



4/30/2015

REPORT

Impacts of the Whabouchi Project

Nemaska Work Group
CREE NATION OF NEMASKA

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INTRODUCTION

The following report is submitted by the Work Group. The Work Group was created by the former Council for two main reasons: to prepare the members of Nemaska for the COMEX hearing and to gather a list of concerns and comments regarding the impacts of the proposed Whabouchi Project.

The purpose of this report is to provide the COMEX with sufficient data to allow the committee to better understand how the impacts of the project will affect the members of Nemaska, both individually and as a community.

The report consists of a compilation of concerns, comments and questions expressed by the members of Nemaska regarding the Whabouchi Project. The report is divided into the three following sections:

- A summary of comments, concerns and recommendations gathered throughout the process initiated by the Work Group ;
- A summary of comments and concerns expressed by members since the beginning of the Project;
- Additional recommendations from the members of the Work Group .

Following the review of the report by the Council on April 30, 2015, the Council did adopt a resolution acknowledging it and supporting its submission to the COMEX.

Furthermore, it was initially intended for the report to be shared with community members before its final submission with the COMEX. However, given that Goose Break began on April 27, 2015, it was impossible to circulate the report before the deadline for submissions set by the COMEX. Nonetheless, once this report is submitted to the COMEX, it will be made available to the members for their information.

SECTION 1 -SUMMARY OF COMMENTS, CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS GATHERED THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS INITIATED BY THE WORK GROUP

Section 1 explains the process that was initiated by the Work Group to prepare the community members for the COMEX hearings held on March 30 and 31, 2015. This section also provides a summary of comments and concerns that were voiced during this process.

1. Explanation of the process

As aforementioned, the former Council created a Work Group to prepare the members for the COMEX hearing and to gather a list of concerns and comments regarding the impacts of the proposed Whabouchi Project. The Work Group is composed of Community representatives and regional representatives.

With the support of Council, the Work Group used different methods to approach and encourage community members to express their concerns and comments during the COMEX process. The selected methods to encourage community participation were:

- Focus groups involving specific sector representatives (ex. Elders, women, land users, etc). These focus groups were open to anyone who wished to participate or observe;
- Target visits – visits to either families, specific locations or groups who requested them (ex. personnel and clients of the Clinic, people with mobility issues, etc.);
- Individual interventions – open to anyone wishing to be met with individually for various reasons (ex. being shy, being afraid of public scolding, mobility issues, etc.);
- Reporting forums – such as the radio or other media like Facebook (a Facebook page was also created).

To gather comments more efficiently, the Work Group divided the comments and concerns into four themes. Although four themes were chosen, the topics falling in one group or another were left vague and it was agreed that all four themes were not mutually exclusive. The selected themes are as follows:

- Land Use / Culture / Cree Knowledge
- Employment / Social / Business Development & Opportunities / Integration
- Water Quality / Air Quality / Environment / Communication / Safety
- Closure / Remediation

Later on, the Work Group decided to add a fifth theme that was frequently raised by the members: Consultation and Participation.

Radio announcements were made to broadcast the activities and the opportunities people were given to either share their comments or to obtain information. Aside from

the local radio station, other broadcasting mediums included the use of the Facebook page, posters, letters sent to individuals and personal invitations.

Specific efforts were made to ensure participants understood the process was neutral; that it was intended to encourage people and educate them on how they could participate in the consultation process namely to share their feelings, thoughts and recommendations concerning the project.

To ensure that information was properly gathered, most of the interventions – including the focus groups – were carried out by more than one person.

Regardless of the forum used, the Work Group decided that the personal identity of participants who provided specific comments would not be disclosed. Names of the participants in general were compiled for information purposes only and will be listed in an appendix to this document.

2. Summary of comments and concerns

a. Summary of comments and concerns gathered during the focus group

As was previously mentioned, four different focus groups were held for different demographics. A list of the participants is set out in Schedule 1 to this report.

Furthermore, the following demographics were identified for potential focus groups:

- Land users (families of the affected trapline and others around the area and/or who use the general area for their activities whether it be hunting, camping or getting drinking water)
- Elders
- Youth
- Women
- Local entities and businesses

The focus group meetings normally began with an opening prayer, followed by an explanation of the exercise, the rules of conduct (respect all opinions, etc.). This was followed by an explanation on the functioning of the COMEX process (from the early stages of a project, to the project notice, the impact assessment, the hearings, recommendation and delivery or not of a permit). A map of the project was also shown to explain some of the changes were made to the project. To show people the most recent plans, a brief video was shown of the Whabouchi Project.

The four areas of discussion were then presented, and the participants were encouraged to enter into open discussions on the Whabouchi Project. No efforts were made to correct false perceptions, comfort or scare people. To the contrary, they were encouraged to share their thoughts.

i) **Land users' Focus Group**

Date: February 5, 2015
Location: Main Conference Room, Nemaska Administration Building
Facilitators: Greg Jolly and Andy Baribeau
Participants: Approximately 24

The following represents a summary of the comments and concerns raised during the focus group for the land users that was held on February 5, 2015 at the Nemaska Administration Building.

Land use / Culture / Cree knowledge

The Land users underlined the need for communication and circulation of information between them, the mine and the tallyman.

The Land users feel they should be prioritized for jobs and business opportunities.

The Land users wonder if there is a responsibility to the family.

The Land users feel there should be a reflection on how to avoid discrimination and how to promote integration and cultural exchange.

Employment / Social / Business Development & Opportunities / Integration

The Land users want the waste rock to be imported to the Community for the development of infrastructure, such instance lot preparation, maintenance of roads, etc.

The Land users feel the Tallyman should look to the people to be part of the decision.

The Land users think that a person should be appointed to represent the families and ensure there is no conflict when decisions are made regarding land use.

Regarding employment, Land users would like training sessions to be provided to prepare them for job opportunities; they would like available funds to be dedicated to these trainings sessions. They would also like there to be a person appointed to help with the funding and the training sessions.

They would also like a union to be created to protect employees.

Within the human resources division, they feel there should be a social development person and a human resources manager available to help or answer their questions.

Finally, before the mine opens, work opportunities should be assessed. Local entrepreneurs should be included or approached for any opportunity created by the project.

Water / Air Quality/ Environment / Communication / Safety

The Lands users would like a monitoring of the Nemaska river to be set (downstream south of mountain lake) as well as a monitoring of the spawning sites (sampling eggs), the fishing sites, the rivers, birds (migrating and other), and other animals.

They would like a study of air quality to be conducted regarding effects on small berries of all kinds (ex. the mountain was a good blueberry area).

The Land users also want the water to be tested before the project starts, during the course of the project and after it ends. Moreover, lakes affected should be identified for additional monitoring. Water quality in pits, tailing, and steeling ponds around the mine site should also be monitored closely.

They would also like any environment related incidents to be reported (ex: Unnatural growth can harm or affect the animals).

The Land users would like to know if beaches will still be accessible.

They would like to know if there is a position being forwarded by the band.

Finally, they feel that a notice should always be given to the community and people living at Mountain Lake before any blasting.

Closure / Remediation

As a remedy, the Jack pine forest should be restored (as a mixed forest).

To fight habitat losses, a relocation program should be put in place.

The Land users would also like a tour of the mine and open pit to be put in place for those interested.

ii) **Women's Focus Group**

Date: March 3, 2015
Location: Main Conference Room, Nemaska Administration Building
Facilitators: Greg Jolly and Tanya Lamoureux
Participants: 16

The women present at the focus group held on March 3, 2015 all agreed to compile the comments and concerns in a document that they submitted to the COMEX on March 31, 2015. Therefore, this part will briefly summarize the comments and concerns gathered. We invite the COMEX members to review the report submitted by Mary Ann Blackned on behalf of the women present at this focus group.

While discussing the impacts of the project, the women often referred to the problems and issues that the Community encountered with other development projects such as the Hydro and the mining projects that have or are operating near other communities and how it affects them.

Furthermore, on many occasions the women expressed their concern regarding the closeness of the project to the Community. This is especially alarming because the project will affect all Community members and future generations not only the family of the Trapline where the mine will be situated.

The majority of the women present at this focus group thought that the Proponent should not be given the certificates authorizing the construction and operation of this mining project. They do not wish to live so close to a mining project that will affect their lives in such a negative way.

Consultations and Participation

The Women discussed the consultation process that took place from the beginning of the project to the signing of the Chinuchi Agreement in early November 2014. They did not feel as though they were adequately consulted. They were only briefly informed of the project and how it would benefit the Community. They also indicated that the information on the project was not easily accessible and the information that was available was often incomprehensible or unclear. They feel it is the proponent's responsibility to create videos translated in Cree (or organize visits to the mine) making the information more accessible.

They stated that they did not feel that their voices were heard. Once consulted, they were not provided with a follow up meeting explaining how their comments were considered.

They would like the Council who approved the Chinuchi Agreement to explain why this project is beneficial to the Community. They requested that a follow up meeting be provided regarding this process.

The Women also questioned the representation on the COMEX. They wondered why the group was not composed of at least one woman and one member of the Community that is directly impacted.

The Women also recommended that all members of the Community be treated equally when determining benefits and remedial measures as failing to do so might create conflict amongst community members (conflict which would not have arisen if it weren't for the project).

Land Use / Culture / Cree Knowledge

The Women stated that they do not agree with the assumption that the members no longer use the land. The members practice their traditional lifestyle as often as they can. During Goose Break and Moose Break, the Community is practically empty.

They also mentioned their concerns regarding the destruction of the land and what other projects will affect them in the future.

Water Quality / Air Quality / Environment / Communication / Safety

The Women were particularly concerned about how the environmental impacts of the project (dust, water contamination, impacts on fish habitat, etc.) would affect the health of the members, especially those who are more vulnerable such as Elders, infants, people with existing health issues, etc.

