IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REVIEW PANEL ("JOINT PANEL")
ESTABLISHED TO REVIEW THE JACKPINE MINE EXPANSION,
FORT MCKAY, ALBERTA, ("PROJECT") PROPOSED BY SHELL
CANADA LIMITED ("SHELL")

AND IN THE MATTER OF ALBERTA ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION BOARD ("ERCB") APPLICATION NO. 1554388

AND IN THE MATTER OF CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AGENCY ("AGENCY") CEAR NO. 59540

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION

ACT R.S.A. 2000 C. E-10

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE OIL SANDS CONSERVATION ACT, R.S.A. 2000, C.0-7

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT, 2012, S.C. 2012, C. 19, S. 52

BY THE

ALBERTA ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION BOARD AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

PROCEEDINGS AT HEARING

NOVEMBER 21, 2012

VOLUME 17

PAGES 4186 TO 4454

Copy

Held at:
Four Points by Sheraton Edmonton South
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| Wednesday, November 21, 2012 |
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| Volume 17 |
| Edmonton, Alberta |
| (8:00 a.m.) |
| |
| THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning, everyone. |
| Is there any housekeeping? I take it not. |
| Ms. Gorrie, are you going to continue? |
| MS. GORRIE: Yes, I am. |
| THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. |
| |
| FINAL ARGUMENT BY THE OIL SANDS ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION, |
| BY MS. GORRIE (Continuing): |
| MS. GORRIE: So good morning, Panel. |
| Before I return to discussing the key issues |
| at play regarding Shell's Assessment, I'd like to |
| take a moment to respond to comments that were made |
| yesterday about Dr. Schindler and that he did not |
| put forward alternative information and he relied |
| on the research of others. Simply that is not |
| accurate. Dr. Schindler brought scientific |
| information to the attention of the Panel, |
| including his own, and that of Environment Canada, |
| and other scientists. He relied mostly on industry |
| monitoring of past emissions and industry |
| |

1 consultants' modelling of future impacts. Shell 2 agreed that Schindler's original research has been 3 important in identifying deficiencies. Successive expert panels have confirmed that 4 far more contaminants are getting into the 5 6 environment than industry has reported and this 7 pollution is toxic and can cause harm. 8 The issue is not so much past impacts in the 9 last decade, but what will happen in the next decade when bitumen production doubles. It seems 10 11 that Shell has picked through publications to find 12 selected papers and quotes to support its 13 arguments. 14 And there is no validity to this approach. 15 Shell's consultant even went so far as to 16 quote an editorial summary of a study; the Aherne 17 and Shaw comment was again cited by Shell in its 18 final argument. 19 This is a clear example of the problem that 20 the expert review panels have identified; the lack 21 of systematic credible analysis by persons who are 22 qualified to do so. 23 And let's not forget that the discredited 24 RAMP program is run by the same consulting firms 2.5 who have done most of the past EIAs, including this 1 one.

2.5

Shell also essentially accused Dr. Schindler of being a fear monger because the Kelly et al. research identifies PAHs as carcinogenic. So does Shell's EIA. The only difference is he identified that these pollutants are increasing and there may be cause for concern, whereas Shell dismisses or denies this.

Scientific truth may be inconvenient, but continued attacks on Dr. Schindler does not advance the public interest in protecting people and the environment.

So I'd now like to turn to speak about air. NO_x emissions have been steadily rising in the region. This is confirmed by Wood Buffalo Environmental Association's monitoring stations and satellite images. Shell predicts annual NO_x emissions at their fence line will be above the Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives.

The annual maximum emissions at the Millennium monitoring station were 30 micrograms per metre cubed in 2011. That measurement must be put in context, as that data is based on production levels of 500,000 to 1.5 million per day or less over the last 10 years, which is approximately half

1 of what has since been approved. It's also 2 important to note that this Project will add 5.8 3 tons per day of NO. Modelling of NO, emissions were based on the 4 assumption that the entire mine fleet would be 5 6 replaced by equipment meeting TIER-IV standards by 7 the end of 2024 at the latest. This assumption was 8 made not just for this Project, but for all mines. 9 Yet Shell testified it could not commit to ensuring their fleet met TIER-IV standards by 2025. 10 11 Therefore, Shell's predictions of future ambient 12 air concentrations of NO_x is not conservative; a view shared by Environment Canada. 13 14 It is very likely that this additional 15 Project will not meet the regional standards of 16 annual average of 45 micrograms per metre cubed. 17 Shell testified it was going to experiment with alternative fuel for its mine fleet and did 18 19 not plan on any retrofits to reduce emissions. 20 Shell, however, did not provide any 21 information regarding what measures it could take 22 to reduce emissions if monitored air quality 23 exceeds thresholds. 24 Without any evidence of mitigation being 2.5 undertaken, approving this Project will contravene

1 the LARP Air Quality Management Framework.

2.5

Now, Shell states that that framework will only apply if monitored ambient air levels exceed the guidelines. However, LARP was intended to guide decision-makers, including the ERCB, according to the *Land Stewardship Act*. The purpose of the threshold set by the plan is not to manage existing developments, but also to guide decisions about what activities will occur on the landscape. This is recognized in ERCB Bulletin 2012-22.

This bulletin requires applicants to submit sufficient information to enable an assessment of compliance with LARP thresholds.

The NO_{x} emissions are also important because they are acidifying emissions. They also emit particulate matter, trace metals and PACs. Mine fleet emissions, however, are not measured, so we have no hard data on what they actually emit. The provincially appointed expert Water Data Review Committee released a report in 2011. These experts agreed that the Kelly et al. research indicates that considerably more particulate matter and trace metals are being released from oil sands facilities than are being reported to the National Pollution Release Inventory, or NPRI.

| 1 | It is important context that the NPRI |
|----|--|
| 2 | excludes fleet emissions from the reporting |
| 3 | requirements. |
| 4 | The recent research from Environment Canada |
| 5 | confirmed the Kelly et al. findings of |
| 6 | concentrations of PAH and metals close to the mine |
| 7 | sites. |
| 8 | The lake sediment studied by Muir et al. |
| 9 | shows the highest concentrations were deposited in |
| 10 | 2009 to 2010, which corresponds with increasing |
| 11 | bitumen production during this time. |
| 12 | The effects of this pollution is starting to |
| 13 | become apparent. Muir states that industrial |
| 14 | pollution and climate change (as read): |
| 15 | |
| 16 | "Have forced freshwaters |
| 17 | towards new ecological states, |
| 18 | largely distinct from those of |
| 19 | previous centuries of lake |
| 20 | ecosystem history." |
| 21 | |
| 22 | The Water Monitoring Data Review Committee |
| 23 | notes in their report that (as read): |
| 24 | |
| 25 | "Recent studies show that |

1 levels of PAHs in sediments of the 2 Athabasca delta and mercury in the 3 eggs of birds nesting there have been increasing, as have arsenic 4 5 concentrations in the sediments of 6 Lake Athabasca." 7 Now, Kelly et al. on the subsequent 8 9 Environment Canada studies have found significantly elevated mercury levels near oil sands facilities 10 11 in the snowpack. 12 The Water Monitoring Data Review Committee 13 believes that fugitive sources were likely an important source of local deposition of mercury. 14 15 Even RAMP reports that a general increase in 16 frequency of measurable concentration of mercury 17 among all baseline and test stations monitored by 18 RAMP occurred. 19 Mercury and metal depositions are relevant to 20 this Project because fugitive emissions in mine 21 fleets are a source of these contaminants. 22 According to Dr. Schindler, the 2010 Kelly study 23 implicated combustion sources for metal and PAHs 24 out of the stacks. They are relevant because the 2.5 compensation lake will be subject to the pollutants

1 from the upgraders and mine fleets. Most 2 importantly, mercury levels are already high from 3 various sources and methylmercury rapidly accumulates in the food chain. 4 5 The precautionary approach as set out in CEAA 6 (2012) and other legislative instruments is 7 practical. We have heard at many oil sands hearings that 8 9 RAMP's monitoring improves the absence of impacts, but the absence of evidence of impacts is not 10 evidence of their absence. Several important 11 12 Scientific Reviews have recently established that 13 RAMP is incapable of detecting changes in the 14 environment caused by oil sands development. 15 Alberta's Acid Deposition Management 16 Framework is designed to prevent acidification 17 problems from developing. However, Shell's EIA 18 shows that the Base Case will already exceed target 19 and critical levels for 2 grid cells and 21 lakes 20 and these emissions will increase under the Planned 21 Development Case. 22 A paper tendered by Shell indicates 23 significant exceedances of critical loads of 24 acidity in forest soils in the region. 2.5 While RAMP has been unable to detect changes

| 1 | in acidification of lakes, Dr. Schindler notes that |
|----|---|
| 2 | RAMP's monitoring design was based on a |
| 3 | misunderstanding of the deposition process. The |
| 4 | provincially appointed Water Monitoring Review |
| 5 | Panel also noted that RAMP's monitoring was based |
| 6 | on faulty assumptions about lake chemistry. |
| 7 | The framework says new emission sources |
| 8 | should only be approved in a manner that will not |
| 9 | increase depositions in the grid cell and meet |
| 10 | reduction targets. |
| 11 | Shell has not identified how the Project will |
| 12 | avoid increasing acid deposition. |
| 13 | In answer to one of the Supplemental |
| 14 | Information Requests, Shell states that (as read): |
| 15 | |
| 16 | "The JME air emissions will |
| 17 | increase incremental acid |
| 18 | deposition in the region. This is |
| 19 | despite the proposed mitigation |
| 20 | measures outlined in the EIA." |
| 21 | |
| 22 | Shell supported this framework and it was |
| 23 | approved by CEMA and therefore it should be |
| 24 | prepared to accept its requirements. |
| 25 | In summary, this Project will cause |
| | |

1 exceedances of the LARP maximum limit for NO, and 2 the Acid Deposition Management Framework and is 3 therefore not in the public interest. At minimum, Shell should be required to 4 5 measure end-of-pipe emissions from their mine fleet 6 and report these annually. 7 Further, prior to any approvals, mitigation 8 measures to reduce emissions should be required. 9 I'd now like to turn to discussing end pit lakes. 10 11 The proposed pit lakes will cover an area of 12 about 40 square kilometres, the largest ever 13 proposed. During the life of the mine, tailings 14 will be stored in the four pit lakes. Over a 15 15-year period, the Northeast Pit Lake will receive consolidation flux of about 2 million cubic metres 16 17 a year, tailings seepage of 1.5 million cubic 18 metres per year, and process water from the 19 centrifugation of MFT, or mature fine tailings, of 20 about 1 million per year. 21 About 15.6 million cubic metres of centrate 22 water will be placed in that pit lake after 2051. 23 Throughout its life, water from the Kearl 24 project's pit lake will also flow into Shell's, 25 with Kearl's pit lakes having been approved to

