis Wederin, an Elder of Whati. Yes, some 40 years
8 ago, yes, back then, I guess you know, we remember a
9 lot of the elders that they give us, you know, some
10 good messages back there. I guess you know, you know
11 some people might think they're fortuneteller, but yet
12 the -- what they predicted, you know, things fall in
13 place.

14 I remember an Elder by the name of
15 Louis Beaulieu (Phonetic), he was a -- a great leader,
16 a chief from this community, and then the -- right
17 after him came Chief Jimmy Nitsiza, an Elder, chief
18 for some time after that and then following that I
19 guess John Nitsiza took over for many years after
20 that.

21 But to date if I could remember all
22 those days and all those years, I guess, you know,
23 like -- it kind of amaze -- amazes to see that the --
24 the -- what type of prediction they had in mind that
25 is coming to reality. The -- they mentioned that the

1 -- they mention that the -- they never said anything
2 about that the -- the food prices are too high or
3 anything, transportations and all that but, none the
4 less, first thing they said was something to do with
5 the safety. They turnaround -- they said that we
6 can't always rely on the -- you know, the aircraft
7 that's, you know, that's -- you know up in the air and
8 -- so some point in the future I guess we might have
9 to consider all-weather road. You know, these are
10 introductory comment regarding about the upcoming, you
11 know, seasonal road.

12 And they even predicted that some day
13 in the future that all the fuel prices will go up and
14 then it's going to be too costly to even airfare might
15 -- might increase and then -- yes, that the only way
16 that we might have to live with, you know, cheaper
17 food prices by opening up all-weather road. Hopefully
18 that, you know, the transportation, you know, holding
19 -- you know, be much cheaper than, you know, by air
20 freight.

21 Just like -- like we say that, you
22 know, last three (3) wise Elders that I just mentioned
23 their name, they're the one worrying, insisting on
24 considering all-weather road even back then.

25 So to date, the subject hasn't changed

1 and, I guess, you know, we, as an Elder, whenever we
2 got time we got together. We confer one another and
3 see whether we could encourage young people to come
4 inside and try to convince the government to -- to
5 build us all-weather road into a community like ours.

6 But nonetheless, it's hard to convince
7 the whole community as a whole and it's hard to
8 convince the government. Nonetheless, now that the --
9 a third government came into place, that being the
10 Tlicho government now that, you know, some day
11 convince one another to -- to make, you know, all-
12 weather road reliable -- reliable.

13 Yes, the -- just coming in -- sometime
14 in April I'll be 80 years old so I'm considered an
15 Elder to date. Yes, that -- yes, well, we've got to
16 be concerned. Things have changed. A lot of changes
17 that we experienced in the past and there's a lot of
18 changes are coming in our lifetime and it looks like
19 there's going to be more changes coming up in the very
20 near future as well.

21 Yes, that to date, I guess, you know,
22 like the -- even the population and the cariboo that
23 our ancestors raised us with and the population had
24 dropped considerably. It looks like that -- looks
25 like things aren't going to change for the better, but

1 -- but somehow we had to support one another and we've
2 gotta substitute something for -- sacrifice one thing
3 over another to -- to improve, you know, the life of
4 the people within the region and especially we've
5 gotta sacrifice our time for the future generation.

6 Yes, that -- that the food prices are
7 pretty high in this community and even the fuel prices
8 as well. The -- the food prices across the country is
9 not any better but yet once the winter road -- once
10 the all-season road clings to our community, that it
11 might, you know, somewhat ease up our, you know, the
12 freight rate and probability of looking up for a --
13 for a brighter future such as employment that kind of
14 - might come along with. So, quite hopeful and
15 confident that the life might change for the better.

16 Yes, he got -- be considerate, I guess,
17 in order to consider how the life was back about forty
18 (40), fifty (50) years ago compared to nowadays and
19 what the future holds, what plans that we might run
20 into, these are -- this is something that we have to
21 work together so that hopefully we'll -- we'll survive
22 the odds.