The Women would like to see prevention programs created by the Proponent to prepare the members to potential health and social issues.

The participants would like to be provided with a detailed explanation of the Emergency Plan and how the plan will be communicated to the members.

The Women asked: will the Proponent be accountable if members get sick?

The Women were concerned about the condition of the Route du Nord due to the increase in traffic and the dust. Therefore they would like the Proponent to find an alternative route of transport or alternatively, have the Route du Nord paved.

The Women requested a report from experts regarding the impact of the project on the quality of the air, especially in the area of the camps at Mountain Lake.

They would like to know what will happen to Bible Camp and how will it be protected.

The Women questioned the unknown environmental impacts.

The Women are also concerned with the increase in the need for medical services. The Proponent should provide medical care to his employees and only use the community's

medical services in case of emergency. Still, the Proponent should provide financing for such emergencies.

Employment / Social / Business Development & Opportunities / Integration

The Women feel training programs ought to be offered immediately to the members of Nemaska to ensure that the members are able to access the employment opportunities as soon as they are offered when the mine opens.

Training alone would not be sufficient, it should be followed by immediate hiring as long as Nemaska members successfully complete their training.

The Women felt the need to mention the past experience with the Eleonore mine, the case of the Wemindji project where multiple lay-offs occurred as soon as the construction phase ended and the operation phase began. The Women feel employment should be guaranteed throughout the multiple phases of the project.

If the project goes on, the Women feel it should use local entrepreneurs, businesses and different services to increase economic development in the Community.

The Women would like to see their questions answered regarding the ownership of the project: can water resources be claimed? Can claims be brought?

The Women are afraid of the social impact the project could have on the communities especially regarding substance abuse and dangerous behaviours which could be triggered by it (ex. towards young women). Thus they would ask the Proponent to establish a zero-tolerance policy towards drugs or alcohol amongst its employees.

Finally, the Women feel a Work Group should be created to address these issues or any issue which should arise throughout the life of the mine.

Closure / Remediation

The Women would like to see the list of remedial measures that will be provided by the Proponent. They mentioned that everybody should be treated equally as all members will be directly impacted by this project.

As for the closure of the mine, this was stated: *“whatever the plan is, the impacts will always be seen and felt. As a wise man said: when something happens to our land, we die a bit inside.”*

“Once the land is destroyed, it is destroyed forever.” It was mentioned that this fact will particularly affect the Youth; that is why the Youth should always be consulted when considering such projects as they will be the ones that will feel the impacts the most.

iii) Elders' Focus Group

Date: March 10, 2015
Location: Main Conference Room, Nemaska Administration Building
Facilitators: Greg Jolly and Andy Baribeau
Participants: 8 to 10

Opening Comments / Remarks

Having all lived through the most recent hydro-electric projects on the Rupert River, and most having similar experiences dating back to the first hydro-electric projects in the 1970's, the participants are aware of how projects can bring change to the land, to activities, to communities and to people.

They have some understanding of the impact assessment process but have not often been called upon to reflect and comment on what they think will need to be dealt with when considering such a project.

The group also briefly discussed how this could be presented to the COMEX but discussions were brief and no decisions were made on this.

These are the comments and concerns raised by the participants:

Land Use / Culture / Cree Knowledge

An Elder spoke of the use of Cree Knowledge when assessing the impacts of a project. The Proponent should not only call upon the expertise of scientists but also take into consideration Cree knowledge especially when it comes to monitoring the fish. The Cree know how different species of fish look (its flesh) and how they taste. The Cree see the differences and the changes once the water has been affected by a project. The scientists ignore this.

The importance of hunting and fishing programs was raised by a participant. These programs should be offered throughout the life of the mine and after its closure.

Another participant stated: *"I am not sure what it will look like (speaking of the project), I did not see the plans. I do not understand why people are not talking about livelihood¹. We all have one but no one is discussing it. We all have livelihoods and these need to be considered. The land will change, it will not go back to the way it was. To compensate, we will get a hand-out as a result but this is nothing compared to what goes out."*

¹ The Work Group interprets the word livelihood as the Cree way of life.

Water Quality / Air Quality / Environment / Communication / Safety

An Elder spoke of her experience living near the Matagami/Joutel area with her family. She mentioned that the meat, especially the beaver did not taste right and people got sick around there. *“The meat smelled like gas.”* She also mentioned that there were some Crees that worked at the mines.

A participant raised issues regarding the retention ponds and water fluctuations. He explained that this year there was a lot of snow and Hydro-Québec had erosion problems with one of their dykes (located at PK 170). Hydro-Québec will have to work on this problem this year because the water started flowing in the other direction: away from the dyke. *“Even if the engineers looked at it and calculated how it should be, and told us there would be no problems, there were problems. What can be done to avoid this?”*

Speaking about the sediments settling in the lake an Elder raised the question as to know if the sediments and/or the residues from the retention pond would be treated: *“Will it flow into the lake”*. This particular subject also came up in other groups on a regular basis.

The same Elder, speaking of the changes in fish after the Hydro-Quebec dams expressed that *“The fish downriver from the dams, maybe 10 km down, tasted differently”*. He fears all animals will taste differently once they do their tests. In his opinion the Proponent needs to get some fishes from different areas to compare them and see the changes: sampling should be done at Mountain Lake, on the Rupert River and areas not affected by projects.

Another Elder, speaking about the water and the area, said he could not help but worry about the water and is wondering if they will still be able to drink it and if their children will still be able to swim in the lake (from the Bible camp and surrounding camps). He also wonders if the ptarmigan will still be there. *Will the area remain intact?* Adults and children love it in its current state (i.e. full of berries). This area provides fish people eat, water people drink and swim in. The Elder worries it will change and wonder what will happen to Bible camp then, as it has a big role in the community.

He said they went through this with the dams and cannot use the river anymore. He is afraid of the water being contaminated. He said the fish does not taste as it used to: some have a milky-like substance in them now. The river has a film of sediment at the bottom that changes the water: *“The River was ruined, my children cannot use the river and we don’t take our drinking water from there anymore. We even saw a moose calf with a growth – things we never saw before”*.

Issues regarding the berries (dust, effects on the harvest) and water contamination have been raised repeatedly and are of deep concern to the Elders.

An Elder outlined that the area was a good goose-hunting area and wonders if geese will be affected by chemicals, etc., when they land on the retention ponds and other waters around the mine. He also wonders if these areas will be polluted and if anything can be done to prevent geese to land on contaminated grounds.

An Elder mentioned the vicious circle of damages caused to the land by the dams, which in turn damaged the animals they eat. He wonders when it will end. He too feels the animals do not taste the way they used to (fish, beavers, etc.) as a result of water contamination. He feels the impacts on the Crees are not considered and only the amount of money which will be made is: *“We can no longer use the water to drink it. We need to see how the animals (our food) are affected”*.

An Elder underlines he fears other minerals than lithium will be extracted from the mine and other things will be hidden which would mean the Crees would not get their fair share.

Finally, the following question arose: *“Could the waste rock and other materials all be put together to have less impact?”*

Employment / Social / Business Development & Opportunities / Integration

An Elder mentioned Eleonore Mine and how only trained and certified people were retained for the jobs. This meant that few Crees got the permanent jobs. As for contracts, even if they went to Cree companies, the sub-contracts hired very few Crees.

To the Elder, if someone uses the Nemaska name to get a contract, the profits need to come to the people: the Chief and Council need to be honest, transparent, fair and treat everyone equally.

Closure / Remediation

The closure needs to be done properly so trees and plants can grow there again, especially on the stockpiles.

An important point is that when the mine closes, when the Proponent is monitoring and EVEN AFTER MONITORING IS DONE, the company will need to stay attentive to Cree concerns about the fish and water. It is a concern that should keep being addressed even after the closure.

Another important issue is that not everyone can find employment which means many people cannot pay their rent, their food, etc. Thus, the funds should be directed towards the community to help create jobs so people can pay their bills. For the Elders, there is a need to focus on job creation in the community as well. This way, there would be fairness for everyone (“social equity”).

Consultation / Participation

The Elders feel the Chief and Council members should be present when work groups take place and discuss issues with them.

The Elders understand how difficult it is for the youth and how they can be torn between the desire to protect the land and the need for job openings: *“Some youth speak of the land, others speak of jobs. My grandchildren have finished school but have no work.”*

iv) Youth Focus Group

Date: March 24, 2015
Location: Sports Complex
Facilitators: Greg Jolly and Miriam Atkins
Participants: 8
Age: 13 to 35 years of age

A focus group was held for the Youth on March 24, 2015. The Youth have submitted a list of concerns and questions that were expressed during the Focus Group. We invite you to review these concerns and questions. We have included in this report a summary of these concerns and questions.

Land Use / Culture / Cree Knowledge

The Youth expressed concerns about the control and monitor of harvesting activities by the workers at the mine. They would like a Cree Cultural Fund to be established. They also request that a cultural orientations sessions be given to the non-natives. They are also concerned about the changes made to the project design.

Water Quality / Air Quality / Environment / Communication / Safety

The Youth are concerned about the following:

- Re-vegetation process
- Increase in traffic on the Route du Nord
- Effects on the hydrological system
- Quality of air due to the blasting
- Sickness from lithium
- Contamination of water and how it will affect the aquatic life
- Contamination of berries
- Noise pollution and how it will affect the animals
- The monitoring of the lakes surrounding the mine
- Impacts on the spawning grounds

Employment / Social / Business Development & Opportunities / Integration

With regards to employment, the Youth suggested that there be training offered in Nemaska, that work co-op programs be developed, that there be a minimum of 50% Cree employed at the mine and that the work schedules be development taking into consideration that the Cree workers have families. They also want this project to promote business opportunities for the community/family members and encourage the Proponent and other companies involved at the mine to buy products and goods from Nemaska.