1 store MFT. No active treatment of contaminated 2 water has been proposed for Shell's pit lakes. 3 Shell's modelling indicates that the pit lake's water quality will exceed Alberta's Water 4 Quality Guidelines and several Chronic Effects 5 6 Benchmarks. 7 Dr. Miller testified that metals are a 8 concern as well as the high salt load. Shell also 9 predicts high salinity. While salts can be diluted, they will remain in the pit-receiving 10 11 environment. 12 The success of pit lakes depends very much on 13 their chemistry and the few successful pit lakes 14 that have been cited, like gravel pits, have 15 contained clean water, which will not be the case 16 for these EPLs. 17 Now on the point of other pit lakes, Shell states that the hard-rock pit lakes are comparable 18 19 to oil sands pit lakes when the former are 20 successful. But when they are shown to be 21 problematic, Shell says that they are not comparable. This is classic double talk. 22 23 Further, Shell states that Dr. Miller's 24 evidence should be disregarded because he is not an 25 oil sands pit expert. We note that Shell's

1 consultants are not experts either. No one is. 2 This is because no oil sands pit lake has been 3 completed. Shell's witnesses professed a high degree of 4 certainty that the pit lakes will be ecologically 5 6 self-sustainable, especially after 100 years. They 7 describe the predicted condition of the pit lake a few decades after closure as a "best quess." 8 9 Mr. Denstedt stated that EPLs are a matter of when, not if. We completely disagree. It is very much a 10 11 question of if. Both Dr. Miller and Environment Canada 12 13 described multiple sources of uncertainty, including the reliance of multiple models and 14 15 assumptions, errors in climate change modelling, and lack of a demonstration lake. 16 17 Shell's definition of ecologically 18 self-sustaining pit lakes is that they will 19 eventually contain fish, but not necessarily the 20 same fish as currently exist in the area. This 21 does not equate with Environment Canada's 22 definition of ecological integrity. 23 Accordingly, even if the pit lakes meet 24 Shell's criteria, there will be a permanent loss of 2.5 ecological integrity.

1 Dr. Schindler emphatically disagrees with 2 Shell's prediction in part because few pit lakes 3 have been successful to date. He also notes that the pit lakes will likely never provide a fishery 4 comparable to what will be lost or the similar 5 6 biodiversity. 7 No water quality standards have been 8 developed yet for pit lakes despite CEMA 9 undertaking this work in 2003. Shell has also stated that it will not undertake a demonstration 10 11 lake. Rather, it is relying on Syncrude's Base 12 Mine Lake to demonstrate the viability of the pit 13 That research is not publicly available and lake. 14 was not made available to the Panel. 15 On that note, during final argument, counsel 16 for Syncrude made several claims regarding 17 Syncrude's activities and the alleged science of 18 pit lakes that are not in evidence. As such, those 19 final arguments should be disregarded by the Panel. 20 Dr. Miller described the proposed pit lake as 21 a "grand experiment." The CEMA guidance document 22 also refers to it as a "large-scale experiment." 23 Shell says it will use adaptive management, 24 which appears to mean that Shell hopes that it will

be able to figure out a solution in the future.

2.5

| 1 | But as the CEMA guide says (as read): |
|----|---|
| 2 | |
| 3 | "Worldwide, adaptive |
| 4 | management has a poor track record |
| 5 | of performance." |
| 6 | |
| 7 | Therefore, the CEMA guide stressed the need |
| 8 | for a concrete plan for the various failures that |
| 9 | may occur. |
| 10 | The Oil Sands Advisory Panel to the Federal |
| 11 | Minister of Environment also found that a clearly |
| 12 | focused set of objectives and a statistically sound |
| 13 | decision-making process that can allow for adaptive |
| 14 | management in a rapidly changing oil sands |
| 15 | environment does not exist. |
| 16 | Canada also recommended contingency plans be |
| 17 | developed because it was concerned about Shell's |
| 18 | ability to predict and control effluent quality |
| 19 | from the end pit lakes. |
| 20 | Despite this, Shell has no concrete |
| 21 | mitigation plan and provided no data to enable the |
| 22 | Panel to assess whether any mitigation measures are |
| 23 | technically or economically feasible. |
| 24 | As such, the Panel is unable to discharge its |
| 25 | obligations under CEAA and should not recommend |

1 approval of this mine.

2.5

And this is important, as that contingency plan can cost billions of dollars, posing a significant risk to the future taxpayers of this province.

Alternatively, we note that the 2004 CNRL Decision Report, and the Total Joslyn Mine Report, that previous Panels gave conditional approval to the end pit lake concept, subject to full-scale demonstration of its success in 15 years, which would be 2019 for CNRL. Shell testified that the information regarding the viability of Base Mine Lake to enact as a water treatment system will not be available for 10 years; that takes us to 2022. Therefore, the ERCB's condition of 2019 will not be met. Shell does not plan to begin construction until 2015 and there is no commitment from Shell to make an investment decision by 2015.

The pit lakes are integral to the Mine Plan. We therefore request that before any approval be given, there be a proviso that Shell propose a Mine Plan with an alternative to the pit lakes. If Shell can demonstrate pit lakes are viable by the date of its investment decision, or has a fully developed contingency plan, then it can be granted

1 leave to apply for a review in variance. 2 If Shell can take three years or more to 3 ensure this Project meets the interest of its 4 investors, then this Panel can surely take the time 5 necessary to ensure the public interest is 6 protected. 7 I'd like to move on and talk about water 8 issues. 9 The Athabasca Management Framework is another example of how Alberta and Canada have failed to 10 11 manage the cumulative effects of oil sands 12 development in a responsible manner. This means 13 that it falls to this Panel to ensure projects do 14 not contribute to the regional cumulative effects. 15 In 2003, at the first Jackpine hearing, DFO 16 said it would make every effort to get an in-stream 17 flow needs in place by 2005. An Interim Framework was put in place in 2006. And a Base Flow was 18 19 deferred to further study. 20 Work on the Phase 2 Framework started in 21 2007. The Joint Review Panel for the Kearl Project 22 recommended Phase 2 be implemented by January 2011. 23 And DFO undertook to do so that year. 24 Both Scientific Reviews conducted by DFO in 2006 and 2010 determined there is a need to 2.5

1 establish an Ecological Base Flow, or EBF, to 2 protect the river. We are now in November 2012 and this has still not been done. 3 DFO suggested that a Base Flow of 87 4 centimetres is reasonable, although we do not know 5 6 what the ultimate number will be. Water will be reduced below the 87 7 8 centimetres because Syncrude and Suncor's 9 allocation of 2 centimetres each have been grandfathered under the Water Act. Shell and CNRL 10 11 each are entitled to withdraw 0.2 centimetres, so 12 the 87 centimetres may be reduced during critical 13 low flows. 14 Shell has committed to restricting water 15 withdrawals from the Athabasca River to 0.2 16 centimetres during low-flow conditions. Even so, 17 negative effects on fish habitat may occur. levels are important not just for fish habitat but 18 19 also because the river is being used to dilute 20 contaminants released from the mine. 21 Most importantly, Shell has not provided the 22 details of how it will cut withdrawals. 23 referred to using freeboard from its tailings 24 facility or aquifers. OSEC is concerned that Shell 2.5 and other operators may effectively withdraw more

| 1 | than 0.2 centimetres by purchasing unused |
|----|--|
| 2 | allocations from Syncrude or Suncor. |
| 3 | The Oil Sands Developer Group agreed for the |
| 4 | winter of 2011 to 2012 that it indicates that |
| 5 | operators will indeed allocate unused licence |
| 6 | allocations between themselves. |
| 7 | The effect of this agreement is to enable |
| 8 | withdrawals greater than would be permitted by an |
| 9 | 87-centimetre Base Flow. |
| 10 | We therefore believe the Panel has an |
| 11 | important role to play in protecting the river: |
| 12 | First, by affirming the need for an EBF |
| 13 | forthwith; |
| 14 | Second, by conditioning any approvals on |
| 15 | Shell's limiting its water withdrawal to 0.2 |
| 16 | centimetres for both Shell Phase I and the |
| 17 | Expansion Project, and doing so without purchasing |
| 18 | additional withdrawals from other operators; |
| 19 | Third, we're recommending that Shell retrofit |
| 20 | diversion infrastructure so withdrawals during |
| 21 | low-flow periods reach zero in the future. |
| 22 | I'd like to speak briefly about the Muskeg |
| 23 | River. |
| 24 | The Muskeg River watershed is approximately |
| 25 | 1400 square kilometres. This Project will be the |

first project to mine a large area of the mainstem

of the Muskeg River, 21 kilometres. If the Project

is approved, 45 percent of the watershed will be

mined.

2.5

According to Dr. Schindler, there is evidence of existing adverse impacts to the watershed and it is ridiculous to assume no permanent biological damage from 10 mines operating in the watershed.

Shell has assessed components of the impacts to this watershed in discrete components, but there is no integrated assessment of the aquatic and terrestrial components of the impacts. In other words, it was not specifically chosen as a spatial area to assess. As such, there is no assessment of whether the Project will significantly impair the watershed and its ability to provide resources for current and future generations, which is required under **CEAA** (2012).

There is also no direct assessment by Shell of the impacts to the watershed as a unit and therefore no information for the Panel to conclude that the policy goal of maintaining the ecological integrity of the basin will be met.

In 2003, Shell was part of CEMA's Muskeg
River Integrity Working Group. This group was

| 1 | | charged with developing | ng a plan for maintaining the |
|----|-----|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 | | ecological integrity (| of the Muskeg River watershed. |
| 3 | | After repeated delays, | , the task was abandoned. The |
| 4 | | Government of Alberta | produced an Interim Framework |
| 5 | | in 2008. Alberta adop | oted the recommendations of |
| 6 | | past Panels to manage | the cumulative effects on a |
| 7 | | watershed basis. | |
| 8 | THE | CHAIRMAN: | Excuse me, Ms. Gorrie, we |
| 9 | | need to take a short b | oreak. I beg your pardon. |
| 10 | | | |
| 11 | | (Brief Interruption: | Two-minute break required) |
| 12 | | | |
| 13 | THE | CHAIRMAN: | My apologies, Ms. Gorrie. |
| 14 | | Please continue. | |
| 15 | MS. | GORRIE: | I hope I didn't say anything |
| 16 | | too offensive. | |
| 17 | THE | CHAIRMAN: | Nothing to do with you. |
| 18 | MS. | GORRIE: | I want to step back a |
| 19 | | sentence or two. | |
| 20 | | The Government | of Alberta produced an Interim |
| 21 | | Framework in 2008. A | lberta adopted the |
| 22 | | recommendations of pas | st Panels to manage the |
| 23 | | cumulative effects on | a watershed basis. The |
| 24 | | Interim Framework was | intended to be in place for |
| 25 | | one year until a comp | rehensive framework could be |
| | | | - |

2.5

developed. That is, one that includes the important terrestrial and land use components of the ecology of the basin, as well as aquatic health, and one that includes pollutants of concern like naphthenic acids and PAHs. It also said that social, cultural and economic considerations would be addressed in the final plan.

