

Statement from Kenny Jolly Sr. as provided to and translated by Johnny Trapper

As a family closely impacted by the Wabouchii Project which lies at our neighbouring trapline, it has been a while we became aware of it to – not a large extent.

I have serious concerns when it comes to environmental damage. I have not seen reports of what damages will be caused to the environment; not only in the surrounding are by also downstream of the Rupert's River. If we look at blasting for example, the air will carry the dust to different parts of the land including on water. The pollution coming from the blasted rock and soil will flow downstream. We are not only affecting Nemaska but we continue on to affect the people of Waskaganish if this occurs.

If we look at years' past mining operations in the Ouje-Bougoumou area/region where my wife originally comes from, she will be undergoing medical examinations to detect cancer. This is what is being done to the people there undergoing medical tests and some cancer detections have been made. These detections are traced to come from pollutions that mines have caused. This is where my highest concern is, in environment and the health problems originating from the mine. We will be undergoing these same medical tests as a result of the mine. We need to look at the health of our people and be concerned about it.

There will be a lot of impact on the environment and damages will be carried by the Rupert's River downstream.

It is good that the mine carries jobs with it but, for only 25 years. These jobs won't last and 25 years is not long. We look at what happened recently with the Rupert River Diversion. We've depleted the jobs. I do not believe the jobs created, whatever they may be, will be for the Cree or for the people of Nemaska. I don't believe that. I doubt the families closely impacted will find employment.

It was said we would have gotten 1.8 million dollars from Paix De Braves in employment. I don't know about that. And same here, we don't know where the money will go.

If the mine does go through, the blasted or wasted rock can be recycled and used by our community. We need to repair and improve our roads. This includes the Route Du Nord as well. Our community sits on an island or a peninsula where we're surrounded by marsh land. We will need the rock to further improve the community or when the need comes to expand into the marsh land. This is where we could use the rock.

For the mining coming in or companies, we cannot simply allow a company to excavate our land. The company has to be pursued to contribute to community improvement in infrastructure and help in community development. in coming years, we will need a bigger arena for our children. This is where we should pursue the to help out in community development.

As stated, employment is good but for me, environment is more important.


Kenny Jolly Sr.