With respect to social issues, the Youth want the Cree Health Board to play a leading role in addressing the social impacts. They want the Proponent to hire professional therapists to address the social impacts. Also, first responders should be trained to be able to respond to emergencies at the mine.

Closure / Remediation

For the closure and remediation phase, the Youth suggest to re-fill the open pit with waste rocks, cover it with soil and plant grass and that the affected areas be reforested. Also, the Youth suggest that the monitoring continue for at least 28 years to limit the possible after effects.

v) **Entities Focus Group**

Date: March 26, 2015
Location: Ecole Luke Mettaweskum School
Facilitators: Greg Jolly and Tanya Lamoureux
Participants: 3

This Focus Group was held in order to obtain the comments, concerns and recommendations for representatives of entities. It must be noted that in light of the low participation during this Focus Group, the participants present, including the Work Group members, held open discussions on the project.

Water Quality / Air Quality / Environment / Communication / Safety

Participants discussed their concerns regarding the condition and the safety of the Route du Nord. Patients of the local Miyapmatssiwin center are transported to Chibougamau three times per week. The increase in traffic will pose a danger for these patients and other travellers.

The Participants are very concerned about the Elders that live at Mountain Lake and how they will be affected by the dust which travels very far and settles only at night.

The 10 KM radius identified for the impact study is not sufficient. The material, which could be dangerous, could travel further (by air or water). Also, the perfect circle of the studied area is also not appropriate when assessing impacts on water, land and air.

Participants are concerned about how this project could affect the soil, the ground. An example was given of how the hydroelectricity poles erected by Hydro-Quebec affected the soil in the area as when it rains or when it is misty, the poles generate heat in the area. Berries that grow near the poles are different, they grow faster and are bigger. Some people pick them anyway, but their growth is unnatural and could be harmful to their health.

Also, if there is contamination of the water, it will impact the earth (soil), the trees and the plants which in turn will affect the animals and the people who eat the plants.

The Participants talked about the mine located in Malartic. Certain houses were relocated because of the mine. Families were impacted as they were forced to leave behind memories of their old house and their backyard. Also, many residents complained about the dust caused by the mine operations during the summer period.

The Participants discussed the possible need to increase services at the local clinic. If an emergency occurs at the mine, the Community ambulance will be called to assist. It

will be outside the Community which poses a problem if an emergency occurs in the Community. Also, who will pay for these expenses (use of ambulance and first responders)? The mine operations will also mean an increase in the files that are open at the clinic. This will require a change in the resources needed such as a change in the personnel schedule because of night shifts, additional medication, etc.. Who will pay for these additional services? The Proponent must meet with the Cree Health Board in order to address these additional needs.

Employment / Social / Business Development & Opportunities / Integration

The Participants are concerned about the loss of employees by local entities such as janitors as they may be paid more at the mine.

They are also worried about the Youth dropping out of high school to go work at the mine. The workers should have their high school diploma if they want to be hired.

The Participants asked whether language will be a barrier for employment. Will there be restrictions in employment based on language. Not many members speak French and they do not want this to prevent them from securing employment.

The Proponent should conduct a survey in the community to find out who possesses the necessary skills and qualifications to work at the mine. This should be done in collaboration with the CHRD offices.

Closure / Remediation

The Participants are worried that the Community will suffer from the closure of the mine. Members will need to adapt to the loss of a very significant income. This will cause social problems. There will also be a decrease in the Community's economy.

b. Summary of comments and concerns gathered during targeted visits

The only targeted visit requested was with the Tallyman of R20 and his spouse on February 17, 2015. The following is a compilation of the issues that were brought to our attention by the participants regarding the project.

The Tallyman does not authorize the use of the map (No.136.1 – Cree Land Use) as it indicates all the hunting and fishing areas which is confidential information. He requested that maps be created showing the camps and water sources only. He also requested that a map be created that shows the infrastructures of the project and the entire Mountain Lake (including camps).

The Tallyman mentioned that the fish studies conducted by the Proponent were not done properly. He indicated the need for new baseline data and regular monitoring at Mountain Lake and Lake Spodumene, as well as the small lakes located near the projects. The monitoring should always be done in collaboration with the land users. It should be a partnership between scientists and land users.

When there is a problem it should be addressed properly.

The Tallyman is worried about the quality of water at their water source (where they take the water near the camp). The water will probably be affected by the pollution and dust created by the increase of traffic. He would like this water source to be a no-fishing zone and for additional protection measures to be established because it is a very important source.

Water sampling should be done regularly, at least every season (before, during and after the mine).

He would like to see a monitoring land-use program to be created to control the harvesting by non-natives.

Protection measures should also be put in place for the spawning sites.

The Tallyman expressed his discontent regarding a Safety zone to be established by the Proponent. The land users should not be told where and when they can hunt. This is their right which is protected by the JBNQA.

He is worried about the first phase of blasting. Will there be flying rocks? Will there be a danger for the land users? He would like to participate in the determination of the blasting schedule. This schedule should also be revisited every year, with the land users' participation.

Tallyman expressed his concerns regarding the crossing of the trucks on the Route du Nord to transport the waste materials to the waste rock pile. He is worried about the safety of the travellers.

Furthermore, the Tallyman would like the Proponent to prioritize the use of Tallyman's equipment, for the studies and monitoring programs.

c. Summary of comments and concerns gathered during individual visits

The Work Group noticed that not many members were requesting individual visits; therefore it decided to hire two people to conduct interviews in the Community.

The purpose of the interviews was to ensure that an attempt was made to approach people and encourage them to submit comments and/or make personal statements regarding the Whabouchi Project for the COMEX hearing.

The Work Group informed the members, via a radio announcement on March 20, 2015 that two individuals would be approaching members to find out if they were interested in preparing their statements to the COMEX and if so, if they required any assistance.

Through the interviews, individual statements were gathered and compiled in accordance with the guidelines outlined in a Public Notice that was distributed on February 27, 2015. These guidelines included the same four themes used in the focus groups:

- a) Land Use/Culture/Cree Knowledge;
- b) Employment/ Social/ Business Development and Opportunities/ Integration;
- c) Water/ Air Quality/Environment/ Communication/ Safety;
- c) Closure/ Remediation.

The following approaches were used to gather statements:

- House (and work) visits for the majority of respondents;
- Several house calls were made to individuals;
- Some individuals who were outside the community were contacted via email;
- Members were approached in public areas and conversation was initiated (i.e. at the mall, school, restaurant, etc.).

During the interview process, people were informed of the COMEX hearings that were to take place in Nemaska. Several people were contacted and one of the concerns more often stated was the lack of information from the Cree Nation of Nemaska officials which prevented them from formally giving a comprehensive statement. They were not properly and/or sufficiently informed about the COMEX process as well as the nature of the mine project.

The following comments were expressed during the interviews:

- I don't know anything about this project.
- I haven't been following the project.
- I have nothing to say about it.
- What's done is done. There is nothing left to say.
- They [leadership] already signed the [Chinuchi] Agreement. Why come to us so late?

- Who sent you? I will communicate with the Band Office myself.
- If I have anything to say, I will forward it to the Band Office.
- What's the COMEX?

Some of the individuals had already participated in focus groups and did not want to make additional statements.

For individuals who did make statements, the interviewers returned to them a draft written report of their statements that was reviewed by them and signed for approval. Some individuals had additional comments to make after taking the time to think about the potential impacts of the project.

These statements were submitted to the COMEX for consideration.

All individuals that were interviewed were invited to make public statements in person if they did not wish to provide a written statement.

d. Presentation on the Impacts on the aquatic environment provided by Professors Patrice Couture and Peter Campbell of INRS

The Cree Nation of Nemaska engaged professors Couture and Campbell to submit a report regarding the impacts of the project on the aquatic environment. The preliminary report was presented to members on March 4, 2015. We invite you to read the final report the professors submitted which was submitted to the COMEX during the hearing held on March 30, 2015.

Please note that the following is an extract of the transcription of the recording of the meeting held on March 4, 2015. It included only the questions that were made in English as it was not possible to obtain a transcription of the comments that were made in Cree.

Question:

I have a question on the part where the company is going to make the...those lakes they are going to replace them, (In Cree), I was wondering who is going to maintain the water and the fish...

Response:

Do you mean who is going to maintain the spawning grounds? I don't know if there is an English document on fish habitat? It would be important for people here to consult it because here you have photographs in detail about how they want to make it and you will see that there is a good plan to make the spawning grounds and we know that it has been working very well in other places. But there is not much detail about the question you ask like how they will monitor it and that is one of the recommendations that we are making that not only to create new spawning grounds but to make sure that they will actually work; that fish will spawn there and benefit local populations. And the information we have right now is not much detailed about that and I don't mean that it is not a good plan but I mean that I have not read it if there is one. So you should make sure that there is a detailed plan for monitoring the success of the spawning grounds that they are creating.

Question:

That's why I asked that question because they are very close to the working site. And all the pollution that is going to fall...

Response:

There are three types of approaches here. One is because there are spawning sites or fish habitat that will disappear we know they will be lost because of the mine. It's a small area but it is real. What they do is that around the mine site where fish are expected not to be affected they will improve the spawning sites there and fish habitat to compensate

for the loss from the mine. And the third level is that they will go outside the mine area near Nemaska and to the east where mines are not affecting the area to improve fish habitat there. So overall that is an overall approach. The mining company acknowledges that we will see a loss of fish habitat in some places.

Question:

I'm concerned about people eating the fish.