This comprehensive plan was never developed and the Interim Framework was extended indefinitely.

As a result, there is no guidance for this

Panel beyond the broad policy objective of

maintaining the ecological integrity of the Muskeg

watershed, as stated in the Interim Framework.

LARP does not contain any specific objectives or

thresholds to guide decision making for this

watershed beyond the general intent to manage

cumulative effects.

Although the ERCB and past Joint Review

Panels asked Alberta Environment to come up with a management plan, the Interim Framework only deals with water quantity in the lowest reaches of the river and specifies some water quality parameters.

It also states as an objective to ensure that no physical diversion or rerouting of the mainstem of

1 the Muskeg River.

2.5

However, it then goes on to say that this

Project was announced later in the preparation of
the plan and the Interim Framework does not attempt
to deal with it in any way. In essence, Alberta
Environment has said that it's up to the ERCB to
determine if mining the river is in the public
interest.

Now, Shell states it can maintain the integrity of the lower reaches of the river, but that is not the same as maintaining the ecological integrity of the watershed. Based on the evidence before the Panel, this Project cannot be approved. It is inconsistent with maintaining the ecology of the basin.

While past decisions of Joint Review Panels were instrumental in at least getting an Interim Management Framework in place, Alberta Environment has again dropped the ball. Without a management plan, permanent loss of ecological integrity will occur. This includes loss of rare patterned fen and the creation of 40 kilometres squared of pit lakes, which do not resemble the pre-existing ecology of the area.

Now I'd like to turn to speaking about

greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, which is my final topic.

2.5

So Shell has stated that because climate change is a global issue, the assessment of greenhouse gas emission impacts should be done in a global context. Such an assertion is utterly misguided. While Shell states that assessing impacts at the LSA level is nonsensical because impacts will always be found to be significant, we submit that what is actually nonsensical is scoping out the assessment to a global scale when assessing the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions.

Taking such an approach will mean that effects are virtually never found to be significant. And I suppose that is why Shell's advocating for such an approach, despite the fact that it is not supported in law.

The fact that climate change is a global issue that affects us all does not provide an excuse to ignore the impacts caused at a local and regional scale. If anything, it provides even more reason for action to be taken at those levels. On that basis, the Provincial and Federal Governments have developed greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

1 However, the Government of Canada and Alberta 2 are currently not on track to achieve their 2020 3 reduction targets. As stated by the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy: 4 5 6 "Canada will not achieve its 7 2020 GHG emission reduction target 8 unless significant new, additional 9 measures are taken. More will have 10 to be done. No other conclusion is 11 possible." 12 13 Now, at the same time, the Federal Government has continually delayed enacting regulations to 14 15 limit greenhouse gas emissions for the oil sands 16 industry. Environment Canada has stated that oil 17 sands regulations will be drafted next year, but it 18 was not able to speak to whether they will actually 19 include emission limits or when any such 20 regulations will be implemented. 21 We submit that approval of this Project will 22 clearly undermine the ability of the Provincial and 23 Federal Governments to meet their reduction 24 targets. The Project will produce a total volume 2.5 of greenhouse gases amounting to 1.18 megatons of

| 1 | ${\rm CO_2}$ each year over the Project life. |
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| 2 | However, Shell has failed to show how it will |
| 3 | be able to mitigate these emissions. |
| 4 | Given Shell's failure to provide sufficient |
| 5 | information to demonstrate that the impacts of the |
| 6 | Project will be fully mitigated, the Panel cannot |
| 7 | recommend that the Project proceed. The Project |
| 8 | will further undermine the ability of the |
| 9 | Provincial and Federal Governments to meet its |
| 10 | greenhouse emission goals and therefore it is not |
| 11 | in the public interest. |
| 12 | I also wanted to respond to a few points |
| 13 | Shell made in its Opening Statement. |
| 14 | There Mr. Broadhurst stated that Shell's goal |
| 15 | is to: |
| 16 | |
| 17 | " become the world's most |
| 18 | competitive and innovative energy |
| 19 | company" |
| 20 | |
| 21 | However, Shell is failing to increase its |
| 22 | emission intensity targets from what they were |
| 23 | eight years ago, which is far from innovative. |
| 24 | Mr. Broadhurst also stated that Shell has a |
| 25 | long and proven track record of delivering on its |

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commitments. However, Shell is currently failing to meet its last two greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments, both for Muskeg River Mine and Shell Phase I. During cross-examination, Shell tried to explain the failure to meet its commitments by again trying to take the focus off of the Project-specific impacts by referring to the efforts of Shell, the company, through all of its projects and activities.

Shell stated that it aspires to meet the targets that it committed to for the last two projects but has not offered sufficient means by which it will be able to do so. They have stated that they currently have no plans to undertake carbon capture and storage to mitigate the specific impacts of this Project. They rely on the Quest project, but that is not a Project-specific mitigation, and no evidence has been proffered to suggest that the Quest project is intended specifically to mitigate the effects of this Project as opposed to the numerous other operations Shell has undertaken.

In fact, the Quest project would have to be dedicated just to addressing emissions from this Project if it were going to be able to mitigate

1 those emissions. 2 So in the event that the Panel finds this 3 Project to be in the public interest, approvals for the Project should not be granted until Shell 4 5 provides a detailed plan demonstrating the 6 following: 7 How it will mitigate all of the 8 greenhouse gas emissions caused by the Project. 9 2. How it will meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the Project equal to the 10 11 emissions of a conventional oil and gas operation 12 of similar size at start-up, which is the same 13 condition that was included for the past two Shell 14 mines. 15 And 3. An operational carbon capture and 16 storage system in place by 2020 that will 17 specifically offset emissions from this Project. 18 So given the foregoing, OSEC submits that 19 this Project is clearly not in the public interest. 20 If the Project were to proceed, it would contravene 21 numerous legislative obligations and government 22 policy objectives. The list of legislative and 23 policy objectives that will be breached is long, 24 and includes the following: 2.5 Approval would be contrary to the vision and

1 objectives set out in LARP and the Integrated 2 Resource Plan to protect biodiversity and ecosystem 3 health and to avoid and minimize impacts. 4 It is also contrary to the purpose of the 5 EPEA, which is to protect the environment and to 6 avoid and minimize impacts. 7 The Project will likely not meet the Alberta 8 Ambient Air Quality Standards and contravene the 9 LARP Air Quality Management Framework. It will also exceed the targeting critical 10 11 levels of Alberta's Acid Deposition Management 12 Framework and will contribute to the failure of the 13 Provincial and Federal Governments to meet their 14 commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 15 The water quality in the end pit lakes will 16 likely exceed Alberta's Water Quality Guidelines 17 and several Chronic Effects Benchmarks. 18 The reductions in biodiversity resulting from 19 the Project are contrary to both the UN Convention 20 on Biological Diversity, to which Canada is a 21 signatory, and SARA. 22 The significant loss of habitat for species 23 at risk is also contrary to SARA. 24 It's also important to note that Shell's own 2.5 assessment shows that projects that have already

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received approval, never mind the development that is planned, including this Project, will have impacts that exceed the region's environmental protection limits. Approving further projects to be added to such a landscape is clearly not in the public interest.

Now, the decision of the EUB in Whaleback is instructive for determining whether the Project is in the public interest. In that case, the Board turned down a licence for an application to drill a well on the basis of public interest issues. It refused it on a number of reasons that are applicable to the current Application:

First, they denied the application because there was not a sufficiently robust mitigation plan in place for the anticipated impacts, which for the reasons discussed, OSEC submits is the case here.

A second reason was that the well would be inconsistent with the Provincial Government's land management goals for the region, as expressed in the Integrate Resource Plan for the area. This Project would also be inconsistent with provincial management goals, including the Integrated Resource Plan.

Thirdly, the Board in Whaleback was also

concerned that the region could be significantly
negatively affected before the Province's then
Special Places 2000 initiative could evaluate its
importance in the overall provincial context.

This demonstrates that the Board was prepared to hold off approving drilling pending Provincial Government policy determinations.

In the present case, government policies and frameworks are also pending, particularly under the LARP. And we submit that in accordance with Whaleback, the Project should not be allowed to proceed until those government determinations are made. To put it another way, to allow Shell to sneak this Project in under the wire before important pending government planning decisions are made would not be in the public interest. pending policies and frameworks are intended to provide guidance direction for the future developments of this province. They provide a roadmap. And so it is in the public's interest that the roadmap be available before any decisions are made with respect to this Project.

Now, in Polaris Resources Limited, the ERCB stated that:

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| 1 | "As all projects may have |
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| 2 | some element of risk, a great deal |
| 3 | of the Board's attention must be |
| 4 | focused upon the level of risk and |
| 5 | the ability and willingness of the |
| 6 | applicant to mitigate or eliminate |
| 7 | such risks. |
| 8 | An applicant's ability to |
| 9 | take the appropriate measures to |
| 10 | deal with risk is therefore |
| 11 | critical to the Board's final |
| 12 | determination as to whether the |
| 13 | project can be found to be in the |
| 14 | public interest." |
| 15 | |
| 16 | In the present case, Shell is clearly |
| 17 | unwilling to take the necessary measures to |
| 18 | mitigate the risk, particularly with respect to |
| 19 | conservation offsets. |
| 20 | Failing to provide adequate mitigation |
| 21 | measures is also contrary to CEAA and the Panel's |
| 22 | Terms of Reference and the requirements therein to |
| 23 | provide an opportunity for public participation in |
| 24 | the assessment process. If mitigation measures are |
| 25 | not available for review during the assessment, it |

is impossible for the public to participate in a meaningful way.

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When considering whether the Project is in the public interest of Alberta, it is important to note that the bitumen that will be produced will be predominantly for export, it's not going to be to meet Albertan or Canadian needs. Shell also acknowledged that only 3 percent of the money it will spend on construction will be spent locally, including labour.

It is also important to note that Shell has failed to provide a contingency or mitigation plan for the end pit lakes, even though such plans could cost the taxpayers billions of dollars. It is not in the public interest for Albertans to be kept in the dark about potentially significant costs that they may be liable for in the future.

