

MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE INQUIRY

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATIONS BY EACH OF

(a) CANADIAN ARCTIC GAS PIPELINE LIMITED FOR A  
RIGHT-OF-WAY THAT MIGHT BE GRANTED ACROSS  
CROWN LANDS WITHIN THE YUKON TERRITORY AND  
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, and

(b) FOOTHILLS PIPE LINES LTD. FOR A RIGHT-OF-WAY  
THAT MIGHT BE GRANTED ACROSS CROWN LANDS  
WITHIN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
FOR THE PURPOSE OF A PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE

and

IN THE MATTER OF THE SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND ECONOMIC IMPACT REGIONALLY OF THE CONSTRUCTION,  
OPERATION AND SUBSEQUENT ABANDONMENT OF THE ABOVE  
PROPOSED PIPELINE

(Before the Honourable Mr. Justice Berger, Commissioner)

**Ft. Rae/Edzo, N.W.T.  
August 10, 1976**

PROCEEDINGS AT COMMUNITY HEARING

**Volume 71**

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1 Ft. Rae/Edzo, N.W.T.  
2 August 10, 1976  
3 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)  
4 THE COMMISSIONER: Ladies and  
5 gentlemen, we'll call our hearing to order this  
6 evening. I think that many of you were here last  
7 night, so I won't repeat all that I said then but I  
8 think I should tell you that everything that we say  
9 here at this hearing, everything that you say, and  
10 everything that I say is being recorded on tape by  
11 these young people here with the masks over their face.  
12 They're simply speaking into a tape so that we will  
13 have a permanent record of everything that is said here  
14 at the hearing. When the hearing is over, the record  
15 of everything that is said will be typed up and will  
16 be sent to you in this village to your chief, so that  
17 the people of Rae will have a permanent record of  
18 what was said at this hearing by the people who have  
19 spoken.

20 I told you last night that I  
21 had invited representatives of the companies that want  
22 to build the pipeline to attend and they are with us  
23 and I'll ask them to just speak briefly for each of the  
24 companies to outline their pipeline project. Mr.  
25 Workman is here for Arctic Gas and Mr. Burrell, for  
26 Foothills Pipe Lines, They're both sitting here, and  
27 they have a trunk they brought with them, which they  
28 will use as their table tonight.

29 Maybe, Mr. Workman, you'd  
30 like to go first. This is Mr. Workman, who represents

1 Arctic Gas, Just before you begin, Mr. Rabesca, will  
2 translate.

3 (INTERPRETER INTERPRETS ABOVE)

4 AL WORKMAN Resumed

5 THE WITNESS: Well, as most  
6 people here realize, the Americans discovered large  
7 quantities of oil and gas in Northern Alaska and  
8 shortly thereafter, the Canadians discovered oil and  
9 particularly gas in the Mackenzie Delta. Now this gas  
10 must be moved to a market which is in the South and  
11 Canadian Arctic Gas has studied means of bringing the  
12 gas from both Alaska and the Canadian Delta down to  
13 market.

14 The safest and most  
15 economical way to do this we found was to bring a  
16 pipeline across the north coast of Alaska and the Yukon  
17 to join in with a pipeline from the Mackenzie Delta and  
18 run the pipeline down or up the Mackenzie River Valley  
19 to Central Alberta at which point the line would divide  
20 part of it going west to the American market, and part  
21 going east to the American market and the Canadian  
22 market.

23 The American gas from Alaska  
24 would then go to the States through this line, as well  
25 as the Canadian gas from the Delta going to the  
26 Canadian market. We recognized that this was a big  
27 project and to ensure that we would not, or that we  
28 would keep any damage down to a minimum that we wanted  
29 to make sure we didn't hurt the land; we wanted to make  
30 sure that we didn't hurt the animals and we wanted to









1 settlement should occur prior to the pipeline  
2 construction. Thank you very much for the opportunity  
3 to briefly describe our project to you.

4 (INTERPRETER INTERPRETS ABOVE) (WITNESS ASIDE)

5 THE COMMISSIONER: If you  
6 want to ask any questions about this, the two pipeline  
7 projects, you can. If you want to carry on with the  
8 statements of the people who wish to speak tonight,  
9 that's fine too. Whatever you wish to do.

10 CHIEF CHARLO: I wonder if I  
11 could ask one of the company people a question about  
12 the, regards of the employment. One company said  
13 something like they were going to hire at least 6,000  
14 people to work on the construction of the pipeline and  
15 the other company says 250.