Response:

That you should not. I have not seen anywhere in this study that would suggest that contaminants could actually contaminate the fish. It is a metal mine. The only metal of concern for human consumption is mercury and mercury is not a problem in this kind of operation. Now there could be concerns for organic contaminants that are used in processed water. We don't know about the composition. The mine states that this water will not be released in the environment. But we have to make sure that this is true. And we also insist, and my colleague Peter insisted, that the mine provides the composition of the chemicals it will use so we can have a better idea of whether or not it can affect the health of the fish and humans consuming them. At this stage we have no information that would suggest an impact for human consumption of the fish.

Question:

Thank you for answering my concern. But I have a big concern because of what happened in Oujé. That's why I have these concerns. That's all I wanted to share. Thank you.

Question:

I'm going to say this in Cree so that these people can understand what I'm trying to say. You have a translator over there, they can tell you what I'm going to say. (In Cree).

Response:

I'm going to try to respond to the translation of your question. The situation in Chibougamau is very different than what would happen if the mine here were developed, really for two reasons. One is a geology reason. The metals that are mined in Chibougamau are very different than lithium which is to be mined here. And the ore that used to be mined in Chibougamau is very different than the ore that is going to be mined here. Because of the difference in the ore, the effluent is also very different. And the problems that... I am intimately involved in the problems in Chibougamau, I am working with the Ouje-Bougoumou community and the Principal Mine which is a disaster area because of mistakes that were made 60 years ago. The first reason is that it is geologically different. And the second reason I am more optimistic here is the new

Quebec Mine Act which was revised last year, it poses much stricter controls on the promoter than was the case back in the 50s when those mines in Chibougamau were first developed. I think that the quality of the effluent in this case, based on what Patrice and I have read, the quality of the effluent is going to be innocuous, meaning it will not be harmful.

And downstream there is no plan from the company to monitor downstream of Mountain Lake and, as we point out in the presentation, it would be important to do so at least at the outlet of Mountain Lake to make sure that the contamination does not spread. What is important to realize and, as Peter pointed out, at this stage the effluent itself should not contain any acid or should not be toxic with metals for example. It will have suspended solids, which will be dispersed like the guidelines say it should be diluted at least 100-fold. Now this happens within the first 50 meters from the effluent and then you fall into a 500 to 1000 dilution area downstream. So, I am not concerned much about the fish downstream of Mountain Lake but, this being said, it is extremely important to have it monitored as well so that you know if, for example, the effluent would be different from what was predicted and if it had impacts downstream. Now the company is very confident that it won't have impacts downstream and they are not planning to go very far down south. But I would at least at the lake south of Valiquette Lake, south of Mountain Lake, it should be a recommendation to follow up on what is going on downstream. It wouldn't be a concern but I would follow up closely.

Comment:

I just want to make a general comment. Last summer I had the chance to go to the lake. There was a fishing derby and it was one of the very few times that I was there. And I had a chance to go around the lake, and in different areas and up river as well. And I was thinking about it, the lake itself and where the mine is being considered. And I don't know, did you guys go to Mountain Lake, were you there? Now, knowing that you know what you know and as well what you saw, if that was your neighbourhood, if you had a cabin around that area, would you risk that lake yourself? These kinds of things come to me although I'm getting all kinds of information telling me that there is going to be very little impact and even things are going to be better than they were before and I wonder about that, thinking of such a sacrifice for something like this. And I do like to rely on certain facts that are scientific, those are probably the basis we go on for information that is relied on, but I don't know sometimes how information from traditional perspectives or knowledge in any way outweighs that formal knowledge versus traditional knowledge. And these are the kinds of things that come to me regardless of what people tell me. And I know there are potential impacts whether it is for economic and different opportunities, and things like that. But I am very concerned of course like everybody else. I can certainly feel for people whose trapline that it's situated in. They are sort of caught in a very hard place to think about, you know, sacrificing their livelihood for others to benefit. I would think twice if that happened on my trapline, to make such a commitment that I know that I can't undo or change. And I don't know what the impacts will be in the long run. I know that the impacts are immediate even though it hasn't started yet, just through discussions. And I'm also concerned not just within the

area that we contemplated would be impacted which is a 30 km radius. The impact is much greater than that, I think. If we were to have any potential disaster, you know these are 'what ifs'. The water goes all the way to Waskaganish and this river has already been damaged. I don't know how much more potential damage it can take. These kinds of things I wonder about. As well as what other people...I know we're trying to follow certain guidelines and principles about what's in the Act and the norms of the mining industry but I don't know how well they fit with what people's concerns are. Maybe it's just trying to mitigate the concerns.

I was just saying that water is one of the most precious resources on this earth. We know that the earth is covered with 80% of water and same with our bodies. And any change in that will disrupt our whole co-existence. Imagine cutting off or even changing the amount of what's in the body or on earth that is necessarily not good for your body or the earth, what impacts it will have on it. Because to me sometimes the rivers are the same way as you have veins in your body, once you cut off a main vein it impacts your whole existence. And the same thing happens to the earth. So water, yes people are concerned about it because it's their livelihood. Whenever people used to go out in the bush that was one of the first things where it was easily accessible and clean. And sometimes we try to convince people even in our community where we tell them the water is perfectly well and safe a lot of people still prefer to go out and get their own water where they have relied on for a long time. They trust more of their own knowledge than they do the science sometimes because that's how they lived, it is how they survived. It's a tough sell for somebody trying to tell them that things are going to be better through science. A lot of us don't understand some of the chemical analyses in your reports, and I know a lot of it has to do with in your reports, so it is very difficult for one to clearly comprehend on the full context of the scientific analysis of things. But they do know their traditional knowledge.

Sometimes we are a little bit behind to find out certain things. But the people that are out in the bush, they know them, they see them, and they rely on these very species that affect them - that's their livelihood. What science says regarding certain things like even fish and different things, their term is species whereas in the Cree traditional knowledge they're our educators because they are the ones that tell us first what's going on. Thank you.

Question:

About the water, how far is the study downstream? (In Cree), we see snow. There is a lot of snow, (In Cree), and there is air. And the dust, (In Cree), in winter when I see it on the road, (In Cree), it goes, (In Cree), and this dust, (In Cree), is going to fall into the snow and sometime now, in springtime, there is going to be snow melt and we all see there is going to be water rising up, (In Cree), and there is going to be rain too. How far (In Cree), I have a camp in Rupert River, N24, I live there, I hunt, I do fishing and I see in the springtime I see when the snow melts and I see the water rise, we all see that. And a lot of water pushes. When there is a lot of water it goes a long way. That's why I'm asking how far did they do the

study for the impact? (In Cree). And also the air. In the wintertime, there is northeast wind, (In Cree), and when there is springtime the air will come from south and it is going to blow north direction, (In Cree), I hear there is 30 km around it, (In Cree), I guess in the impact, (In Cree). There is water, there is land, and air. And the land, (In Cree), there is us humans and animals. Did they do studies just on fish? What about the flies, like mosquitoes? What about beavers? I like to eat beaver. Beavers travel long distance, (In Cree), and we are going to feed our children, our families, and to the communities, (In Cree), because when they did the study I was working with SEBJ when they did the studies on the Rupert River. We were studying sturgeon. We put tags on the sturgeon a couple of years ago. Now today they find the sturgeon in the Broadback River, they went downstream. Are they going to tag the fish to find out how far they are going to travel? I didn't see the study manual, the book, that's why I'm asking this. So there is water, land, air. And I want to thank you. Meegwetch.

Response:

I will try to address your question about the dust. I think that the question about the dust is a good question and should be explored with the promoter. It is not dealt with in any detail in the documents that I have read. If you think about the origins of the dust, it'll come from the blasting and from hauling with the trucks from the pit up to the concentrator or out to the waste rock site. Normally the waste rock and tailings are going to be co-deposited. The tailings are wet when they are deposited so that should keep the dust coming from the tailings dump down low. But for moving the ore from the bottom of the pit by transport up and down, that's going to generate dust. So you should ask the promoter what they have in mind in terms of dust control. I think you can argue that because of where the mine is, the sort of rock that they have to blast and excavate to get to the ore, that rock material is, the chemical word would be inert; it is not a rock that is going to be very..., it is not going to dissolve, it is not going to give substances into solution. It is going to remain as a dust particle. You may see it on the snow, when the snow melts the snow is on a lake and the dust particle will go into the lake. If the snow is on the land it will go in the land and it may wash off, as you were saying, in the spring when you have lots of melt water and rain and it may get washed off. So you may see the particles but I don't think they will have a major effect chemically because they are so inert. They are just going to go in to the lake and eventually settle out in the sediments at the bottom. So I think the dust will be a visual problem but I don't think it will be a chemical or a toxicological problem. But it is worth while asking the promoter how they are going to control the dust because people living around Mountain Lake don't want to see dust being generated and blowing around in their direction.

I think that I already addressed these questions. But I think that beforehand we need to have better information on the fish and if there are some studies that are available like the one you pointed out on sturgeon, then these should be compiled. And you should have a close look at what the company is proposing for long term monitoring for fish in the lake, downstream of the lake, and in the creeks and in the lakes around in terms of population and in terms of contamination as well. I don't expect there to be

contamination but you can't know that before we properly monitor this kind of data and you need to be satisfied that there is a good plan for monitoring the fish. So for me it's all in what they will submit as plans and we discussed it yesterday at council, or with members of the staff, and basically you need to have a good system of reference sites, which are sites that are outside of the impacted zone that you can go year after year at the same time of year to collect data on fish. And you have to do the same thing on impacted sites, like Mountain Lake and Lake 2 for example. And then be able to compare a long term series of, not one site, but a number of reference sites compared to a number of impacted sites. So that needs to be a comprehensive plan that you can be happy about. And it's about fish population and fish contamination. And spawning, again, if they create spawning grounds how do you know if there are going to fish? They can be well done and there are tons of examples of well done spawning grounds, but others don't work. And so you have to make sure that those that are made are efficient and that they work, and if they don't then they do it again. So that overall you are satisfied with the progress and that the community can actually see the data, consult the data, look at the long term trends of the population and reassure yourself that the fish are not contaminated with anything. There is nothing like good data that is available to the community on a yearly basis. That's what we recommend.