One further note is with respect to the failure of governments to follow-up on past recommendations from Panels. And we respectfully request that if the Panel finds this Project to be in the public interest, that where possible, it provide for binding conditions instead of recommendations, as the failure to follow through on past Panel recommendations or to do so in a

1 timely manner has been demonstrated time and time 2 again. 3 Now, I've already talked about the EBF issue, Ecological Base Flow, but in 2007 the Joint Review 4 5 Panel in Kearl recommended that one be established, 6 and it's now 2013, almost, and we still don't have 7 an EBF flow or a Phase 2 Management Framework. 8 With respect to the Muskeg River, the Kearl 9 Panel recommended that a final management framework or a management plan, rather, be completed no later 10 11 than March 2008. So here we stand five years later 12 and we still don't have a final management 13 framework. There's also been a failure by Shell to 14 15 complete a technical review of wildlife corridors 16 and their effectiveness in facilitating wildlife 17 movement as recommended by the Panel in Shell 18 Jackpine Phase I. 19 The 2006 Panel for Albian Sands recommended 20 that Environment Canada and the Government of 21 Alberta collaborate to determine mitigation options 22 to minimize the impacts on yellow rail. 23 mitigation measures have yet to be developed. 24 Environment Canada has confirmed that it will be 2.5 2013 or later before they are produced.

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The Panel for Total also recommended that specific water quality objectives be developed for naphthenic acids, but Environment Canada has admitted that they are a ways away and could not give a specific timeframe for completion of those objectives.

These examples demonstrate that recommendations to take action after the fact cannot be relied upon by the Panel to mitigate project impacts.

So in conclusion, the information provided by Shell is insufficient in order for the Panel to discharge its duty to assess the Project. Shell has failed to consider important impacts caused by the Project as outlined throughout this submission. What is clear from the information provided is that the impacts will be significant.

Virtually the entire LSA will be destroyed during the mine life resulting in extreme habitat loss to wildlife, including species at risk, and loss of important vegetation, particularly wetlands and old-growth forests.

The ecological integrity of the Muskeg River basin will potentially be lost, and unproven and untested pit lakes, for which no contingency plan

exists, will become a permanent fixture on the landscape.

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The Panel should disregard Shell's attempt to define significance solely in relation to the RSA. Further, determinations made by Shell with respect to significance should be dismissed as they are based on Shell's own subjective analysis, which is not supported by the evidence that has been provided or CEAA and its guidance documents.

Despite the significant adverse effects,

Shell has failed to provide adequate mitigation
that it is technically and economically feasible.

The Federal Government has even clearly stated that
the mitigation measures provided are not
sufficient. Where mitigation measures are
available, Shell has even refused to provide them.

Shell also relies on adaptive management, particularly as it relates to pit lakes. But as confirmed by CEAA, adaptive management cannot be relied upon. If this is Shell's answer to the many unknowns and uncertainties surrounding this Project, given that adaptive management has proven to be a failure, we urge the Panel that they cannot rely on it as a cure for this Project's many ailments.

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Further, Shell's position is that if there is a potential significant adverse effect, the answer should be monitoring and adaptive management.

Taking that approach would mean that all projects would be allowed to proceed, even where there will be significant adverse effects. Such an approach is unacceptable and contrary to the governing legislation.

Mr. Broadhurst testified that production will not begin until 2018. During the next five years, the available technology and mitigation options will very likely change. More monitoring data and research will advance our understanding of the potential impacts and best practices. The regulatory landscape is also quickly evolving and many management frameworks are not in place or are only preliminary.

Approving the Project now, as proposed, will effectively grandfather in old technology and mitigation measures. Shell recognizes the value of regional planning as it relies on it to address many of the concerns raised during this process.

As such, Shell should agree with the proposition that regional frameworks and policies that are forthcoming in the next few years should be in

| 1 | place before decisions regarding this Project are |
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| 2 | made. |
| 3 | OSEC requests that the Panel conclude that |
| 4 | the Project will have significant adverse effects |
| 5 | that cannot be mitigated and that it is not in the |
| 6 | public interest. |
| 7 | However, if the Panel determines that this |
| 8 | Project is in the public interest, we request that |
| 9 | it recommend that the ERCB only give provisional |
| 10 | approval to this Application. That is, it be |
| 11 | subject to the right of anyone potentially affected |
| 12 | by the Project, and the Board itself, to review the |
| 13 | ERCB's decision. We also request that any |
| 14 | approvals be conditional upon compliance with the |
| 15 | requirements that we've requested in this |
| 16 | submission. |
| 17 | Thank you. |
| 18 | |
| 19 | QUESTIONS BY THE JOINT REVIEW PANEL, BY THE |
| 20 | CHAIRMAN: |
| 21 | THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Gorrie, I do have one |
| 22 | question. At the end of your argument, you |
| 23 | requested that the Panel recommend that the ERCB |
| 24 | only give provisional approval to the Application |
| 25 | and that it be subject to the right of anyone |

| 1 | potentially affected by the Project, and the Board |
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| 2 | itself, to review the ERCB's decision. |
| 3 | And I wondered if you could expand on that, |
| 4 | how that would work, and why it's different than |
| 5 | what other appeal provisions already exist. |
| 6 | MS. GORRIE: With reference to a review, I |
| 7 | was thinking of the review in variance provision in |
| 8 | the ERCB legislation. And, you're right, already |
| 9 | there is an ability to seek a review in variance. |
| 10 | Our position is that, instead of it being the |
| 11 | onus of interveners or other interested parties to |
| 12 | come and seek a review in variance when, you know, |
| 13 | to ensure that conditions are met, that it would be |
| 14 | on the Proponent to seek a review in variance so we |
| 15 | have strong conditions in place at first, and then |
| 16 | if they can prove that they can, you know, if they |
| 17 | provide a contingency plan or whatever, the other |
| 18 | condition might be that they need to do before |
| 19 | approval can be given, they can come back and seek |
| 20 | a review and variance themselves as opposed to |
| 21 | relying on interveners to have to take that step. |
| 22 | THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Gorrie. |
| 23 | MS. GORRIE: You're welcome. |
| 24 | THE CHAIRMAN: I have 8:55. We'll take |
| 25 | 10 minutes. |

| 1 | (Brief Break) |
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| 2 | |
| 3 | THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Biem, would you like to |
| 4 | continue for ACFN? |
| 5 | MS. BIEM: Yes, thank you. |
| 6 | |
| 7 | FINAL ARGUMENT OF THE ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN FIRST NATION, |
| 8 | (CONTINUING), BY MS. BIEM: |
| 9 | MS. BIEM: Good morning Panel, staff, |
| 10 | counsel, and parties in attendance. |
| 11 | So I'm going to pick off where Mr. Murphy |
| 12 | left off with ACFN's final submissions and I'll |
| 13 | start out by discussing some of the problems that |
| 14 | ACFN has identified with Shell's Environmental |
| 15 | Impact Assessment. |
| 16 | Shell's Environmental Impact Assessment does |
| 17 | not provide this Panel with the information it |
| 18 | needs to find that the Project is in the public |
| 19 | interest, or, that the proposed Jackpine Mine |
| 20 | Expansion would have insignificant effects. It |
| 21 | does not accurately depict the direct, adverse and |
| 22 | cumulative impacts of the Project on ACFN and |
| 23 | ACFN's Treaty and Aboriginal Rights, nor upon the |
| 24 | resources upon which the exercise of those rights |
| 25 | depends. |

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I'll discuss several fundamental problems
with the Environmental Impact Assessment, beginning
with Shell's apparent confusion over the use and
application of the concept of significance,
especially as it applies to ACFN's traditional use
and Treaty Rights.

And I'd first like to note that impacts to
Treaty Rights need not be significant in order for
Crowns to do something to avoid, minimize and
mitigate or accommodate those effects. However,
once a significance determination is embarked on,
it should involve local communities in developing
significance to criteria.

Shell has taken contradictory positions about how significance of impacts on traditional uses and Treaty Rights should be assessed. On one hand, Shell says that the environmental consequences to a particular Aboriginal Right or interest will be closely tied and in most cases directly related to the environmental consequences to the supporting environmental or biological Key Indicator Resource.

However, Mr. Kovach told this Panel on
October 30th that when considering significance in
relation to the effects on a First Nation or
Aboriginal group, what has to be taken into

1 consideration is the effects as they apply and what 2 that means to the communities. 3 Shell has been in possession of ACFN's 4 assessment of impacts of the Jackpine Mine 5 assessment on Athabasca Chipewyan's traditional 6 knowledge and use since the spring of 2011. That 7 assessment included a significance evaluation that 8 was based upon what the effects of the Project mean 9 to the community. And that assessment concluded that the Jackpine Mine Expansion Project alone was 10 11 likely to have significant adverse residual effects 12 on ACFN knowledge and use. However, as acknowledged by Mr. Kovach, Shell's review of 13 14 ACFN's assessment of impacts to traditional use and 15 knowledge did not change Shell's assessment of the 16 impacts of its Project upon ACFN. 17 Besides being problematic, because it does not take into account what the effects of this 18 19 Project mean to ACFN, Shell's own assessment 20 underestimates the likely residual Project effects 21 and cumulative effects on ACFN traditional 22 knowledge and land use in part because: 23 The Local Study Area was not based on Project 24 effect or footprint; The EIA exhibits considerable confusion 2.5

between trapline rights and Aboriginal or Treaty
Rights;

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The EIA also contains several inappropriately vague or unsupported conclusions regarding impacts to traditional use. For example, Shell concluded that with regard to fishing, the Project will not have a direct effect on traditional fishing. And further concluded that the Jackpine Mine Expansion will not change the ability of Aboriginal groups to use the fish and fish habitat resources in the Lower Athabasca River.

It's unclear what kind of data this strong conclusion is based upon, and, in fact, that conclusion contradicts the evidence that ACFN has placed before this Panel.

Further, there's an inappropriate reliance in this Environmental Impact Assessment on optimistic and distant future reclamation objectives as mitigation for Project impacts on traditional use and rights. Even if the assumptions that reclamation will be successful and provide opportunities for ACFN knowledge and use that are equivalent to what naturally exists, and those are two highly questionable assumptions, the removal of lands from Aboriginal use for periods of time that

1 exceed one generation is considered permanent. 2 And that's because of the interruption of 3 knowledge transmission regarding the disturbed 4 areas. The other major piece of work that Shell 5 6 offered this Panel as a means for understanding 7 Jackpine Mine Expansion impacts on ACFN was its 8 cultural assessment in response to the Panel's 9 January 2012 Supplemental Information Request 30. And we've heard extensive submissions on why 10 11 the cultural assessment did nothing to remedy the 12 problems with Shell's earlier assessment of impacts 13 of the Project on traditional use and Treaty 14 Rights. Once again, Shell was willing to proceed 15 with developing information for this Panel that was 16 not based on adequate information from ACFN and 17 that misinterpreted what information it did 18 include. 19 Ms. Havers, the lead author responsible for 20 the conclusions of the study, is clearly not an 21 expert in Dene culture, yet decided she had enough 22 information to proceed with her assessment in the 23 face of clear indications from Athabasca Chipewyan 24 First Nation themselves that more was required. 2.5 And ACFN has provided critiques by

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Dr. McCormack whose academic background involves
45-years worth of study, research, fieldwork and
publishing about Fort Chipewyan and other northern
histories and cultures that indicate just how
deeply flawed this cultural assessment was.