16 THE COMMISSIONER: Well maybe  
17 I could make that clear. To build the pipeline you  
18 have to bring in 6,000 people. You need 6,000 people  
19 to build it, but once you've finished it, and that  
20 takes three or four or five years, once you've finished  
21 it and the pipeline is operating, then you only need  
22 about 200 or 250 people to run it. I think these  
23 gentlemen will forgive me if I say that essentially the  
24 figures are the same for both pipelines. You need  
25 thousands of men to build it, and only about a couple  
26 of hundred to run it, once you've got it built.

27 (INTERPRETER INTERPRETS ABOVE)

28 THE COMMISSIONER: Do you  
29 want to add anything to that, either of you?

30 After it's built you have

1 something like 250 permanent jobs, in the whole of the  
2 Northwest Territories, that should be borne in mind.

3 CHIEF CHARLO: I was just  
4 talking to the people and explaining what Mr. Workman  
5 has stated. I think the people would like to know that  
6 if, you don't mind to go up to the map there and  
7 explain the Canadian pipeline and after Mr. Burrell can  
8 do it. But before, okay well do that first, and I have  
9 a few questions I'd like to ask, and at the same time  
10 the people from the floor may have to direct questions.

11 MR. WORKMAN: The American  
12 discovery is in Prudhoe Bay in Alaska. The gas the  
13 Canadians have discovered is here, in the Mackenzie  
14 Delta. We are proposing to build a pipeline from  
15 Alaska across to the Delta, tie this line into the  
16 Mackenzie Valley line so that the two gases would come  
17 down then through one line, going along the Mackenzie  
18 Valley, the Mackenzie River Valley, right down past  
19 Fort Simpson. It crosses the Mackenzie River, just  
20 east of Fort Simpson, and then down into Alberta, where  
21 it splits, one going east and one going  
22 west.

23 This line across here, and  
24 the line down through here would be all 48 inch  
25 diameter, four feet in diameter. A short section of  
26 line from the Delta area to the junction would be 42  
27 inches, but most of the line would be 48 inches in  
28 diameter.

29 (INTERPRETER INTERPRETS ABOVE)

30 MR. BURRELL: With respect to



1 | 8 feet.

2 | MR. BURRELL: I think that  
3 | would be at the bottom of the ditch. Generally it would  
4 | be about three feet, three or four feet, in there.

5 | THE INTERPRETER: Nick Black  
6 | would like to ask some few questions. Since we're in  
7 | the position of asking questions, it's not the matte:  
8 | of saying we're in favour of a pipeline but in regards  
9 | just a questioning that we would just want to find out  
10 | how effective it's going to be, it's not that we're  
11 | agreeing, we're in favour of having a pipeline go  
12 | through.

13 | THE COMMISSIONER: I think  
14 | they understand that. You can ask questions about the  
15 | pipeline and they won't think and I won't think that  
16 | that means that you are in favour of it.

17 | THE INTERPRETER: The  
18 | question again is that we are still not in favour of  
19 | having a pipeline go through, but as far as everything  
20 | is concerned, as far as the question is concerned, he  
21 | says he knows that in the future that if the pipeline  
22 | goes through, all the people that spoke in the past  
23 | about the pipeline, the pipeline might be effective,  
24 | and might spoil our land and that still remains in our  
25 | minds. By the same token he says, once the pipeline is  
26 | built, I don't think the land is going to remain as it  
27 | is right now, and this is something that is very  
28 | important to us. Supposing if the pipeline is buried  
29 | about 8 foot down underground or something like that,  
30 | supposing if it broke, or it leaked, you said something

1 | about a pressure, something like that is going to  
2 | expand out of the pipe, that's going to be quite a  
3 | disaster to the land. This is our great concern he  
4 | says.

5 | I think I am one of the  
6 | spokesmen who is supposed to be speaking one of these  
7 | days but I'm not speaking right now but actually I'm  
8 | only asking questions, he says.

9 | I understand that the oil  
10 | companies, they must have been travelling along with  
11 | you within your visits, within the various settlements.  
12 | And you must have met a lot of native people, and cover  
13 | fair amount sizable land within the Territories, in  
14 | regards to the pipeline hearings. We know that we, the  
15 | native people in the Territories, there is no way that  
16 | we're going to act like white men nor have the position  
17 | like them, and so is the animal that live with the  
18 | land. Supposing if there were an oil spill, or the  
19 | pipeline ever break, we don't know whether there's some  
20 | animals like beavers that live off the land and off the  
21 | lakes, if they happen to be flooded by oil over the  
22 | lake, and supposing if the beaver wants to live, live  
23 | off the lake, so is little ducks, and I don' think  
24 | they'll ever survive. And they probably might en up  
25 | being blind, I don't think you'll provide any doctors  
26 | for them to fix their eyesight or something like that.