Question:

I do have a concern. I got this message from Mistassini. You know the Troilus Mine Project within the Mistassini trapline. It is close by on the Route du Nord from Chibougamau and Nemaska but it's on Mistassini trapline. Anyway, this Troilus Mine has been closed for 5 years or so. And the trappers that live there near that area they have their camp sites and the concern that they have is especially during the summer there is a continuous wind blowing and the dust has been blown from that mining area and that dust carries towards their camp sites. So they are saying that this very fine dust carries to the campsites and their concern is that still to this day and for the summer or next summer they will be exposed to the fine dust. I know that this mining company, Nemaska Lithium, they don't have the planning for the closure of the mine. They don't have it yet, I think. I think for us if they're going to have the closure within 27 years that would be one of our major concerns is to have that dust controlled.

Response:

I think in this particular case when they build up the waste rock and tailings pile they're planning to build it up to its final height very rapidly at one end and immediately begin to cover it with earth and vegetation so that it would keep the dust problem down. Instead of waiting to the end of the mine and then rehabilitating the tailings pile and the end, they plan to do it progressively throughout the mine life so that the part that has not been re-vegetated should be very small - the footprint should be very small throughout the mine life. I think that at an early stage somebody in this community mentioned dust and this was their idea. When they start the mine they stockpile the soil and then when

they get to the final height or part of the waste rock pile they spread the soil and they re-vegetate and that keeps the dust down.

Question:

What about the area where the concentration will be, where the processing will be? Will that be covered by vegetation also? Around the plant area?

Response:

I think only at the very end, not during the mine life. I mentioned earlier in response to a question about the dust, the dust control throughout the mine life is an important question and should be addressed by the promoter. So we've talked about dust coming from the tailings deposit, which is a serious problem in Chibougamau, for example, when you get wind-blown dust in the summer. But in this case it being an open pit mine you'd have dust generated by the trucks hauling the overhaul so you really have to ask the mining company how they are going to control dust from that source.

Question:

I have a concern about the water, especially at Mountain Lake. You know that there are camps and people living around there. Are they still going to be allowed to camp there while the mining is done? And drink the water?

Response:

About the water I don't know that it is a drinking source for people. I discussed it with people yesterday and I'm not sure at all. But for the usage of the lake I don't think that it will change at all. People will be able to go fish there and all that, so there is no problem. But for drinking water I wouldn't know at this stage if it is even used for that.

Question:

I know the elders still drink the water from there. Sometimes I drive my mom over there and we get water at Mountain Lake from a pond.

Response:

Yes, I know. That pond is not expected to be affected. This one is just north of the lake, right?

Question:

But then what about the dust that falls? There will be wind blowing from certain directions...

Response:

Well, we talked about the dust earlier, and this is one aspect that the company has already started dealing with. But you have to insist even more that the mine itself doesn't generate dust that falls on the plants and the lakes around. There are different measures, such as the one for the tailings pile itself, which should not be too much of a concern because as soon as it will be built it will reach a certain height and will be covered by earth and re-vegetated. So that should not be too much of a concern. Then there are the roads in summer time they can generate dust with all the trucks driving by. That is a concern that can be easily fixed. The company has plans for that. But you should ask the company specifically about that. And for drinking water, the source of drinking water, I was talking to Tanya yesterday about that and she was showing me maps of where the community identified where they take their drinking water and these have been mapped and I don't think that they've been affected but I'm not a specialist in that so I couldn't answer.

Question:

The research that was done on the water, for people that consume the water was there a report or research that's done? Or was there an actual report by a mining company on the effects of consumption of the food chain and the water, and people when they consume, was there facts or data like real information what the outcome was. What were the effects that it had on the people when they were drinking that water if it was contaminated or even the fish and animals that were around there and people consume the animals? Was there ever an actual report by a mining company on that?

Well, we do have mines all over the place. I am just wondering if there was an actual report with real information rather than making assumptions.

Response:

As long as the mine is not in operation you cannot measure what will happen. You can model it. As for fish, I have not seen any concern about consuming the fish. There is no contaminant that will be released that could be a risk to fish and to humans at this stage. Now we still have a small question mark, that there will be some chemicals used in the processing of minerals and these should be fully recycled but we know that there will be a small bit that will have to be released, and we don't know the chemical composition of that. So that is still a question mark. I wouldn't be too concerned on this but I would follow up closely because we don't know exactly what will be the chemical composition. Aside from that, there will be workers there as well but there should be a sewage plant, so it shouldn't affect the water around.

Question:

I'm just thinking that there were mines that were already closed, and wondering about the report after?

Response:

You would have to find a similar mine. I don't know if Peter can tell us about these similar mines but there are different kinds of mines. Depending on the way that they were closed, the type of minerals, the effluent can vary a lot in nature.

There is a report where they took the waste rock which is going to be put in the waste rock pile and they put it in columns in the laboratory and they poured water through to simulate rainfall to get an idea what sort of water would be coming out of the waste rock pile and will eventually end up in the water draining away from the site. So there is that report which talks about the chemicals that come in to solution and what have you, but there is nothing in that composition which should be scary to human health in terms of drinking the water. If you're worried about drinking water you should be worried about the micro-organisms or bacteria in it, not the chemicals in it. You're not going to be poisoned by the chemicals. You will become ill with diarrhea because of the micro-organisms in it. And the mine is not generating them. But as Patrice pointed out, if the mine goes ahead, there are going to be people working in the mine and you will have people generating human waste and you have to treat that properly so that it doesn't contaminate the stream and lake and river. If I were worried about drinking water, I would be worried about bacteria, viruses, micro-organisms, but not about chemicals that are going to be coming out the waste water pile.

Question:

I had a question while she was speaking. You were talking about the mine that we will be working there. And what happens if something comes up, if those workers find out something. Will the mine stop or will they look for solutions?

Response:

If there were a problem with the mine operating and they discovered that there was a leak, for example, it is not discussed in the documents that Patrice and I have read, but it is the sort of thing that normally whenever you are developing a processing plant, a mill, you have to have a plan for emergencies. There is one chance in a thousand that something is going to break. And you have to know what you are going to do if that breaks. And that is the sort of question that you have to ask the COMEX. What plans does the promoter have for unexpected accidents? They don't deal with that in what we've read, they only deal with the normal operation of the mine and what you can expect from that. I think it would be a very good question to ask them.

Question:

My concern is the water and the environment. We Crees we all came from there. It is our medicine, I consider it a medicine to me, because whenever I need peace or strength I go in the bush and that's where I find it. There are a lot of people that live in that area. And even our children. You know about Bible Camp, it's a special place for them where they go every summer. I am concerned about that too. Even those guys that came in, first, I asked my son and told him what's going to happen. He put his head down and I don't like seeing that. The mine, I don't mind it. I know that there are a lot of issues that we need to find out about. Especially the environment and how it's going to affect the water. Because you know that the water is going down all the way to Old Nemaska and there is a four-way stream there that goes down to Nemaska. There is a lake there called (in Cree), and it's called in Cree 'four-ways'. That is where Mountain Lake is coming from. And there is another one that goes down here to Pontax and that's my concern about the water. I'm not worried about today and in five years. I'm worried about in fifty or twenty-five years because I don't know how long I'm going to live. That's what I'm worried about is my kids, my grandchild. We all know anything can look good on paper. I've seen it. But the truth is down there. Even when they did the Rupert River, they told us that everything they said about the water it wasn't true. I paddled down the Rupert River and when the water goes down, I can smell those rocks. Because when something is under the water for that long and the water goes down, you can smell it and it's.... and you can see those birds flying there and they don't...Even Mountain Lake area that's where those white birds, we don't go far when we want to look for them. But now today they're starting to pick up some [inaudible] people are saying now they have little bucks, or you know. And once this mine starts I bet those birds are going to be gone, or who knows if they're still here they might be [inaudible]. I know there's a lot, a lot of [inaudible]. And I thank you guys for your time.

Our deputy chief was asking, he said if you were from that area, remember what he told you guys? How would you look at it?

Response:

I don't think that either Patrice or I are people who can answer that question because we don't come from this region. It doesn't mean to us what it means to you. You have a decision to make as a community and those are not easy decisions and are not necessarily 'scientific' decisions either. We've tried to provide you with some background information of our analysis of the science and engineering projects or studies that have been done. But we are not trying to advise you on the decision that you as a community have to make in weighing the benefits versus the social or other impacts.

Question:

I would like to see more of the impacts especially on the environment side. I wouldn't mind seeing the other mines. When we have this kind of workshop we never see a Val D'Or mine or other mines that have lithium and what happens after. I drove down near Gatineau once and I saw this mine I don't know if it was lithium, it was all white all over even the rocks and I said to myself 'what happened here, I wonder if there was lithium or something'.

Response:

I would suggest that if you have access to the internet that you Google Earth. I come from Thedford Mines. I grew up with open pits all around me. So you can perhaps say that Peter Campbell is sensitive to that sort of thing. I grew up with mines everywhere. The town was interspersed among all these open pits. The mines have now all closed but the open pits are still there. So if you take a Google Earth picture as of yesterday you'll see holes everywhere. And you won't see that many holes here but you will see an open pit at a waste. And that's what it's going to look like. So if you're sensitive to the landscape and to what you're seeing, that is not going to please you.