In ACFN's submission, this Panel should exercise extreme caution in considering or relying upon any of the traditional use rights or cultural information or assessments that have been put forth by Golder and Shell in relation to this Project.

Throughout the process to date, ACFN has raised numerous other types of issues and gaps with the Environmental Impact Assessment, and in ACFN's view, these issues remain largely outstanding. A high-level listing of many of the most important outstanding problems with Shell's EIA can be found at Exhibit 006-013-N. And it's a summary report of the results of all of ACFN's technical reviews of the EIA materials. So it's an 11-page list, and I don't propose to take you through it all. Just suffice it to say that the problems relate to the assessment of impacts on wildlife, vegetation, biodiversity, traditional land use, the reestablishment of traditional resources, socio-economics, hydrology, hydrogeology, water

quality and quantity, fisheries, aquatic health and air quality. And the issues go beyond simple disagreements about methodology as suggested by Shell. Some of the specific examples of problems with Shell's EIA include a failure to provide information regarding where wildlife will go during the Project lifespan or where animals will

9 originate from to recolonize the disturbed

10 landscape after closure and reclamation should

11 reclamation be successful.

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Shell has not provided an answer to the question of how wildlife will be allowed to move through the Muskeg River watershed and it's unclear whether various wildlife corridor design will simply be a function of minimizing resource sterilization or whether they are actually intended to be effective wildlife corridors. No targets have been set for the reestablishment of traditional resources. There are species gap in baseline surveys. There's no apparent consideration of reestablishing wildlife distribution and abundance to pre-industrial disturbance conditions. And finally, there has not been a direct assessment of potential Project

impacts to waterfowl.

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An overarching problem with the EIA is
Shell's position that an EIA is about assessment
alone rather than about also including scientific
research. And its ACFN's submission that where
development is of an unprecedented scale, and given
that this Project would be contiguous with others
across the landscape, it may be necessary to
generate new scientific knowledge in order to
actually conduct a meaningful assessment. And the
failure of oil sands EIAs to generate new
scientific understandings has been highlighted by a
number of independent Review Panels, including the
Royal Society of Canada and the Water Monitoring
Data Review Committee that was set up by Alberta.

Another problem I wish to highlight in the EIA is that Shell's disturbance analysis underestimates the amount of linear disturbance currently present in the RSA. Mr. Jalkotzy testified that Shell used the most current dataset available in order to complete the disturbance layer of its mapping, for example the disturbance mapping that can be seen at Figure 2, Appendix 4, of Shell's May 2012 SIR Response. However, that map does not show existing linear disturbances in

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the southeast and eastern sections of the mapped area. Those disturbances can clearly be seen on both Google Earth maps and on the mapping completed by MSES on behalf of ACFN using less refined datasets than the data that Shell's disturbance mapping is ostensibly based upon. And this failure to accurately represent linear disturbance in the terrestrial RSA remains unexplained and it should act as a caution to this Panel in relying upon the cumulative impact data presented by Shell.

In addition to the list of outstanding issues with the EIA that were provided in Exhibit 006-013-N, which I've highlighted a few, Dr. Martin Carver has also provided this Panel with an in-depth analysis of problems with the EIA that are specific to Shell's climate change assessment and the integration of climate change into various hydrological assessments that underpin several of the major conclusions of the EIA.

Dr. Carver explained how Shell's hydrological assessments are riddled with uncertainty and subjectivity. For example, a systematic chain of subjective considerations led to Shell's Volume 4A finding that critical minimum winter flow in the Athabasca River below Fort McMurray will not be

1 affected by future climate change. There are two other invalid conclusions I'd 2 3 like to highlight. One is that the mean annual flow for the 4 Athabasca River could potentially decrease by about 5 6 10 percent over the next 60 years. The second is Shell's conclusion that the 7 8 seven-day low-flow for the Athabasca River would 9 remain unchanged. 10 As explained by Dr. Carver, those conclusions 11 are invalid due to the nested and systemic 12 subjectivity and unscientific methodologies that 13 were used to arrive at the conclusions. Now, these basic conclusions are used 14 15 elsewhere throughout Shell's EIA Hydrology 16 Assessment to justify further conclusions about a 17 lack of cumulative effects from its Project. 18 Another overarching problem with the 19 Hydrological Assessment is that Jackpine Mine 20 Expansion simulations of modelling is based upon the Phase I rules, and as Dr. Carver has 21 22 demonstrated, the Phase I rules are based on 23 hydrograph that no longer reflects reality, as 24 current hydrographs are substantially lower than 2.5 those upon which the Phase I rules are based.

1 There are further deficiencies in relation to the EIA's cumulative effects assessment of 2 3 Athabasca withdrawals, including that climate 4 change magnitude has been assessed incorrectly, 5 climate change is assumed to have no effect on 6 winter flows in the Lower Athabasca River, and information is not available in the EIA to 7 8 demonstrate that the Phase I rules, inadequate in 9 themselves, have actually been adequately modelled. Dr. Carver also found that Shell's overall 10 11 subjective conclusions of negligible effect in the 12 Peace-Athabasca Delta were not supported by the 13 information provided by Shell. 14 And as you're aware, the Peace-Athabasca 15 Delta is of particular importance to my client and it does merit a proper Environmental Assessment. 16 17 In summary, the assessments Shell has 18 provided for water quantity demonstrate extensive 19 imbedded unscientific subjectivity which 20 invalidates various key conclusions. There's an 21 implied bias in several of the key methods used. 22 There are high levels of uncertainty that are both 23 unquantified and not communicated to the 24 regulators. And, finally, it's based upon an 2.5 incomplete simulation of the Phase I rules, which

on their own don't adequately protect river values
in the face of climate change and increasing water
withdrawals.

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These gaps and scientific errors build on each other to reach erroneous conclusions of negligible effects, including a disregarded potential for key cumulative impacts. As a result, the EIA conclusions end up contradicting the regulator's own science as demonstrated in the Phase 2 Framework Committee science, and therefore should not be relied upon.

Another problem that ACFN wishes to highlight regarding Shell's EIA relates to mitigation.

However, I'm going to first discuss some of the problems ACFN has experienced in consultation with Shell in relation to this Project as those problems have a direct relationship and flow into the issue of mitigation.

So ACFN has provided an extensive record on the subject of its consultation with Shell and the Panel has heard a lot of oral testimony regarding consultation on the Project. From ACFN's perspective, the problems can be summarized as follows:

First, despite ACFN's good-faith efforts to

work with Shell to manage impacts on its rights, nothing changed in the Project plan.

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Second, nothing changed because there's no motivation for Shell to seriously consider and substantively respond to ACFN concerns. Neither the Crown in Right of Alberta nor the Crown in Right of Canada requires that of Shell. And Shell is not a party to the Treaty. Shell's here to make money.

ACFN participated in this hearing in the hopes that the Panel would not consider this Project for approval until such time as ACFN's substantive concerns have been addressed. And while legal counsel for each Crown submitted that further consultation will occur with ACFN, and that its concerns could be dealt with at some future date, there's simply no evidence before you to support such assertions.

The third major problem is that neither the Crowns nor Shell have properly informed themselves of what is required to sustain ACFN's Treaty Rights now and into the future despite ACFN's best efforts to move the TRUMP process forward. This Panel is being asked to determine whether the Project is in the public interest and whether it will have

1 significant impacts upon ACFN's traditional lands, 2 traditional use and resources, but you're being asked to make that decision without the information 3 required to do so.

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Fourth, as explained in detail by Ms. Nicholls, there are several flaws in the process that prevent the design and implementation measures that would actually address the impacts of projects like the Jackpine Mine Expansion on ACFN's rights. At present, mitigations that are to be achieved must be negotiated behind closed doors with the Proponent, the problems get swept out of the view of the regulators, and then there's no ability for this Panel or the regulators to follow up on the actual effectiveness of those mitigations.

Yesterday, my friend provided a summary of consultation law. And it's somewhat unclear to me why he would have done so when Shell clearly opposed this Panel considering the adequacy of Crown Consultation. As will be discussed below, Shell's clearly acting for the Alberta Crown as a procedural delegate and, in fact, the evidence is that they are engaging in conduct which goes far beyond the procedural aspects of the duty to

consult, such as assessing rights claims, assessing impacts to rights, and determining the appropriate level of engagement with various Aboriginal groups.

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I got the sense that Mr. Denstedt was inviting the Panel to determine that Shell's consultation in relation to this Project was adequate. But with Shell so clearly standing in the place of Alberta in relation to Alberta's consultation duties, both procedural and substantive, and with this Panel's determination that it lacks the jurisdiction to determine the adequacy of Crown consultation, I'm unsure where my friend was trying to take you with that.

I am going to take you through some aspects of the consultation case law, however, simply as background to help you understand how the process has unfolded between Shell and ACFN and why ACFN is seeking some of the relief it has requested. And that relief does not require this Panel to assert any type of jurisdiction over the Crown.

So first I'll take you to the seminal case of Haida Nation v. British Columbia.

In that case, Justice McLaughlin noted that when Crown decision-makers contemplate conduct that may adversely impact an Aboriginal Right, they must

engage in consultation with the affected Nation.

And the controlling question governing the level of engagement and the steps that must be taken is what is required to maintain the honour of the Crown and to effect reconciliation between the Crown and Aboriginal peoples with respect to the interests at

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stake.

And this is why we say that Shell has moved far beyond being a procedural delegate for the Crown in relation to this Project. The evidence is that Shell is deciding what level of engagement is appropriate. And Shell is deciding what is required to maintain the honour of the Crown in relation to its Project. And this is simply inappropriate.

Madam Justice McLaughlin also noted that the Crown is bound by its honour to balance societal and Aboriginal interests in making decisions that may affect Aboriginal claims. And ACFN had raised the issue of adequacy of consultation at the beginning of these proceedings precisely because it's ACFN's experience that that balance is lacking in the regulatory approval system in the Oil Sands Region.

I would next direct your attention to the

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leading Treaty 8 consultation case of Mikisew Cree

First Nation v. Canada. And in that case, the

Supreme Court of Canada made it clear that

consultation is not intended to simply be an

opportunity for First Nations to blow off steam.

It's not intended to be limited to an opportunity

to comment, particularly in cases where the level

of engagement should be deep.

And certainly the consultation process between ACFN and Shell has been characterized, you know, as it's been an opportunity to comment and not much more.