27 | In regards of the money  
28 | making process or money wise, the native people here  
29 | don't have any money stored in the bank like many white  
30 | people do, so that's the reason why they have to



1 | only happen only such season, but it goes years after  
2 | years. Then it's not only me that does that, he says.  
3 | That's the way we like to live off the land. In other  
4 | words, he says, we don't gain very much off the land  
5 | because all the land has been exploited by the white  
6 | people. And another word he says, there is always a  
7 | great need for something to be done in the Territories,  
8 | and it's not only the pipeline companies or some  
9 | special people come into communities and saying that we  
10 | should provide jobs, I don't think to say that you  
11 | know, they could be providing jobs forever for native  
12 | people he says.

13 | I understand that since the  
14 | government is always sending representatives on his  
15 | behalf, just to tell people there is going to be such  
16 | land being wasted or either that such jobs going to  
17 | be available to the native people. I, for some reason  
18 | or another, I'm not the only guy has been fooled one  
19 | time or another. But however, he says, I accept you as  
20 | to listen to us native people in this hearing he says.

21 | He said, I have been through  
22 | a lot of meetings with the government peoples too, he  
23 | says, and I have been listening to them a lot of times  
24 | and then there were a lot of times there were a lot of  
25 | good deals made and a lot of good promises. So was the  
26 | Government of Canada itself, it was a long time a,  
27 | regarding the treaty. Until now he says, we don't  
28 | happen to see which government, that they are  
29 | responsible for us because whenever you happen to see  
30 | the Government of Canada himself over here to talk to



1 gas on the ground at all because it would rise.

2 (INTERPRETER INTERPRETS ABOVE)

3 THE COMMISSIONER: If you  
4 would let Mr. Workman --

5 MR. WORKMAN: Could I just  
6 add one comment there. As well as, if a break did  
7 occur, which is a very remote possibility, but if it  
8 did, not only would the whole line shut down, but  
9 valves would close on each side of the break to make  
10 sure that the whole line wouldn't empty.

11 (INTERPRETER INTERPRETS ABOVE)

12 THE COMMISSIONER: Maybe it  
13 would be helpful if I told you about the hearings that  
14 we're holding in Yellowknife. You see, these two  
15 companies, Arctic Gas and Foothills, they want to  
16 build a gas pipeline because the Americans have found  
17 gas and oil here and in the Mackenzie Delta we've  
18 found gas and oil. So right now they want to bring  
19 the gas from the Arctic Ocean along the Mackenzie  
20 Valley to the big cities in Southern Canada and the  
21 United States to heat people's homes and to keep  
22 industry going. So what the companies want to do  
23 first is build a gas pipeline. Now, the Government of  
24 Canada has said to me, "Okay, Judge Berger, you go up  
25 North and come back and tell us what would happen if  
26 we let the companies build a gas pipeline." But the  
27 Government of Canada didn't stop there. They said,  
28 "if we let the companies build a gas pipeline, then  
29 the next thing is, they'll want to build an oil  
30 pipeline so they said, "Look at what will happen if a





1 of Energy, the people from the Territorial Government  
2 in Yellowknife and the Territorial Government in  
3 Whitehorse, the people from the Universities, we spent  
4 two months last fall hearing those experts from all  
5 over North America, tell us about the caribou and we've  
6 heard experts in every field, to make sure that we are  
7 able to tell the government what will happen if they go  
8 ahead and build this gas pipeline and establish an  
9 energy corridor for an oil pipeline as well. It's my  
10 job to tell the government how to protect the land and  
11 the wildlife and the birds and the fishery, and of  
12 course, most important of all, the people.

13 I don't want to just sit in  
14 Yellowknife listening to those experts, they're very  
15 important people and they're very knowledgeable people,  
16 but that's why we have taken this Inquiry to 30  
17 communities along the route of the pipeline in the North  
18 so that you people can tell me what you think about all  
19 of this, because everybody in the North wants to tell me  
20 what native people think and what native people want and  
21 what their hopes are for the future, People I meet in  
22 coffee shops, on airplanes, consultants who testify at  
23 the hearings, whether they're employed by the pipeline  
24 companies, by the government, or by the native  
25 organizations, they all want to tell me, and I'm happy  
26 to listen, what the native people of the North want.  
27 But I am anxious to hear from the native people  
28 themselves, to hear from you, what your hopes are, your  
29 fears, what your concerns are for the future, because we  
30 have to know what the people of the North are thinking,



1 Thursday and then we'll go to Rae Lakes on Friday and  
2 hold a hearing in Rae Lakes on Friday at 2:00. But  
3 we'll be here tonight and all day tomorrow and tomorrow  
4 night too. So I guess we can begin again. We can hear  
5 from those who wish to speak this evening.