I know that. And the area on my father's trapline, there is forestry that's happening around my area not but inside my trapline but I still get affected. That's what is going to happen with the mine.

Response:

If I can just finish. I would argue personally from all that I have read that the impacts are going to be more visual, or esthetic, if you want to call it that, than there is going to be contamination on water quality. In my opinion, you don't have to worry about water quality but you are going to have blasting, dust and visual impacts. And they are not going to be negligent.

Question:

How do you stop a fog? Can a fog spread? Do you know what I'm talking about? Because we all know that when there is fog, water goes up in the clouds and after that it falls. Never mind, it's ok. Thank you very much.

SECTION 2 – SUMMARY OF COMMENTS, CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

This section consists of a compilation of excerpts of the minutes of past public meetings and Council meetings.

They are grouped in the five identified themes used by the Work Group throughout the consultation process.

1. Consultations and Participation

It was asked why lithium was not brought up during the consultations regarding the relocation of Nemaska. They could have studied it during the consultations period to then choose a different location on higher grounds.

The Proponent was asked if they could make a DVD regarding the process up to the date of the Whabouchi Project (2009 to 2013). The DVD could include Elders.

Certain members questioned the notion of consent to the project. If the members of the Community do not consent, will they be heard or will the government overrule this decision.

The following concerns were raised:

- It's not only about the wealth of the Community but the welfare of the Community;
- He asked if the people of Nemaska will be listened to after the project is started;
- Do the people have the last say or is it the government;
- Where is this going to lead the people even if they say no to the project;
- Will the federal government allow the project to continue even if there's contamination;
- Who's the final decision maker for this project to go through?

Why is the agreement being signed before the Environmental process is completed.

2. Land Use / Culture / Cree Knowledge

The members questioned the source of the results of the impact study as they did not see the people involved in this study on the land. It seems that the study was based on the results of other development projects.

An Elder stated that there are people (native and non-native) who work in the environment who are skillful in finding out about both animals and fish. He stated that the animals of all sizes will be affected by this project, including the fish. The land users will notice the differences with the animals, the fish and the water. When he started this

way of life, he considered everything of equal value. He strived to know all aspects of the Cree way of life. When the Matagami mine started, he was part of an environmental impact study; this is when he noticed that the fish tasted differently after this sort of development. He continued to say that these changes can sometimes be unclear and overlooked if one does not have the experience that comes from living off the land. He feels that the people involved in the impact studies should meet with those who are proficient with the ways of the land. He has experience in this and therefore should be consulted. He said that he had just trapped a beaver from an area that had been affected by hydroelectric development. Upon seeing the beaver being butchered and discovering that there was very little fat on the animal, he felt pity for it because it did not seem like it felt comfortable in its own habitat. Those who do not live off the land do not see what is going on in the bush.

The Youth worry about their heritage and their culture. They are worried about the loss of traditional skills for the users of the land.

It is stated that the users of the territory will be kept up-to-date about the calendar of mining activities, and how they should reorganise their harvesting activities. What does this mean? Can Nemaska Lithium give precise examples?

The impact on Hunting, Fishing and Trapping rights will be minor. Is this true?

3. Employment / Social / Business Development & Opportunities / Integration

It was asked what the Proponent intended to do with the huge volume of waste rock that would be piling up and if it would be possible to use the waste rock for the benefit of the Community.

The possibility of increase in social issues as a result of the Whabouchi Project was raised. It was stated that when the Paix des Braves Agreement was implemented, the traffic and crime rate increased and the Nemaska Police was left to adapt to these new problems. It would be important to negotiate an increase in police services and conservation officers.

Members were affected by the flooding of the water due to the Hydro development projects. It will most likely be the same with the mining project.

It is mentioned that the negative impacts outweigh the positive impacts. The people still feel the negative impacts of a lot of projects that were done since the relocation.

A member mentioned that she had heard that thyroid problems had increased in Val d'Or due to mines. She mentioned that the people never hear the cons of a project. She also stated that Nemaska is a small community and it already has a hard time keeping its services such as the bank and the restaurant opened due to lack of workers. The members added that residential school has affected the people. The people were oppressed and taught not to speak up. The people have not yet healed from the

impacts of residential school. They received money but they did not heal. The Community has problems.

This project has brought conflict between families and community members.

People here have suffered enough through residential schools, hydro development and the Youth feel this will be the same thing.

It is important that entities such as the Nemaska Eenu Company obtain their CCQ permits to help members accumulate hours required to be fully qualified.

A woman mentioned that during her experience working on the construction site of the Eleonore project, she experienced some discrimination based on her gender. She would like to see the Proponent implement measures protecting woman against harassment and discrimination.

It was mentioned that the business opportunities should be given to the Nemaska entrepreneurs, not only under CCDC or NDC. Assistance should be given to the private entrepreneurs to expedite business set up.

4. Water / Air Quality / Environment / Communication / Safety

Members questioned the materials that can be found in the open pit and if they are hazardous.

An Elder mentioned that the mountain that will be created of waste material will be near Mountain Lake where she and her family carry out traditional activities. The debris over the ice will be dangerous for the skidoo operators. Many youth use skidoos as a mean of transportation. She stated that she wants all the cabins to be relocated as she does not want to stay there if this project goes through. She does not want to be in a contaminated area. She also stated that she does not like the way the gravel road is. There will be more traffic and more big trucks. She mentioned that they were made many promises by Hydro Quebec representatives when discussing the hydro projects regarding new roads and parking areas for land users. She does not see any of these promises being kept.

Concerns were raised regarding lithium rock fumes. More information should be provided on the possible health implications. An independent geologist should provide a study and make the information known to members.

Members expressed their concerns regarding the blasting and the dust resulting from the blasts. It will be at least 25 years of blasting noise. Will there be ongoing environmental studies during the process of the development project. The members are concerned that the residues from the blasts will affect the vegetations, including the blueberries which ultimately will affect the wildlife.

How will the dust affect the health of the land users that have camps near the mine site? It was mentioned by the Cree Health Board that the dust could cause lung cancer. What if there is more dust than expected? If the members breathe it in can they get sick from it? Is it toxic or poisonous?

It is mentioned that a new body of water will be formed by the mine pit filling up with water. It will with time become part of the normal watercourses. Is this normal? Is this a good thing? On the contrary, should that “artificially created” body not remain separate from the regular watercourses?

The members understood from presentations that were made that some chemicals would be mixed with the water before being discharged in the creek. The members questioned:

- *“What chemicals would be mixed with the water?”*
- *At what rate will this water be discharged in the creek?*
- *Where is this said creek? and*
- *Where does this creek flow to?”*

It was asked if chemicals will be washed away to lakes and rivers. Will there be a residue that will be carried in the water and will this have a negative impact on the environment. There are no guarantees that nothing will happen. There are things that can be exposed from the mine. The effects might be gradual but over time they will show. The presentations made to members mentioned that the tests are only done where the water will be put in and not downstream from there. The Elder thinks that the Proponent is not being held accountable for the impacts of where the water goes. The information that was given was based on now and not in the long term. If the river is contaminated or impacted so will the lake. The residue in the water will impact the fish, the duck and bigger game animals.

There is no guarantee that the water will not be polluted. How will the Company restore the water to its natural state?

The Youth are concerned that they will get sick from the contaminants in the water and from eating the animals and fish that are exposed to the contaminants.

It is questioned whether the water from the pit will overflow and contaminate the land.

Will the run-off of the waste rock pile contaminate the fish?

The study zone is a radius of 10km. Is this appropriate considering the animals such as the caribou migrate large distances?

It is stated that the increased presence of vehicles could raise the number of animals killed by accidents, and it could also have an impact on the travel routes of the animals. Is it possible to have more detail about how this could impact the animals? Would this impact the Tallyman or other land users?

Will the animals in that area die?
Will the animals be bothered by the blasting?

A youth stated: *“You shouldn’t agree to destroy the land that was here for generations. It will be up to the next generation to pick up the pieces if something goes wrong.”*

It was stated that she wanted to address the four spheres of health (mental, spiritual, emotional and physical). The health of many people was affected during the hydro development. The relocation which was a result of Hydro development caused people to be affected in the four areas of health.

It is stated that the Bible Camp will be affected by the mine. Can the Proponent summarize exactly how it will be affected?

A representative of the CHB requested that the local Cree Health Board be informed about future projects because outside workers will be utilizing the local health services.

The Youth are worried that if something bad happens, Nemaska will be forced to relocate Nemaska.

Will the mining company be held accountable for any emergency?

What’s going to happen if something goes wrong with the mine? What if the problems aren’t fixed?

Is there an emergency plan if something goes wrong?

Sickness can come from the lithium rock. This is dangerous especially since the mine will be so close to the Community.

Lithium is also used for making medication to treat bipolar disorders, how do they know that it will not harm the vegetation and the animals.

A member is concerned that the materials piled in the waste rock and tailings pile will fall onto the Route du Nord and pose a danger to travellers.

SECTION 3 - ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORK GROUP

In this section, the Work Group wishes to submit to the COMEX additional recommendations which will help minimize the impacts of the project on the human environment.

In order to maintain consistency in the report, we have divided our recommendations into the themes used in the other sections.

1. Land Use / Culture / Cree Knowledge

a. Infringement on treaty rights under JBNQA

The Cree of Nemaska have established treaty rights protected by the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. More specifically, every Cree has a right to hunt, fish and trap in accordance with the provisions of Section 24 of the JBNQA.

This right to harvest may be exercised over the entire Territory, including Category III lands, subject to certain limitations, such as conservation, public safety and conflict with other physical activities. The grant of rights with respect to mining is not in itself a conflicting physical activity and the Cree people continue to have the right to harvest in such areas.