ACFN does not disagree that Shell has provided some capacity funding to enable commentary. We don't disagree that Shell has devoted time and ink to meetings and correspondence with ACFN. However, nothing substantive has changed, ACFN's core concerns remain outstanding, the concerns have not been meaningfully addressed as they were raised.

Turning to another point raised by my friend Mr. Denstedt yesterday, Shell takes the position that removing the ability of individuals to exercise rights in the footprint does not affect the community as a whole. And this shows that they

1 just simply have not been listening to ACFN over 2 the course of their 15-year engagement. 3 Traditional resources are shared by hunters and 4 distributed among members of the community and when one hunter is pushed off the land, this affects 5 6 many community members. And this Panel heard 7 evidence about that sharing tradition from Mr. L'Hommecourt on November 8th. 8

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Next I would turn to Mr. Denstedt's submission that Taku River Tlingit stands for the proposition that, in this case, the EIA process is an appropriate vehicle to meet any obligation for deep consultation. The Taku River case simply does not support that proposition in this context. Taku River, the EIA process was quite different than the one in which we find ourselves today. Supreme Court of Canada said it could be relied upon, because in that case the First Nation had been a full participant on something called a "Project Committee." And the Project Committee was the primary driver, it was the primary engine that drove the assessment process. As part of the Project Committee, the First Nation had the opportunity to provide to the decision-maker and the ministers, expertise, advice, analysis, and

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recommendations, including advice about the potential effects of the project and measures for the prevention or mitigation of adverse effects.

This is a far cry from the situation before you where ACFN has been provided with some capacity to comment, but has no legislated role in the assessment process. ACFN does not have the type of influence or level of participation in this process that the Taku River Tlingit had as members of the Project Committee under the B.C. Environmental Assessment Act.

And I'll just note that even subsequent case law from B.C. has distinguished the *Taku River* case on the grounds that project committees no longer exist in that environmental assessment project — or sorry, in that environmental assessment process. So without the project committees, which provided a legislated role for First Nations, *Taku River* doesn't really apply.

I would also like to direct the Panel's attention to the finding of the B.C. Supreme Court in *Halalt First Nation v. British Columbia*. And in that case, a proponent, and I'm directing it to you because my friend invited the Panel to review Shell's Consultation Logs as testament to the

| 1 | amount of effort that Shell has invested in |
|----|--|
| 2 | consultation with ACFN. And in the Halalt |
| 3 | decision, the proponent did something similar. And |
| 4 | Justice Wedge remarked: |
| 5 | |
| 6 | "[655] The District |
| 7 | argued that the length of the |
| 8 | record itself illustrated the depth |
| 9 | of the consultation in which the |
| 10 | EAO engaged. Counsel for the |
| 11 | District pointed to Mr. Finkel's |
| 12 | affidavit, which included 639 |
| 13 | exhibits and was over 5,000 pages |
| 14 | in length, and reminded the Court |
| 15 | that the affidavit of Mr. Finkel |
| 16 | was only one of many filed in this |
| 17 | case. |
| 18 | [656] One cannot quarrel |
| 19 | about the length of the record in |
| 20 | this case. It is a testament to |
| 21 | the length of the environmental |
| 22 | assessment itself, which exceeded |
| 23 | the statutory timeline by more than |
| 24 | five years. That in turn speaks to |
| 25 | the complexity of the environmental |
| | |

1 issues raised by the Project and 2 its several iterations. However, 3 the length of the record does not establish that the Province 4 5 discharged its constitutional 6 duty." 7 8 And I would submit that that applies to this 9 case, the length of the record and the volume of Consultation Logs submitted by Shell detailing 10 11 phone calls and meetings does not mean that 12 consultation, that meaningful consultation has 13 occurred. 14 And this takes us back to the first problem I 15 mentioned in the consultation process between ACFN 16 and Shell, which is that despite ACFN's good faith 17 and efforts to engage and achieve reconciliation, 18 nothing changes, nothing substantive anyways. 19 And there's clear evidence before you that 20 that's the case in relation to the Jackpine Mine 21 Expansion. 22 On October 30th, Mr. Kovach candidly admitted 23 that, despite the extensive concerns raised and 24 issues presented by ACFN in relation to the 2.5 Application, no changes were made to Shell's plans.

| 1 | In response to the question: |
|----|--|
| 2 | |
| 3 | "But Shell hasn't actually |
| 4 | changed any of its plans in |
| 5 | response to ACFN's technical |
| 6 | reviews or in response to its |
| 7 | traditional use information, have |
| 8 | you?" |
| 9 | |
| 10 | Mr. Kovach replied: |
| 11 | |
| 12 | "I think that's fair to say |
| 13 | that as far as the plans we're |
| 14 | proposing for this Project, we |
| 15 | haven't made any changes." |
| 16 | |
| 17 | Shell has leaned quite heavily on a few minor |
| 18 | adjustments that they say respond to ACFN's |
| 19 | concerns. And I'm going to take you through those. |
| 20 | First, you've heard repeatedly about their |
| 21 | decision to switch from diverting the Muskeg River |
| 22 | through a pipe to diverting it through a channel. |
| 23 | And as you've heard from Athabasca Chipewyan First |
| 24 | Nation, they were not consulted about that option |
| 25 | and they do not support that approach. It does not |
| | |

1 address their concerns. 2 On October 31st, Shell said that an ACFN 3 specific example of where they changed their plans in relation to the Project was that: 4 5 6 "... Albian Sands will 7 support implementation of seed collection for traditional use 8 9 plants and ACFN members will 10 collect seeds and help replant them 11 on the reclamation sites. And we 12 support that commitment." 13 However, as explained by Ms. King on 14 15 November 8th, that was an existing commitment 16 negotiated under a prior agreement in relation to 17 one of Shell's other mines; it has nothing to do 18 with the Jackpine Mine Expansion Project. 19 Yesterday, my friend suggested that Shell has 20 mitigated concerns about the loss of fish habitat 21 in the compensation lake by planning to stock the 22 compensation lake with fish species preferred by 23 local Aboriginal peoples. ACFN has not asked for 24 this. Rather, it opposes the destruction of the 2.5 natural fish habitat and the replacement of the

same with an unproven mitigation in the form of a compensation lake.

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And again, those minor changes don't represent a substantive response to the various concerns that ACFN has raised.

And certainly the Alberta Court of Queen's
Bench is alive to this type of issue. In the
recent Cold Lake First Nation v. Alberta decision,
the Court held that consultation had been
inadequate even though, in that case, a number of
substantive modifications and commitments had been
made to a proposed development in order to
accommodate Cold Lake First Nation's Treaty Rights
and protect Aboriginal interests. The Court found
that, despite the substantive modifications, more
work remained to be done to properly effect
reconciliation.

In the context of ACFN's good-faith efforts over the past five years to engage with Shell on this Project to raise concerns, and Shell's failure to substantively respond or to change its plans,

Ms. Jefferson's mantra that "consultation is ongoing" is highly inappropriate. Based on engagement to date, ACFN has little faith that continued consultation with Shell will actually

move the parties towards reconciliation or towards
a reconciliation of Crown/ACFN interests. And
that's the ultimate objective of the process.

That's why Shell engages.

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Intervention is required, but neither Crown has demonstrated a willingness to do so to date.

Which leads to the second problem that I mentioned with the process. Shell does not respond substantively to ACFN's concerns because they don't have to. Nobody requires it of them. Consultation is occurring in a flawed regulatory system that does not protect Treaty Rights, and where applications that, in ACFN's view, result in significant impacts to ACFN are approved as a matter of course.

The testimony of Ms. Jefferson and
Mr. Plamondon on October 31st between transcript
pages 499 and 538, and again at page 559, is
instructive regarding the structure of consultation
in Alberta. In short, the evidence is that Shell
summarizes Shell's view of consultation events and
in a manner that is administratively convenient for
Shell and Alberta, and that's the standard form
Consultation Log. Presumably Alberta reviews those
logs, but they are not here to give evidence on

1 this matter, so we can't be sure.

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Then Shell meets with Alberta behind closed doors, without ACFN, without taking minutes that can be reviewed by ACFN, and in those meetings, they discuss any questions that Alberta has about ACFN's issues, about the Consultation Logs, and about ACFN's concerns.

And although ACFN has raised concerns with each of Shell and Alberta on several occasions regarding the effectiveness and accuracy of the Consultation Logs, Alberta has not followed up with ACFN at all. Alberta has not inquired further as to the nature of the concerns not being recorded on the logs, or the nature of the concerns with the logs themselves, or how the logs could be improved to actually reflect the substantive issues that are being raised in the process between ACFN and Shell.

Neither has Alberta followed up with Shell or required that Shell respond to ACFN's concerns or change its logs in a manner that reflects the actual issues of concern.

And while Alberta has been willing to meet quarterly with Shell to discuss its consultation activities, ACFN's requests to meet with Alberta directly about this Project, which have been

1 ongoing since about 2009, have been rebuffed. 2 There were no direct meetings between Alberta and 3 Athabasca Chipewyan regarding this Project until sometime in 2012. 4 5 Correspondence from Alberta Justice to our 6 firm has indicated an unfortunate tendency to take 7 what Shell says regarding consultation with ACFN at face value. 8 9 And those would be Exhibits 006-013KK and 006-013LL, at PDF pages 183 to 192. 10 11 And I note that we have provided a copy of 12 our written submissions to Madam Court Reporter so 13 that she has all of the specific evidence 14 references that I'm not taking you through. 15 So, in fact, beyond delegating the procedural 16 aspects of consultation to Shell in this case, it 17 appears that Alberta has also allowed Shell to 18 engage in the substantive aspects of consultation, 19 such as leaving it to Shell to determine what the 20 concerns are and what the appropriate level of 21 consultation required is and what the appropriate 22 mitigation and accommodations are for impacts to 23 rights. There's no evidence that Alberta does 24 anything more than meet quarterly with Shell to ask 2.5 Shell how consultation is going. And while Shell

1 has assured ACFN on occasion that Alberta takes 2 other steps, there's no evidence that in fact 3 Alberta does any of the things that Shell says they Shell has not witnessed these activities, has no direct knowledge of them. 5

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So on occasion, Shell has assured ACFN that Alberta takes other steps to review the consultation record besides just speaking with Shell and reviewing Shell's Consultation Logs. in discussion with Jason Plamondon on October 31st, it became clear that Shell doesn't know this for certain, Shell has not witnessed those activities, Shell has no direct knowledge of what Alberta does, and Alberta is not here to speak to the issue.

What this Panel is left with is evidence that Shell has been left to implement Alberta's obligations under Treaty 8 and Alberta is not responding to ACFN's communications regarding the effectiveness of the process to achieve reconciliation.