6 (INTERPRETER INTERPRETS ABOVE)

7

8 CHARLIE FOOTBALL, Sworn:

9 THE INTERPRETER: His name is  
10 Charlie Football and he's an original resident of Rae  
11 and then he, I asked to speak over at, to the hearings  
12 but apparently they brought me in kind of sooner than I  
13 expected because I was trying to sum up what some other  
14 people had to say. But however, since I'm here, I  
15 might as well just go ahead and do my thing.

16 I sort of agree with what has  
17 been said amongst all the old people and then by  
18 listening to the hearings and then I am listening to  
19 most of the old people. These are what my intention  
20 was, to begin with, Then I've been employed in quite  
21 occasions and I like the job and I do a good job for  
22 the people I work for and then, and I also like to trap  
23 and fish and hunt on the land too. Then I like to  
24 agree with all what the old people had to say about how  
25 important the land is to the young people, and young  
26 and old alike.

27 I also agree with the people  
28 when they say they don't want the pipeline to come  
29 through, with all what they had to say that it's  
30 related to the pipeline that is so effective, that

1 | things like that it might be involved with the  
2 | pipeline.

3 | I understand somewhere down  
4 | in Alaska where the pipeline is already in progress,  
5 | and then with all that is. related to the pipeline  
6 | that is so affected to the native people there, and  
7 | compare it to the one we're going to have to expect  
8 | over here. Something like that I don't like to see.

9 | All the trapping areas and  
10 | the good grounds that used to fish and trap and all  
11 | the lands that I used to live off, now it's all  
12 | spoiled, and then the living condition, living off  
13 | the land is not like it used to be at one time for  
14 | them. That's the way I understand it right now.  
15 | Then, considering that, he says, I don't want to see  
16 | it happen in the Northwest Territories too.  
17 | Supposing if you want to go out on the land and then  
18 | you be lucky enough to kill a moose or a caribou  
19 | nearby communities, and also if you go out in the  
20 | lake and then if you want to do your fishing, then  
21 | you be lucky enough to catch some fish, you always  
22 | could go out on the land and do all that right now.  
23 | Supposing that the pipeline happened to go through, I  
24 | don't think the land would remain the same as it is  
25 | today now, he says.

26 | As regards to the pipeline, I  
27 | understand that you going to build all kinds of  
28 | compressor stations, every 50 miles or so, along the  
29 | line, along the route of the proposed pipeline. I  
30 | understand that it's going to be quite noisy things,



1 something, there is a possibility of having the native  
2 people employed, but that never happens. For example,  
3 you know the Snare Falls, the Snare Rapids over  
4 Snare hydro and then we got  
5 N.C.P.C. people coming in over there to make dams and  
6 to have people persuaded, they always come up and  
7 explain that maybe we should have native people  
8 employed during the project. And since then, after  
9 they gone ahead and they don't seem to employ any  
10 native people at all over there. This is exactly the  
11 same thing as is going to happen in regards to the  
12 pipeline and I don't think there is any people employed  
13 over at Strutt Lake right now under N.C.P.C. after  
14 what they promised to have native people employed.

15 (WITNESS ASIDE)

16 EDDIE LAFFERTY: Sworn

17 THE INTERPRETER: This is Mr.  
18 Eddie Lafferty and he' a former Band Council and since  
19 you are giving the opportunity for the people in this  
20 community to speak, in front of the hearings, so I got  
21 a few words to say and then in regards to the pipeline.  
22 I understand the pipeline problems too as well as  
23 everybody else does and I understand that there's all  
24 kinds of things that is involved, what is so-called  
25 pollution, polluting lakes, and then supposing if there  
26 was a lake, and then a pipeline happened to come  
27 around, and then the pipeline ever broke and then had  
28 some leaks, and spread into the little lake and then  
29 how effective it's going to be for the fish and things  
30 like ducks and some other animals that might want to



1 possibility of, or we've been having our own gas  
2 delivered here from Yellowknife by trucked in, maybe  
3 some in from outside Territories to the Northwest  
4 Territories as far as Yellowknife, and there's another  
5 possibility of transporting gas out of the Northwest  
6 Territories. It's possible of making a railway, to  
7 transport them through a railway than having it piped  
8 in.

9 He says, there's one  
10 possibility that could be considered and as far as the  
11 pipeline is concerned, as I would understand, it's  
12 going to be buried or either that, to be lying through  
13 above the ground and then there's always the  
14 possibility of having the forest fires and then if it  
15 happened again, we might blow up the whole Northwest  
16 Territories.

17 It's not only my feelings that  
18 I've been expressing, he says, I have been approached  
19 by, while I was on the Council, the previous Council, he  
20 says. However, he says, if there is that much need for  
21 the gas, like I said, they could at least make a railway  
22 all the way down as far as, probably to Fort Simpson or  
23 down Wrigley area, and then barge it into the Delta.