23 Yes, our ancestors of the past, I
24 guess, you know, the ones that we did solely rely on,
25 and they predicted that some day in the future it's

1 going to have -- we're going to have some -- some
2 problem with the alcohol in the community and in the
3 future you might have a lot of visitors, somebody that
4 you may -- you don't really know so now that there's a
5 lot of influx of tourists from across the country
6 coming into our area, this is what all that's been
7 predicted by our elders of the past.

8 But now that the -- they even advise us
9 not to panic or not to, you know, you've gotta be
10 prepared to -- to accept them into your region
11 because, you know, you gotta find a way how to deal
12 with them and then so we -- so these are the things
13 that, you know, and our leaders like Alfonz Nitsiza
14 persistence, you know, to -- to be prepared for influx
15 of tourists within our community.

16 So definitely he says that we don't
17 want to -- we got to take the -- all the social
18 problem off the way in order to accept the tourists to
19 come into our community. Yes, a lot of times in the
20 past, I guess, you know, we did appreciate, you know,
21 how we're brought up but our ancestors said we always
22 could easily say my grandfather, my grandmother.
23 Today most of us don't have a grandmother, even don't
24 have a grand -- we don't have a dad or mum. But the -
25 - who are the future people going to rely on. They

1 have to rely on us because we're their future history
2 and we're their history as well too. We're the
3 ancestry holders.

4 Yes, that definitely says we have to
5 accept one another that they, you know -- so that we
6 have to accept the youth as they come along through
7 the education and then the youth have to accept their
8 -- their grandparents, you know, of what the history
9 that they went through.

10 I mean, yes, I too haven't -- have any
11 education. I -- I didn't had to go to school but
12 traditionally I'm quite knowledgeable on the land, how
13 to survive. But those are the things of the past and
14 then -- yes, most of us that we survive back inn early
15 days when the fur economy was, you know, great and we
16 could easily doing our living then. Nowadays, like
17 fur economy is not with us anymore. There's very few
18 of them do our trapping on the land and wage economy
19 has taken over and then you've got to be qualified.
20 You have to have, you know, professional trade in
21 order to, you know, make a living.

22 Yes, the -- like I said, you know, like
23 we did rely on our forefathers of the past and then
24 they're the ones we had to solely rely on. What I
25 remember of their history, then we had to make it work

1 for us because, you know, like the -- so when they
2 said that the -- for a safety wise, I guess, you know,
3 that the -- the -- we can't rely on heavily on the
4 aircraft so now that we have to change to the -- on
5 the highways to date -- you know, today so that -- I
6 think these are the things that were predicted by our
7 elders of the past and now.

8 So that message I'd like to pass on and
9 share that with the youth in order too understand, you
10 know, what life we could make out of it for a future.
11 Nonetheless, I guess, you know, our forefathers, I
12 guess, you know, that they did rely heavily on their
13 relations and before the Europeans came, I guess, you
14 know, we did had our own profits that, you know, that
15 led the way predictions and all that. And then we had
16 our own traditional way of dealing with the feeding of
17 the fire.

18 And these are things that, you know,
19 still out there for us to practice that, you know,
20 could make our life easier. So the -- to date -- to
21 date I could easily support the all-weather road
22 because -- and respect the message that I got from our
23 forefathers of the past.

24 Knowing -- knowing that there might be
25 some social problems that -- that might -- might come

1 with the development and the construction of the road
2 or constructions of the development of a new mine.
3 But nonetheless, you know, we -- we might be able to
4 help, you know, the people -- qualified people to, you
5 know, to educate, you know, the people that might have
6 some experience with the social issues and problems.

7 Definitely, he says that the -- each --
8 if we were to work on the -- some regular workshops to
9 inform one another as to how, you know, we should
10 improve our lives, you know, and, you know, it'd be
11 great because the community problem is our community.
12 It's not a comm -- no other community members problem,
13 it's our problem so we got to resolve our problem if
14 we do have one in our community.