In a similar vein, with Canada, consultation has ostensibly been ongoing for five years regarding No Net Loss Planning. But according to Mr. Makowecki and Mr. Janowitz, nobody at DFO has yet considered Treaty Rights in the process,

and DFO's witnesses exhibited considerable

confusion as to when and how that might actually

happen.

This Panel is required to consider the impact of the Project on Treaty Rights and Aboriginal Rights, yet none of the witnesses Canada put forward were able to speak to the impact of the Project on Treaty and Aboriginal Rights, especially with regards to the fishery, even though a Draft No Net Loss Plan is in place.

In any event, Shell Canada, and, you know, during questioning, Mr. Lambrecht raised the issue that the HADD authorization is in the future, we don't need to be looking at Treaty 8 yet. But what I would point to you is that Shell Canada has acknowledged that they don't actually even need to wait for the final DFO authorization from Canada to make final investment decisions about this Project. They get their level of comfort from their engagement with the on-the-ground staff, the same staff who could not speak to Treaty Rights or how those Treaty Rights had been considered in DFO's process around this HADD authorization.

And Mr. Lambrecht asked the Shell panel:

| 1 | "Would it be fair to say, and |
|----|---|
| 2 | would you agree with me, that |
| 3 | before Shell takes a final |
| 4 | investment decision for the |
| 5 | Jackpine Mine Expansion Project, it |
| 6 | will require the Fisheries Act |
| 7 | authorization?" |
| 8 | |
| 9 | And Shell responded: |
| 10 | |
| 11 | "we may take a judgment |
| 12 | view on based on our engagement |
| 13 | with the Department of Fisheries |
| 14 | and Oceans and how comfortable we |
| 15 | are that ultimately we're going to |
| 16 | be able to satisfy the regulator |
| 17 | and seek and obtain an approval." |
| 18 | |
| 19 | Several of Canada's witnesses, when |
| 20 | questioned about who actually was responsible for |
| 21 | accounting for Treaty Rights, deferred to Canada's |
| 22 | consultation coordinator. However, the |
| 23 | uncontroverted evidence is that the consultation |
| 24 | coordinator's mandate is to coordinate, not to |
| 25 | actually engage in, consultation and accommodation. |
| | |

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We are left with the impression that Canada, although less explicitly than Alberta, is relying heavily upon Shell to do its consultation work for it. And again, Shell has no obligation to implement Treaty 8. And Shell has made clear its fiscal interests in moving this Project forward.

And one of the problems with leaving the consultation process to be largely done between ACFN and Shell was highlighted by Ms. Somers in her testimony on November 8th. And that is, that because Proponents have been told Shell's been told, they are a procedural delegate, the whole thing starts to become about the process. Rather than logging the issues and ways in which we might work to resolve these issues, it becomes about how many meetings there were, how many times did you call, how many e-mails did you send. There's a serious lack of substance. And dates and times are not sufficient to reconcile interests.

It's to the point that the procedure becomes the outcome. And many times the Proponent starts to rely on that. That's why it seems to us to be about counting calls and meetings, which is how the simplest matter turns into a long drawn-out process. The whole process becomes riddled with

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procedure and is quite unmanageable when you're dealing with hundreds of applications per year.

That is why the Crown cannot delegate the substantive aspects of consultation to industry.

Industry looks at it from a procedural point of view and our interests get pushed aside because the Proponent is not responsible for accommodating or reconciling those interests. The Proponent becomes fixated on procedure and that is part of what is overwhelming ACFN.

Now I'll turn briefly to the third problem that's come up in the consultation process between Shell and ACFN. And that is that neither Shell nor the Crowns will ultimately be responsible for making decisions regarding this Project, have properly informed themselves of what's required to sustain ACFN's Treaty Rights now and into the future, despite ACFN's best efforts to move the TRUMP process forward.

ACFN's Treaty Rights culture and wellbeing are approaching a point where sustaining them may not be possible into the future. Yet planning assessment and decision-making processes such as these are proceeding without consideration of where that point is.

1 And in response to some of Shell's argument 2 about the TRUMP yesterday, where he said it would 3 take two years and there would be a lot of 4 variables, in fact the testimony given by Ms. Nicholls was that ACFN would not need a long 5 6 period of time to develop the TRUMP. She indicated 7 in fact it could be completed more quickly than a 8 two-year timeframe if it were appropriately 9 resourced. 10 Further, I just note that each of Shell and 11 Alberta were made aware of the TRUMP concept and 12 made aware of ACFN's view that it needed to be 13 implemented prior to approval of this Project as 14 early as 2009. Yesterday, Shell said that it 15 supports the TRUMP, but in 2009, Shell said the 16 TRUMP was unnecessary and that Shell's TUS was good 17 enough. So it's not for lack of effort on ACFN's part 18 19 that a TRUMP is not yet in place. And it is not 20 unreasonable for ACFN to continue to request, as it 21 has for three years, that a TRUMP be in place 22 before this Project is approved. 23 Ms. Nicholls also provided evidence about the 24 flaws in the system that are preventing parties 2.5 from reaching reconciliation. And this is the

fourth problem that's really become apparent in the consultations with Shell.

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The first systemic flaw is that the information and methodologies needed to properly assess impacts to Treaty Rights and culture are absent from this process. Shell asserts that their EIA will enable an assessment of impacts to Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, but the problem is that those assessments have not taken into account what the thresholds are that are necessary to sustain ACFN's rights. Filling the gap is critical to ensuring that impacts to rights can actually be accurately characterized and is critical to make sure that we can develop mitigation and accommodation measures that actually address those impacts.

Another flaw is that there appears to be a lack of will on the part of Shell and the Crowns to meaningfully address ACFN's concerns. And Ms. Nicholls provided several examples of this at her evidence on November 8th, which is transcript pages 2114 to 2120. And I direct your attention to that specifically because it's a really important point. ACFN's tried over and over again in good faith to have its concerns addressed in various

1 processes, and it's just not happening. 2 Today, I'm going to highlight ACFN's 3 involvement with LARP simply because Mr. Denstedt suggested to you yesterday that some of the parks 4 5 and protective measures in LARP should be 6 considered to be protective of ACFN's rights. 7 ACFN's submission that this Panel should refrain 8 from relying upon the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan 9 as any sort of mitigation for this Project and cumulative impacts on ACFN. You should be aware 10 11 that LARP is not a framework that protects Treaty 12 Rights, nor was it designed to do so. 13 And I further note that Alberta's not here to 14 speak to LARP, so we can't actually test any 15 evidence about the LARP process or how effective it will be when it will be implemented, et cetera. 16 17 Consultation on LARP was largely meaningless. 18 There was no transparency on how ACFN's input was 19 considered by Alberta. And at no point has ACFN's 20 input been incorporated in a substantive way. 21 There's no assurance that ACFN's concerns or input 22 will be addressed or incorporated in the 23 issue-specific plans or frameworks that will be 24 developed pursuant to LARP. 2.5 Simply put, neither the draft LARP, final

1 LARP, nor the various frameworks under it are 2 directed at ensuring that ACFN's ability to 3 exercise their rights will be protected now or into the future. 4 5 So when ACFN raises concerns that are 6 regional in nature, it's not sufficient for Shell 7 or the Crowns to refer to LARP or associated 8 frameworks and say, don't worry, your concerns have 9 been addressed, or, they will be addressed there. Without credible measures in place to assess and 10 11 accommodate the cumulative effects on development 12 of ACFN's Treaty Rights, ACFN's concerns remain 13 outstanding. Now as I mentioned, Mr. Denstedt suggested 14 15 that LARP would take care of cumulative impacts and 16 given the amount of new parkland and the lack of 17 timber and oil and gas tenures in the area around 18 Fort Chipewyan and the Richardson Backcountry, 19 ACFN's rights and uses would be safeguarded. 20 That view is flawed for the reasons I just 21 discussed and for several more reasons. 22 First, parks don't necessarily protect Treaty 23 Rights as we can see from the history of Wood 24 Buffalo National Park. 2.5 Furthermore, parks under LARP would still

| 1 | allow development. All existing oil sands, |
|----|---|
| 2 | metallic, industrial or coal exploration or |
| 3 | exploitation, commercial forestry, grazing leases, |
| 4 | activity and multi-use corridors within parks, will |
| 5 | all be permitted. In fact the LARP explicitly |
| 6 | contemplates future mine development in the |
| 7 | Richardson conservation area, which is the |
| 8 | Richardson Backcountry. |
| 9 | LARP states at page 23: |
| 10 | |
| 11 | "If approvals are granted in |
| 12 | the future for a mining development |
| 13 | in the new Richardson PLART" |
| 14 | |
| 15 | Or park: |
| 16 | |
| 17 | " the boundaries for this |
| 18 | area will be re-examined, if deemed |
| 19 | necessary and acceptable as a |
| 20 | result of the regulatory review for |
| 21 | the mining development." |
| 22 | |
| 23 | And while my friend mentioned that there |
| 24 | aren't oil and gas and forestry tenures in the |
| 25 | Richardson Backcountry currently, what he neglected |
| | |

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to mention was that almost all of the areas
identified for the Richardson Wildland Provincial
Park have existing metallic and industrial mineral
tenures in the form of permits.

The entire proposed Richardson public land area for recreation and tourism public use has existing metallic and industrial mineral tenures in the form of permits, while a number of permit and lease applications are pending. And the broad extent of those metallic and industrial mineral tenures within those new LARP areas can be seen at Figure 4-46 of Patt Larcombe's Encroachment Report, which is Exhibit 006-013-L.