24 He says, like I said one  
25 time, another is that it's not only for myself that  
26 I've been talking. It's got to be what the whole  
27 generation that is to come, and the rest of the  
28 communities around the Delta and we got, as the Band  
29 Councils and the Chiefs are concerned, is that they're  
30 involved within at least 25 communities, that's all

1 | their views of what I'm just expressing right now he  
2 | says.

3 | I sort of disagreed with the  
4 | pipeline and I hope in my time, I don't want to see the  
5 | pipeline come through the Northwest Territories.

6 | But I give you my possibility  
7 | of having it railed in.

8 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

9 | GEORGE BLONDIN, Sworn:

10 | THE WITNESS: What would we  
11 | learn from Alaska Pipeline and how would it affect the  
12 | people of the way of life at the present time. If the  
13 | pipeline is built, a road has to be built by the side,  
14 | that mean that all kinds of people from the South would  
15 | come. The interests behind this Alaska Pipeline  
16 | project are willing to pay any price to complete as  
17 | quick as possible, so they pay very big wages. These  
18 | big wages draw many people from the South, as well as  
19 | around the area. The tradesmen would get almost double  
20 | what we get in Fort Rae, since there is a lot of money  
21 | floating around, it draws lots of people, all kinds of  
22 | people.

23 | Since it's overcrowded,  
24 | there is lot of crimes, sickness, alcohol  
25 | prostitution, greedy people, and it draws short of  
26 | schools because people bring in their families, and  
27 | the government will not build schools for a short  
28 | period, they're short of schools. Crime increases  
29 | because there wasn't enough police to keep up with  
30 | the population. The same with sickness. It







1 I know that there's going to be some gas involved  
2 through a pipeline, then I go out fishing too with my  
3 motor boat and I understand the pipeline is going to  
4 carry some-fair amount of gas, and then I know how  
5 effective it is for the people living in the  
6 Northwest Territories. So that's the reason why I  
7 still don't agree with the pipeline to go through. I  
8 understand that there is about 25 Band Chiefs are  
9 existing in the Northwest Territories at the present  
10 time but there is a lot more outlying little  
11 communities that don't have a chief but there is more  
12 than 25 communities, but as far as the band chief,  
13 our concern, he says that all the Band Councils and  
14 all the Band Chiefs and with all the people that are  
15 heading, that I would imagine that the majority of  
16 them that are not in favour of the pipeline. But any  
17 decision making leaders within even the House of  
18 Commons, probably make some decisions by majority of  
19 votes, in favour of something like that.

20 According to this particular  
21 idea, I believe the people, the majority of them are  
22 not in favour of the pipeline. I'm agreeable with them  
23 too, he says.

24 There's no doubt in my  
25 mind, he says, that all the white people are all  
26 alike and they work together and they work along  
27 with the government side by side most of the time;  
28 They don't always agree with the native people. I  
29 don't see how the native people should agree with  
30 them when they don't agree with native people all









1 private enterprise coming in in the Northwest  
2 Territories, make all kinds of money, government and  
3 any kind of company. There wasn't any way that the  
4 native people ever made any money but somehow they  
5 managed to survive.

6 Then on most occasions we see  
7 the government people coming into the North in any  
8 settlements and without bypassing anybody then they  
9 just go ahead and do their business.

10 By the same token, when we  
11 talk to some original people, and the original  
12 representative from the federal government, like  
13 yourself, Mr. Berger sir, he says they always when we  
14 tell them about the problem we have existing with us,  
15 saying that I'm not the boss. Somebody else so-called  
16 Government of Canada is my boss. We, the native  
17 people, in any settlement we got our own boss. We meet  
18 with any boss if we want at any time. We're always  
19 ready to sit down and talk to them. Why don't the  
20 people come around with their boss and meet with us at  
21 the same time. That's the only way that we could  
22 overcome some problems of these things that are existing  
23 amongst us, we as the native people of the Northwest  
24 Territories.

25 He says just recently on your  
26 speech, you said something like you met all kinds of  
27 experts in Yellowknife and then, the native people got  
28 their own experts too, he says. They got their own  
29 experts out on the trapline and why don't you send some  
30 of those experts along with them to do their hunting











1 | their land, not to spoil it, he says.

2 |                                   I would like t translate the  
3 | remaining part he said about, he aid one time in my  
4 | speech I said something like people got to share.  
5 | They don't want the pipeline to go through, and that's  
6 | our greatest concern, that's the reason why everybody  
7 | talks strongly against the pipeline.