The ESIA indicated that the R20 Family uses the land where the mining property is situated and that they will be significantly affected by the project. The R20 Tallyman has made a presentation to the COMEX indicating that he wishes to respect security measures, but will not be told by the Proponent where he can and cannot harvest. He reminds the Proponent that the mine is located on a Trapline where land-users are entitled to practice their traditional activities and they do not want to see any strenuous regulations prohibiting them to hunt. He stated: *"We cannot be stopped to go hunting on our trapline. We will take, as Cree hunters, precautions in what we do in hunting activities"*.

We understand that security measures and a safety area are required to ensure the safety of the workers and of the lands users. However, the infringement of constitutionally protected treaty rights must be done in a way that is as minimal as possible.

Furthermore, land-users have expressed their concerns regarding the proximity of the mine site from their hunting camps. Certain camps will be directly impacted and it will be necessary to relocate them. For some people who frequently spend time at their camps located on the shores of Mountain Lake, the mere knowledge of the presence of the mine so close to their camps disturbs them. They are concerned that the quality of the air and the water as well as the serenity of their camps will be impacted in such a

way that they will no longer feel safe or comfortable practicing their traditional way of life on their hunting territory.

Other land-users prefer waiting until they understand the extent of the impacts on their traditional activities before assessing their remedial needs.

The Proponent indicates in the ESIA that he will continue discussions regarding Cree Camps and the Bible Camp whose use will be affected by mine activities. When responding to questions regarding the presence of dust at the Camps, the Proponent has responded that he will personally wash the peoples clothes if, once they are hanged to dry they are dirtied by the dust created from the Project. He has also promised that if the quality of water of the water source located on the north shore of Mountain Lake is impacted, he would provide a well for each camp. We do not feel as though these promises, certain of them being verbal only, are sufficient.

Moreover, as explained in the ESIA (s. 8.1.4.2), the Spring goose hunt and the Fall moose hunt are very important to the Crees and an important component of the Crees' exercise of their treaty-protected harvesting activities. The Proponent indicates in the ESIA (s. 8.3.1.2) that all extracting activities at the mine will be suspended during the Spring goose hunt. The Proponent does not make the same commitment for the Fall moose hunt.

In light of the foregoing, we make the following recommendations to the COMEX:

- ⇒ The Proponent should establish a long term plan regarding remedial measures to be submitted to the Administrator and the Cree Nation of Nemaska for approval. This plan which would continue throughout the life of the mine (or at least for a period of ten (10) years into mining operations) would include the following:
 - a follow up every 5 years on how the Crees of Nemaska are able to continue their traditional way of life within the study zone or along the Route du Nord; and
 - remedial measures and compensation that the Proponent intends on offering to reduce the impacts (physical or psychological) on the land-users Cree traditional way of life and on collective sites (Bible Camp), including but not limited to the following:
 - relocation of camps
 - relocation of goose ponds
 - access to hunting and fishing areas
 - protective measures be put in place for the water source located north of Mountain Lake
 - measures to be initiated by the Proponent, with the collaboration of Tallymen of impacted Traplines aiming to increase the knowledge and use of traditional territory by land-users.

- ⇒ The Proponent should determine the boundaries of the safety area as well as the restrictions to practice traditional activities within the safety area in close collaboration with the Tallyman of R20 and main Trapline users.
- ⇒ The Proponent should establish with the collaboration of the Tallymen of impacted Traplines, the duration and the period of the suspension of the mining activities in order to avoid disturbing the hunting activities during the goose and moose hunt period.
- ⇒ The Proponent should collaborate with the COMEX to implement a consultation process for the benefit of the Cree Nation of Nemaska. The consultations must be held after the completion of the construction phase and before the commencement of mining operations. The objective of the consultations is, among other things, to find out the view of the Cree on the efficiency of the Remedial Measures that have been put in place and the means that could be anticipated to avoid the residual impacts of the projects.

b. Cree Involvement and Integration in Environmental monitoring programs

Through the many agreements the Cree have signed over the years and the monitoring programs they have been involved in over the years, we have to question how adapted these initiatives were to the Cree in the sense that the evaluation criteria are usually based on conventional scientific standards used by governments to monitor the quality and standards of a given program. In such programs, the involvement of the Cree has largely been as a labour force, contributing knowledge on where to carry out certain samples and at best, anecdotal of Cree experience, concerns and experience. A comment often heard since the proposal of the Whabouchi Project concerning water issues is that since the hydro-electric projects in the area, the fish no longer taste the same. With this comment, a criticism often followed that scientists were not interested in this part of Cree concerns as it was not easily tangible.

Given that the Cree are the principal land-users and those living with the impacts of the projects in question, the model of Cree involvement has to be reconsidered.

Therefore, we are asking that the COMEX recommend that:

- ⇒ Before any study is carried out, the Proponent meets the concerned land-users to discuss the study and to determine the elements of the study to be considered and where the activities will take place.
- ⇒ The Proponent considers the information, concerns and stories reported by the Cree to form an integral part of the parameters to be studied and monitored.

- ⇒ Any Cree hired to work on monitoring activities be provided with extensive explanations of the program and known Cree input and that the Cree hired report back to the land-users and/or community on the monitoring activities.

2. Water Quality / Air Quality / Environment / Communication / Safety

a. Transportation of materials and the Route du Nord

The impacts related to the operation of the Whabouchi Mine, more specifically the transportation of concentrate from the mine to the loading station in Chibougamau, have to be carefully considered and addressed.

The Route du Nord provides major access for the community of Nemaska, for other Cree and Jamesian communities, for traditional harvesting activities (camps, access to traplines, etc.) as well as commercial (suppliers, tourism, etc.) and industrial routes (Hydro-Québec, forestry operations, etc.). Built in the 1990's, the Route du Nord is an industrial forestry gravel road considered as dangerous by many Cree because of the circulation (over-sized trucks, regular vehicles and transportation trucks), dust, snow and road maintenance. It is important to note that there are several Cree camps along this road, whose periods of use vary. Being a gravel road, the road is often covered in blinding dust during summer months and in the winter, it is perilous because of icy conditions and snow.

The Route du Nord, between the proposed mine site and dump station for the concentrate, covers +/-330 kilometres and crosses (directly and indirectly) more than a dozen trap-lines belonging to Cree families. These traplines belong to families from Nemaska, Mistissini and Ouje-bougoumou. Each trapline can count several camps and dozens of dwellings, some inhabited year-round and others used seasonally or whenever families can return to the land.

The Whabouchi Mine proposes to have six trucks, each carrying 100-tonnes of concentrate leaving the mine site everyday with ore, using 100-ft long dump trucks. This means there will be a dozen trips a day, seven days a week, and twenty-four hours a day on the road. This is a significant impact on the condition of the road and the safety of its users.

Therefore, in properly addressing the issues arising from the transportation related to the Whabouchi Project, it is requested that the COMEX issue the following recommendations:

- ⇒ The Proponent should post a schedule in several public places, including on its website detailing the hours of the trucks leaving the mine and returning. Also, the Proponent must provide a telephone number to users of the road,

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including those having camps, to contact the company in case of emergency and to report dangerous driving by the drivers of the Nemaska Lithium's trucks.

- ⇒ The Ministère du transport du Québec (MTQ) and/or the Société de développement de la Baie-James (SDBJ), must ensure that:
 - the road maintenance program is revised to consider this increase of traffic along the Route du Nord to ensure maintenance such as road upkeep, reconstruction, grading, etc. are adapted to the increased traffic
 - in the applicable periods, dust prevention programs be implemented to minimize dust for other users, to increase visibility and diminish the risk of accidents, especially around access roads/turn-offs and near camps.
 - in the applicable periods, programs be implemented to remove snow quickly from the road and diminish iciness of the road
 - mechanisms be put in place to allow for road users to make phone calls in cases of emergency. These could be in the form of phone cabins at fixed intervals or cell towers
 - major road access and/or turn-offs have lights installed to increase visibility

- ⇒ The Proponent and the MTQ and/or SDBJ, should identify crossing zones near camps and erect proper signs indicating the Proponent's drivers to slow down. These signs will ensure that the land-users can safely cross the road while practicing their traditional activities.

b. Intersection

The Work Group is concerned about the lack of information that was provided by the Proponent regarding the intersection that will be required on the Route du Nord for the transport of waste materials to the waste rock and tailings pile located across the Route du Nord. The Work Group has many questions regarding the intersection such as what method will be used for the truck to cross the road (stop signs, flag people, overpass, etc), will there be sufficient signalization to warn travellers about the crossing of the trucks, will there be lighting, and more.

In order to ensure that all questions are answered and that the intersection design favors the safety and interests of the Community members and travellers over the financial benefits of the Proponent, we want the Cree Nation of Nemaska to be involved in all discussions regarding the creation of this intersection through the local Community structure to be created for this project.

Therefore, we request that the following recommendation be considered by the COMEX:

- ⇒ The Proponent should develop, in close collaboration with the Cree Nation of Nemaska an intersection implementation plan for the crossing required to transport the waste rocks and tailings across the Route du Nord.

c. Continuous Consultations and Communication

Throughout the consultation process established by the Work Group, members expressed their discontentment with regards to the lack of communication and limited access to information regarding the project. They would have preferred to have been given regular updates throughout the development of the project.

Furthermore, many of the comments received have been based on what the members have seen or heard regarding other mining projects in Quebec. There is a need to educate the members on the different types of mining projects and their impacts on the environment. Many members have, in fact, demonstrated interest in learning more about the mining industry in general. This would allow them to better understand the Whabouchi project.