15 Yes, the -- like I said that the --
16 when the -- our elders they talk about upcoming all-
17 weather road that the -- they never mention anything
18 about a social problem, social impacts or anything but
19 to date, we have to work together.

20 I think there are some major
21 development, major road connected to community of
22 Behchoko and then the next one in line is our
23 community and then eventually from after that, I
24 guess, you know, maybe the highway, all-weather road,
25 might be getting again to Gameti.

1 So there -- so these are things that we
2 have to work together and then we have to educate one
3 another, you know, how to -- to go around the odds.
4 Somebody, you know, are concerned about.

5 Yes, like I said, the three (3) great
6 leaders that what the message that they give us, you
7 know, like -- I'd like to share that with the -- with
8 our community. Yes, I -- I like my way of traditional
9 way of living and then I -- I like to -- I'm proud of
10 my tradition and my culture. I don't want to let that
11 go. So I'm -- on behalf of the three (3) great
12 leaders that envisaged, you know, the traditional road
13 -- not traditional but the all-weather road connecting
14 to our community then I -- I agree with them and then
15 on their behalf I would accept that as an elder like
16 the -- for a safety wise, I guess, you know, rather
17 than travel on the land -- rather than on the air.

18 Yes, the -- maybe the life of the
19 community and the community might improve, might be a
20 lot of employment might be created. There might be a
21 small problem with a social issues that -- that don't
22 seem to go away from every community but we have other
23 qualified people working in that area to work with the
24 people that having problem.

25 Yes, that I -- now that I -- I don't

1 know how many times I did repeat myself regarding
2 about the -- the message that the -- the elders
3 brought up and then I tried to repeat how many times
4 over for people to understand in -- what message that
5 the Elders left before they past on.

6 Yes, the -- it's something that our
7 leaders have worked together and then the -- with the
8 message of the -- our past leaders. Thank you.

9

10 (INTERPRETATION CONCLUDED)

11

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Masi for your
13 comments. Masi.

14 I'll take one (1) more question maybe
15 if there's any questions or comments out there from
16 the community.

17

18 (BRIEF PAUSE)

19

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Anyone else would
21 like to speak?

22

23 (BRIEF PAUSE)

24

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. I'd like to

1 assure people that for the next two (2) days there'll
2 be opportunities as well. And we've gone through this
3 first day, but make sure you let everybody in the
4 community know that they'll have an opportunity to
5 speak or to come forward to the mic and their -- their
6 voices could be heard. So invite all your friends and
7 family out tomorrow for even a better day tomorrow.

8 Before we adjourn for the day, I would
9 like to just briefly thank the cooks for their meals
10 that they provided for us today. I'd also like to
11 thank the presenters for their presentations that they
12 provided. Masi cho. And thank you from -- for all
13 the information that you provided to us, that was most
14 helpful.

15 I'd like to thank the people also of
16 What for coming out today, but like I said, we're
17 hoping for a bigger audience. The whole town could
18 come out even for tomorrow and the next day. Things
19 only get better here.

20 So thank you Whati people for your
21 hospitality. Tomorrow we start at 10:00 in the
22 morning so it's a little bit more earlier we'll be
23 here. So, the plane will come in earlier and I think
24 the weather is -- is still good out there, so we'll
25 see everybody tomorrow.

1 Before we adjourn for today, though,
2 I'd like to Charlie Nitsiza to close with a prayer and
3 there is an elder in another community in another
4 Tlicho community that passed on. So, in recognition
5 of him Charlie will speak to that and do that in a
6 prayer. Charlie...?

7

8 (CLOSING PRAYER)

9

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, we'll see
11 everybody tomorrow morning at 10:00. Thank you. Masi
12 Cho.

13

14 --- Upon adjourning at 6:41 p.m.

15

16

17 Certified Correct,

18

19

20 _____

21 Wendy Woodworth, Ms.

22

23

24

25

| | | | | |
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