8 |                                   (WITNESS ASIDE)

9 |                                   GABRIELLE MACKENZIE, Sworn:

10 |                                  THE WITNESS:     Gabrielle  
11 | MacKenzie from this Dene community.   Mr. Berger, I  
12 | speak for myself, namely both in Dogrib, my mother's  
13 | tongue and English.   I know by all means you can't  
14 | relate all feelings for what you think in both  
15 | languages.

16 |                                  The older generations say  
17 | they are speaking their concern for the younger  
18 | generation, and their future.   I'm one of this young  
19 | generation with this my thoughts do concern my little  
20 | brother.   sisters, relatives and friends.   I feel  
21 | strongly about what will happen to us, the changes that  
22 | will take place and what will become of us Dene.

23 |                                  You may be aware now that  
24 | most native Northerners depend on the environment and  
25 | live off the land as their way of living.   This is our  
26 | kind of life, living to our own low and high standards.  
27 | If they put a pipeline through, it will destroy the  
28 | land and environment and the people by destroying our  
29 | culture of the countless generations.   I am against  
30 | the pipeline because I feel it will bring us only



1 | our relief and, enjoyment from all the hard working  
2 | days in the bush. This is our life and our way. You  
3 | must understand we are familiar with our surrounding  
4 | and are content within it.

5 | As a closing statement, I  
6 | hope all the Inquiries you have attended may bring you  
7 | to understand us Dene and other Northerners. Thank  
8 | you very much to you and your staff for your  
9 | cooperation.

10 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

11 | THE COMMISSIONER: I wonder  
12 | if we could keep your written statement for the  
13 | Inquiry's permanent record.

14 | (SUBMISSION OF GABRIELLA MACKENZIE MARKED EXHIBIT C-  
15 | 636)

16 | MARY JANE GOULET, Sworn

17 | THE WITNESS: My name is  
18 | Mary Kane Goulet, I was born here in Rae, which is  
19 | called Vesako (?) in my Dogrib language and I will  
20 | translate this for myself. As I read it throughout in  
21 | English, I will translate it in Dogrib.

22 | I would like to make myself  
23 | quite clear that I support what the Dene have been  
24 | saying here at the Inquiry. Its important for  
25 | everyone to understand and believe that only human  
26 | development, which I mean self liberation is a true  
27 | development. I am part of the movement that is  
28 | struggling to survive as Dene, to maintain our history,  
29 | culture, language, traditional way of living. I  
30 | believe that the Dene nation exists today because the

1 Dene of the North are striving for a non exploitive  
2 society. A strong Dene nation is crying out and  
3 saying that we are against the pipeline and future  
4 development until after the land claims.

5

6

7

(WITNESS ASIDE)

8

9

THE COMMISSIONER: Could we  
have your written statement too please.

10

(SUBMISSION OF MARY JANE GOULET MARKED EXHIBIT C-637)

11

MARY ADELE TSATCHIA, Sworn:

12

THE WITNESS: My name is

13

Mary Adele Tsatchia. I was in grade 9 going to Chief

14

Jimmy Bruno School in Edzo, When I was in school I

15

learned both about the Dene and the white culture.

16

Now that I am out of school, I wish I had went back to

17

school to further understand what is happening now and

18

in the future.

19

In school we were taught to

20

sing "Oh Canada" because we were made to believe that

21

this land belongs to the Queen. Now that I have left

22

school and listened to some of the elders talk

23

yesterday, that is not so. Our old people talk about

24

how our forefathers signed the first treaty in 1921 and

25

the promise they were offered about hunting, fishing

26

and trapping rights that the Dene people were

27

guaranteed. Many promises were made but they kept not

28

but one. When treaties were made and signed in 1921,

29

the way that Dene people understood it, it was just a

30

peace treaty signed between the Dene people and the

1 federal government.

2 Now we understand we gave up  
3 our land Our forefathers were not foolish people.

4 If Chief Murphy knew about  
5 this what is happening today on our land and the  
6 pipeline he wouldn't have taken the money and the  
7 treaty, he would never have thought about harming us,  
8 his children. I understand what they mean now when  
9 the old people say let us all put our minds together  
10 and see what life we hold for our children.

11 Therefore, Mr. Berger, until  
12 this issue of land claims is settled, there should be  
13 no development such as the pipelines. We, the young  
14 people, some of us are married and have children. We,  
15 as our elders, also think a lot about our children.  
16 We would like to see a better tomorrow and in the  
17 future for them. There is no guarantee from the gas  
18 company that our land will not be ruined, just as the  
19 same guarantee that was given to us that our land will  
20 not be taken from us.