Also, we would like to ensure that all Community concerns, comments and requests continue to be addressed by the Proponent following the authorization of the project.

Therefore, we request that the COMEX add the following recommendation to its report:

- ⇒ The Proponent, in close collaboration with the Cree Nation of Nemaska should establish a structure composed of Community members that would assist the members in making their comments, complaints and requests known to the Proponent and ensuring that a response or follow up is provided to the person(s) making the comment, complaint or request.
- ⇒ The Proponent should establish, in close collaboration with the Cree Nation of Nemaska a Communication Strategy aimed at informing the members of the Community on a regular basis and through different available means (social network, radio, newsletter, etc.) of:
 - all mining activities at the mine site;
 - the results of any environmental follow ups that were completed;
 - ways to increase the knowledge of the Community members of the mining industry in general.

3. Employment / Social / Business development & Opportunities / Integration

a. Training

We are asking that the COMEX recommend that:

- ⇒ As soon as the certificate is issued, the Proponent should inform the Cree Nation of Nemaska of the types of jobs that will be available during the construction and operations phases, in order that training programs be put in place and Cree members be given the opportunity to have jobs during the whole duration of the operation of the mine.

b. Employment

i. Hiring: Language requirements at the mine

The common language for both Cree and Québécois is English and English is a second language for both groups. The ESIA indicated that only 33% of Crees in Nemaska are able to communicate in Cree, English and French. The number may be lower if work proficiency is examined. Efforts will have to be made to ensure language courses are available and that the Proponent and its supervisors are able to communicate with the Cree and the community of Nemaska. It is important that the Proponent recognizes this reality and works with the Cree to not put any undue barriers for the employment of Cree at the Whabouchi Mine, especially for non-managerial jobs.

We are asking that the COMEX recommend that:

- ⇒ The Proponent shall not require knowledge of both French and English from its workers if the lack of knowledge does not compromise the safety of other workers. The Proponent shall require the same flexibility from its largest sub-contractors during the construction and operation phases.
- ⇒ The Proponent shall ensure that all correspondence to its workforce is available in English.
- ⇒ The Proponent shall ensure that its supervisors are able to function in French and English, ideally in Cree as well.

ii. Hiring: high school diploma requirements

The Work Group recognizes the Proponent's desire to require every employee to hold a general secondary education diploma (GED) and wishes to work towards this objective with the company. However, it must be recognized that at this time, a large portion of working-age Cree do not hold a GED. Nevertheless, many do have relevant training and experience which enables them to carry out many functions in the mine.

Also, we wish to avoid that younger Crees who are in school or have recently been in school quit their studies in order to take a job at the mine.

We are requesting that the COMEX recommend that:

- ⇒ The Proponent should refrain from demanding a GED (in French, “diplôme d’études secondaires”, DES) for employment at the Whabouchi Mine unless absolutely related to specific positions. The identification of these positions must be done with the community of Nemaska.
- ⇒ The Proponent should accept and consider relevant training and experience in the hiring for positions identified as not requiring a GED.
- ⇒ The Proponent should adopt measures in its hiring process, including possibly future job offers, to ensure that younger Crees who are in school or have recently been in school finish their GED prior to working at the proposed mine. Depending on the circumstances, similar measures could apply in the case of students enrolled in post-secondary studies.
- ⇒ The Proponent should work with the community of Nemaska to gradually implement the requirements for employment at the mine for the different positions.
- ⇒ The Proponent shall require that its largest sub-contractors during the construction and operation phases adopt the same rules.

iii. Retention of employees and respect for treaty rights

As explained earlier in this report, the Spring goose hunt and the Fall moose hunt are very important to the Crees. Not respecting this practice will also have a significant negative impact on integration and retention of Cree employees.

We are asking the COMEX to recommend that:

- ⇒ The Proponent should recognize the Cree employees’ right to exercise their treaty-protected hunting rights and enable them to take two consecutive weeks off during the Spring hunt (*goose break*) and one week during the Fall hunt (*moose break*). The employees should have priority to take this vacation with their paid annual holidays, or, if they choose, with two additional weeks of unpaid holiday.

c. Business opportunities

- i. Develop a close working relationship with Nemaska and Nemaska Cree Businesses to maximize long-term employment at the mine

If the mine is built, it is in the interest of the Proponent and the Cree Nation of Nemaska that the construction and operation of the mine create long-term well-paying jobs for members of Nemaska.

The Proponent should develop as soon as possible, a close relationship with the Cree Nation of Nemaska and its wholly-owned economic development corporation, the Nemaska Development Corporation (“NDC”). NDC has been in operation for almost thirty years and has experience, either alone or with partners, in: lodging, restaurants, gas, convenience store, grocery store, hardware store, road maintenance, janitorial services, house construction, construction products, etc.

Nemaska businesses including NDC are the best placed entities to identify members of the community to be recruited, trained, hired, supervised and retained by NDC or by other Nemaska Cree businesses to fulfill key employment sectors of the project during the construction, operation and closure phases.

In the several sectors, sub-contracts could be given to NDC, either alone or in partnership, and NDC would be the best placed to act as employer of the employees. If the employer is a Cree business, this should maximize retention and long-term employment, as the business will be more likely to provide accommodation and a culturally-adapted work environment.

It will be essential that the Proponent and Nemaska /NDC identify as quickly as possible sectors during the construction and especially the operation phase where subcontracts could be given to Nemaska businesses. For example, it is possible that sectors such as transportation, janitorial and cafeteria services, environmental monitoring, maintenance or security services could be separated and contracted out to a Nemaska Cree business, even during the operations phase. Nemaska workers should be trained as quickly as possible to be able to fill the jobs in these areas to give them the opportunity to have jobs during the duration of the operation of the mine.

We are asking the COMEX to recommend that:

- ⇒ In order to maximize the number of members from the community of Nemaska working on the Project, the Proponent should develop as soon as possible a long-term relationship with Nemaska and Nemaska Development Corporation.
- ⇒ The Proponent should, shortly after the issuance of the certificate of authorization, inform Nemaska and NDC of the sectors during the construction phase and during the operation phase where subcontracts could be given to NDC or other Nemaska Cree businesses in order that they train local workers.

- ⇒ As soon as possible, the Proponent should make serious efforts to enter on a priority basis into service contracts with Nemaska Cree businesses in as many sectors as possible in order that they train, hire, supervise and retain local workers during the construction and operation phases of the project.

d. Social Issues Forum

Every major project has potential and real impacts and consequences on the social, economic and cultural aspects of a community. The Whabouchi Project would be the first mine under the post-Paix-des-Braves era located within such proximity (+/- 30km) to a community. While the more common “fly-in/fly-out” mining operations are present and each present their share of impacts, the Whabouchi Project could cause significant impact on families and the community of Nemaska in ways which include those impacts of other mining operations (ex. sudden influx of money, social divides between families having regular income and those not, environmental disturbances, tensions between those favorable to the development or not, harassment and violence towards women, etc.) as well as some specific to its context.

These specific impacts include: land-use issues (community members often tend to use and build camps near communities – Mountain Lake being the case for Nemaska), workplace integration (ex. employees returning home after every shift vs staying at a camp and living with co-workers), workplace performance (ex. would Nemaska employees have a higher absenteeism due to the proximity with family or community issues), community relations and family relations.

Therefore, we are asking that the COMEX recommend that:

- ⇒ The Proponent work closely with representatives of key stakeholders in the community of Nemaska to identify and seek solutions for community impacts stemming from the operation of the Whabouchi Project. The key stakeholders include among others, the Chief and Council, health and social sectors, education and training sectors, elders, youth, women, hunters and trappers.
- ⇒ The Proponent provide funding to cover some of the costs related to the operation of the above-mentioned group.
- ⇒ The Proponent pay for the carrying out of impact assessments related to cultural and social issues in the community arising out of the operation of the Whabouchi Project. These studies would be carried out every three years with parameters determined and set by the Cree Nation of Nemaska.
- ⇒ The Proponent must submit to the Administrator, for information and before the commencement of the work, the means he intends on putting in place to:

- Intervene, when required, with the Cree workers who suffers from psychosocial problems related to their integration to the workplace;
- Favor social relations between Cree workers and outside workers;
- Identify problems that are susceptible to happen in the Cree Nation of Nemaska because of the presence of workers at nearby camps and means to be taken to remedy the situations.

CONCLUSION

We conclude our report by thanking the COMEX for taking the time to consider every comment, concern and question included in this report.

During its mandate, the Work Group repeatedly made certain general observations, whether or not they were specifically concerning the Whabouchi Project. These observations could be useful to the COMEX when drafting their report. More notably, the Work Group concluded that many Community members:

- do not feel as though they were properly informed of the project or consulted with regards to the potential impacts. Many members stated that they did want to make comments to the COMEX but did not have enough information on the project to properly express their concerns.
- are still feeling the impacts of the hydro-electricity development projects and they are concerned that they will encounter the same problems with the Whabouchi Project
- are worried about the proximity of the project to the Community to a heavily populated camp area and to the Bible Camp; more specifically, they are worried that it will impact the quality of the air they breathe and the water they drink.

A great deal of effort was put into preparing the members to the COMEX hearings and in drafting this report. We hope that the members will find it useful when drafting its recommendations to the Administrator.

Meegwetch, Merci, Thank you

“SCHEDULE 1”

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Land Users Focus Groups

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Elders’ Focus Group

The names of the participants of the Elders’ Focus Group was unavailable.

Youth Focus Group

Savannah Jolly
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Jasmine Tanoush
Brittany Moar – Youth Council Member

Derius Gilpin-Mark
Nick Wapachee – Youth Ambassador
Andrew Nunez (Youth Fusion)
Simone Sonia Dionne (Youth Fusion)

Entities Focus Group

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