21 Thank you Mr. Berger.

22 THE COMMISSIONER: We'd like  
23 your written statement. Thank you very much.

24 (SUBMISSION OF MARY ADELE TSATCHIA MARKED EXHIBIT C-  
25 638)

26 (WITNESS ASIDE)

27 TIM MCDERMOTT Sworn

28 THE WITNESS: A person who --  
29 that chain a race for the betterment of others can call  
30 each link progress but never freedom." Mr. Berger, in

1 | the past eight years as a resident of the Northwest  
2 | Territories, I've been involved with a great number of  
3 | indigenous people on social, economic and spiritual  
4 | levels. I have received a large portion of, my education  
5 | in the North, both formally as in an institute of  
6 | learning and informally, as living in the complex  
7 | society found in the North. The indigenous people of  
8 | the North have shown me feelings of trust as they shared  
9 | their thoughts with me, acceptance as they take me for  
10 | myself and not for my stereotyped background, and love,  
11 | as some of them have emotional ties with me. With this  
12 | in mind, I feel as though I can make this presentation  
13 | openly without acting as a radical or as a native person  
14 | or as a white person, but as a young man whose life and  
15 | friends are in the North.

16 | I see the indigenous people  
17 | of the North as a brilliant group of people, who are  
18 | extremely happy, are always easy to be with and I enjoy  
19 | them. They are on an emotional high, always smiling,  
20 | making jokes and laughing. These emotions fill their  
21 | friends with warmth.

22 | The people of the North are  
23 | energetic as they work.

24 | THE INTERPRETER: I'm sorry  
25 | to interrupt, but I think you've got a lengthy page to  
26 | go through and it's very hard to read. them all the  
27 | just the way it might sound, so I might as well just  
28 | translate it back just the way it is, page by page to  
29 | Dogrib.

30 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well I

1 | tell you what. It might be a good idea if it's all  
2 | right with you, if, we just take another five minute  
3 | break and stretch our legs a bit. There are some more  
4 | people that want to speak tonight, I guess, are there  
5 | maybe the two of you could get together and decide how  
6 | you want to translate this, is that okay?

7 | We'll just take a five minute  
8 | break so that in a minute we'll all be fresh again, and  
9 | can carry on for another hour or two.

10 | (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED FOR FIVE MINUTES)

11 | (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

12 |

13 | THE COMMISSIONER Just come in  
14 | from out of doors and we'll begin again whenever you're  
15 | ready.

16 | Okay, well Mr. McDermott, I  
17 | think you can go ahead whenever you're in the mood.

18 | THE WITNESS: A person that  
19 | chains a race for the betterment of others can call --

20 | THE COMMISSIONER: Excuse  
21 | me, maybe we just better wait. People are still  
22 | getting seated. Okay, it's getting late, but we want  
23 | to give everybody our full attention and sometimes it's  
24 | a little hard to hear with chairs moving and so on, so  
25 | and I want to hear what all of you have to say, so I'll  
26 | just -- I'll give you my full attention and I'm sure  
27 | everybody else will.

28 | THE WITNESS: "... that  
29 | chains a race for the betterment of others can call  
30 | each link progress, but never freedom.."







1 | from the University of Alberta leave for Sweden this  
2 | fall to tell the educated people their Inuit legends is  
3 | a far cry of learning of Kublokuk from a man in  
4 | Tuktoyaktuk who is related to Kublokuk. By having the  
5 | people work for the white man for reasonable money and  
6 | then building a liquor store for them to spend this  
7 | money is a moral contradiction I would be ashamed to  
8 | have a part in.

9 | By building a business in a  
10 | settlement and charging unthinkable prices for minor  
11 | services, such as water or an electric dryer is  
12 | exploitation at the highest level. I'm ashamed to  
13 | have the same colour of skin as the people who are  
14 | doing this exploitation.

15 | All of these acts of cruelty  
16 | have taken their toll. The indigenous people of the  
17 | North have faced these problems in two different ways.  
18 | On one side of the coin, the people have come to  
19 | realize that these problems do exist and they are  
20 | acting upon them in a way which is right to them.

21 | This can be seen by the young  
22 | leaders of the North, the teachers of the people. The  
23 | other side of the coin brings tears to my eyes. The  
24 | people cannot face these problems. They have been  
25 | pressured to such an extent that they cannot cope.  
26 | This can be seen by the abuse of alcohol and drugs  
27 | found in the North, the high rate of violent crimes and  
28 | the number of lost people, including many young girls  
29 | on a dead end streets Too many of these people do not  
30 | even have the strength to face living from day to day.









1 (WITNESS ASIDE)  
2 THE COMMISSIONER: You said  
3 you had a brief attached to that? Well, you're  
4 certainly welcome to read it if you wish tonight. I'm  
5 not leaving town or anything so you suit yourself.  
6 MISS BLONDIN: Well I think  
7 I mentioned most of the main points I wanted to. There  
8 may be other people that want to speak.  
9 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, at  
10 any rate, could you leave the statement you read and  
11 the brief with us. Thank you.  
12 (SUBMISSION OF GINA BLONDIN MARKED EXHIBIT C-640)  
13 LEON WEYALLON, Sworn.  
14 THE WITNESS: My name is  
15 Leon Weyallon. I go to school, Chief Jimmy Bruno  
16 School in Edzo. I want to thank Mr. Berger for coming  
17 to Rae. In the school I learn from my craft teachers,  
18 Joe MacKenzie and Nick Black how to make canoes,  
19 snowshoes and how to carve. We also go into the bush  
20 to hunt caribou, trap lynx and martens and muskrat.  
21 Last year we went to Old Black Camp to fish. That is  
22 why I would not like the pipeline to be built. It may  
23 drive the caribou away and I would not be able to hunt  
24 when I grow up like my father.  
25 Thank you Mr. Berger.  
26 (WITNESS ASIDE)  
27 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
28 very much  
29 (SUBMISSION OF LEON WEYALLON MARKED EXHIBIT C-641)  
30 SHALTO DOUGLAS Sworn

1 THE WITNESS: Mr. Berger,  
2 your staff, thank you very much for coming here today.  
3 Mr. Berger, I would like to express my feelings to this  
4 Inquiry. I, Shalto Douglas lived in the Northwest  
5 Territories for 19 years and I was taught the native  
6 culture. What I was taught was hunting, fishing, and  
7 trapping in different areas in N.W.T. I also went to  
8 school in Inuvik, Fort Norman, Fort Smith, Fort Simpson  
9 and Yellowknife to complete grade 10 and I went to  
10 various residences in the Northwest Territories to  
11 live. If this land in Fort Rae is worth three hydro  
12 dams to the government to be placed on Snare River, how  
13 much is it worth to the Dogrib tribe, Now they're  
14 talking about a multi-million dollar project to be  
15 spent on a pipeline. How much is this land worth to  
16 all the natives of N.W.T.?

17 I myself do not agree because  
18 only a handful of people in N.W.T. will be employed  
19 for five years. About 70 percent of the people in Fort  
20 Rae are hunters and trappers, how are they going to  
21 benefit from a project that is going to last for five  
22 years? Our forefathers lived here for thousands of  
23 years to hunt and trap and fish. Why should they want  
24 a pipeline? The people, they still have most of their  
25 traditional culture and they still don't want the  
26 pipeline. The only people that are going to benefit  
27 are in the South because they're the only ones who want  
28 gas and oil. Most homes in Fort Rae today don't need  
29 that much gas and oil because they burn wood. If this  
30 land today in the Mackenzie Valley and the native













1 CHARLIE MACKENZIE, Sworn:  
2 THE INTERPRETER: His name  
3 is Charlie MacKenzie and since there is some people  
4 from, representative from the Government of Canada is  
5 here, so maybe I like to say a few words to him he  
6 says.

7 He says I've been listening  
8 to all the comments that went through by the elders of  
9 this community and I really appreciate all their  
10 remarks he says. One of the people said something  
11 about the cold weather that does exist in the Northwest  
12 Territories during the winter months. It's not very  
13 easy to survive it he says.

14 We very often see a lot of  
15 visitors from the Government people, and then there's  
16 all kinds of promises that they always could make  
17 saying that everything seems to be possible, or it  
18 could be done in a good fashion, or there's all kinds  
19 of promising goes along with it, but we understand that  
20 the government never live up with it. But yet, we the  
21 people that spoke strongly against the pipeline and yet  
22 we do talk in favour of the land, this is the land is  
23 very important to the people in the Northwest  
24 Territories, he says.

25 As everybody is aware,  
26 everybody said the same thing what I'm trying to say  
27 right now, he says, but you know, when the people  
28 during the winter months, it gets kind of cold, but  
29 it's not very often that we have money to buy groceries  
30 from the store to survive during the winter. But with



1 a little while. Tomorrow at 2:00 we should start  
2 again. We should start again. I will just explain to  
3 the people that it is very important that what we're  
4 talking about today is the pipeline that concerns  
5 everybody in our community as well as other communities  
6 on the Mackenzie River, So I ask the people to be here  
7 by 2:00 tomorrow afternoon and we should start by two.

8 THE COMMISSIONER: All  
9 right. Let me thank all of you who spoke tonight. We  
10 heard from a lot of you today and tonight and I  
11 listened carefully to what each of you said and I hope  
12 we have as useful a day tomorrow. So we'll see you all  
13 at 2:00 tomorrow afternoon then.

14 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED TO AUGUST 11, 1976)

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