I would next note that parks under LARP are explicitly meant to be used for all recreational and tourism opportunities. Those are precisely some of the impacts on ACFN use that ACFN has identified as problematic. Recreational use of the Richardson Backcountry has already interfered with ACFN exercise of rights in the area. The LARP designations may encourage further consumptive and non-consumptive sport and commercial hunters and fishers, as well as increasing numbers of recreational snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and other backcountry transportation uses. They may

| 1 | also support commercial tourism development. And |
|----|---|
| 2 | if the proposed road and trail networks discussed |
| 3 | under LARP come to fruition, access to the area for |
| 4 | everybody will be greatly improved and with more |
| 5 | access and more non-indigenous and recreational |
| 6 | users, ACFN is often not able to hunt in areas due |
| 7 | to safety concerns. There's a direct impact. |
| 8 | Finally, the new Lake Athabasca and |
| 9 | Richardson recreation tourism areas in LARP fall |
| 10 | within homeland areas that have been identified by |
| 11 | ACFN as places the members wish to protect as |
| 12 | sanctuaries for their current use and for the use |
| 13 | of future generations. By way of contrast, the |
| 14 | Government of Alberta's LARP goal for those areas |
| 15 | is: |
| 16 | |
| 17 | " to provide additional |
| 18 | recreation opportunities and |
| 19 | attract tourism investment." |
| 20 | |
| 21 | And: |
| 22 | |
| 23 | " to address the growing |
| 24 | demand for recreational |
| 25 | opportunities and provide an |
| | |

1 attractive land base for tourism 2 investment." 3 So there's a high potential that the LARP 4 5 land-use designations referred to by Shell as some 6 kind of mitigation for ACFN regional concerns will 7 actually attract tourism-based investment and government-induced infrastructure which would 8 9 proactively encourage incremental and new sport and recreational use in ACFN's homeland areas. 10 11 again, this would further restrict ACFN member's 12 use of the area and, in particular, their use for 13 hunting. 14 I'm going to turn now to speak to some of the 15 mitigation and accommodation issues with the 16 Jackpine Mine Expansion Application. 17 And at the outset, I think it's useful just 18 to explain the relationship of mitigation and 19 accommodation. So accommodation of impacts to 20 Treaty Rights can include mitigative measures but 21 where impacts cannot be addressed through 22 mitigation, where mitigation is not possible, 23 accommodation or other compensations may be 24 required to address the residual impacts on Treaty 2.5 Rights.

| 1 | So mitigation is a subset of accommodation, |
|----|---|
| 2 | as it were. |
| 3 | So the primary mitigation tool that I want to |
| 4 | speak about this morning is the adaptive management |
| 5 | that Shell has proposed to be used to address some |
| 6 | of the ongoing environmental impacts of the |
| 7 | Project. There are several flaws with this |
| 8 | approach. |
| 9 | And the first is that this Panel's Terms of |
| 10 | Reference requires that it: |
| 11 | |
| 12 | " consider measures that are |
| 13 | technically and economically |
| 14 | feasible to mitigate any adverse |
| 15 | environmental effects to the |
| 16 | project" |
| 17 | |
| 18 | And there's a real distinction between |
| 19 | measures that are known to be technically and |
| 20 | economically feasible now and a vague commitment to |
| 21 | do what we can at some point in the future. |
| 22 | We note that Section 2.d. requires, of the |
| 23 | Panel's Terms of Reference, requires that the Panel |
| 24 | identify measures that would, not could or might, |
| 25 | mitigate the Project's effects. |

| 1 | Section 1 of the Amended Agreement includes |
|----|---|
| 2 | the following definitions for follow-up and |
| 3 | mitigation: |
| 4 | |
| 5 | "'Follow-up program' means a |
| 6 | program for |
| 7 | a. verifying the accuracy of |
| 8 | the environmental assessment of the |
| 9 | project, and; |
| 10 | b. determining the |
| 11 | effectiveness of any mitigation |
| 12 | measures." |
| 13 | |
| 14 | And: |
| 15 | |
| 16 | "'Mitigation' means, in respect of |
| 17 | the project, the elimination, |
| 18 | reduction or control of the adverse |
| 19 | environmental effects of the |
| 20 | project, and includes restitution |
| 21 | for any damage to the environment |
| 22 | caused by such effects through |
| 23 | replacement, restoration, |
| 24 | compensation or any other means." |
| 25 | |
| | |

| 1 | Considering the need for and requirements of |
|----|---|
| 2 | a follow-up program for a project, such a program |
| 3 | is not a substitute for considering and identifying |
| 4 | feasible mitigation measures. Rather, a follow-up |
| 5 | program is meant to verify the accuracy of the |
| 6 | environmental assessment and determine the |
| 7 | effectiveness of the technically and economically |
| 8 | feasible measures that were taken to mitigate the |
| 9 | project's adverse environmental effects. Follow-up |
| 10 | programs are not intended to design mitigation |
| 11 | measures nor to determine their feasibility. And |
| 12 | Section 53 of CEAA (2012) recognizes this |
| 13 | distinction and lists mitigation measures as a |
| 14 | class of condition that is separate from a |
| 15 | follow-up program. |
| 16 | The issue of reliance on adaptive management |
| 17 | in environmental assessment processes has been |
| 18 | considered by the Courts, and we've provided a |
| 19 | discussion of that case law in detail in our |
| 20 | written submissions. But today I'm just going to |
| 21 | take you through a couple of highlights. |
| 22 | In Canadian Wildlife Federation Incorporated |
| 23 | v. Canada: |
| 24 | |
| 25 | " Justice Muldoon reviewed |

| 1 | the decision the federal Minister |
|--|---|
| 2 | of Environment to allow a project |
| 3 | to proceed" |
| 4 | |
| 5 | On the basis of adaptive management. |
| 6 | |
| 7 | "Justice Muldoon held that |
| 8 | 'vague hopes for future technology' |
| 9 | cannot constitute mitigation. |
| 10 | (Justice Tremblay-Lamer quoted this |
| 11 | passage, with approval, in |
| 12 | Pembina) |
| 13 | |
| 13 | |
| 14 | A decision which was a judicial review of the |
| | A decision which was a judicial review of the Kearl Oil Sands Mine decisions. |
| 14 | |
| 14 15 | Kearl Oil Sands Mine decisions. |
| 14 15 16 | Kearl Oil Sands Mine decisions. |
| 14 15 16 17 | Kearl Oil Sands Mine decisions. And Justice Muldoon said: |
| 14 15 16 17 18 | Kearl Oil Sands Mine decisions. And Justice Muldoon said: " since the Minister did |
| 14 15 16 17 18 19 | Kearl Oil Sands Mine decisions. And Justice Muldoon said: " since the Minister did not identify any known |
| 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 | Kearl Oil Sands Mine decisions. And Justice Muldoon said: " since the Minister did not identify any known technologies, but only vague hopes. |
| 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 | Kearl Oil Sands Mine decisions. And Justice Muldoon said: " since the Minister did not identify any known technologies, but only vague hopes. For future technology, it is not |
| 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 | Kearl Oil Sands Mine decisions. And Justice Muldoon said: " since the Minister did not identify any known technologies, but only vague hopes. For future technology, it is not possible to consider that the |
| 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 | Kearl Oil Sands Mine decisions. And Justice Muldoon said: " since the Minister did not identify any known technologies, but only vague hopes. For future technology, it is not possible to consider that the recited adverse water quality |

| 1 | | "Justice Muldoon also held |
|----|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 2 | | that monitoring plans for the |
| 3 | | future cannot constitute |
| 4 | | mitigation" |
| 5 | | |
| 6 | | Stating: |
| 7 | | |
| 8 | | "'Monitoring plans for the |
| 9 | | future are a far cry from |
| 10 | | known technology whereby the |
| 11 | | adverse water quality effects |
| 12 | | can be mitigated.'" |
| 13 | | |
| 14 | So: | |
| 15 | | |
| 16 | | "As a matter of law, a |
| 17 | | significant adverse effect can only |
| 18 | | be rendered insignificant by |
| 19 | | technically and economically |
| 20 | | feasible measures - the Courts have |
| 21 | | described 'feasible mitigation |
| 22 | | measures' as 'practical means' |
| 23 | | [and] as measures that are 'known |
| 24 | | and proposed' and that 'can and |
| 25 | | will' mitigate environmental |
| | | |

| 1 | effects." |
|----|--|
| 2 | ••• |
| 3 | "Neither vague hopes for |
| 4 | future technology or monitoring |
| 5 | plans for the future constitute |
| 6 | feasible mitigation measures" |
| 7 | |
| 8 | The Federal Government has provided some |
| 9 | guidance as well on adaptive management and its use |
| 10 | in relation to Environmental Assessment. In 2009, |
| 11 | it published an Operational Policy Statement on |
| 12 | Adaptive Management Measures under the <i>Canadian</i> |
| 13 | Environmental Assessment Act. The Adaptive |
| 14 | Management Policy Statement is meant to provide |
| 15 | best practice guidance on the use of adaptive |
| 16 | management measures. |
| 17 | And it notes that adaptive management |
| 18 | measures are specifically in relation to follow-up |
| 19 | measures. They are not mentioned in relation to |
| 20 | mitigation measures. |
| 21 | The Policy Statement has a helpful section |
| 22 | that outlines when it might not be appropriate to |
| 23 | incorporate adaptive management into an |
| 24 | Environmental Assessment, and ACFN submits that |
| 25 | these following factors are relevant to the present |

| 1 | assessment. |
|----|---|
| 2 | So under the heading "Mitigation is not |
| 3 | Identified," the policy statement says: |
| 4 | |
| 5 | " it is insufficient to |
| 6 | assert that implementation of an |
| 7 | unidentified future measure, |
| 8 | developed as a result of adaptive |
| 9 | management, constitutes mitigation |
| 10 | of a predicted adverse |
| 11 | environmental effect." |
| 12 | ••• |
| 13 | "Commitment to adaptive |
| 14 | management is not a |
| 15 | substitute for committing to |
| 16 | specific mitigation measures |
| 17 | in the EA prior to the course |
| 18 | of action decision." |
| 19 | |
| 20 | Under the heading "Uncertainty about |
| 21 | Significant Adverse Environmental Effects," the |
| 22 | policy says: |
| 23 | |
| 24 | "If there is uncertainty |
| 25 | about whether the project is likely |

1 to cause significant adverse 2 environmental effects, a commitment 3 to monitor project effects and to manage adaptively is not 4 5 sufficient." 6 7 The feasibility of several proposed 8 mitigations is a key issue before this Joint Review 9 Panel, and ACFN submits there must be enough information before the Panel, prior to the time 10 11 that it closes its record, for the Panel to 12 consider and determine whether mitigation measures 13 are technically and economically feasible and 14 whether residual project effects are significant. 15 Where mitigation is uncertain, and where the 16 probability and magnitude of cultural and 17 ecological impacts is high, ACFN submits that the 18 Panel must exercise its power in a manner that 19 protects the environment and human health and that 20 applies the precautionary principle per 21 Section 4(2) of **CEAA (2012)** by finding that the 22 Project has significant environmental effects. 23 If the Proponent has failed to identify 24 technologically and economically feasible 2.5 mitigation measures to address major project

| 1 | related effects, which we say is the case here, the |
|----|---|
| 2 | Panel has nothing to rely on to address those |
| 3 | effects. |
| 4 | The Federal Court considered the role of |
| 5 | adaptive management as it relates to the |
| 6 | precautionary principle in the Pembina Institute |
| 7 | case, and it still concluded that sufficient |
| 8 | information regarding environmental impacts and |
| 9 | mitigation measures must exist when applying |
| 10 | adaptive management. |
| 11 | And Madam Justice Tremblay-Lamer said: |
| 12 | |
| 13 | "Thus, in my opinion, |
| 14 | adaptive management permits |
| 15 | projects with uncertain, yet |
| 16 | potentially adverse environmental |
| 17 | impacts to proceed based on |
| 18 | flexible management |
| 19 | strategies where sufficient |
| 20 | information regarding those impacts |
| 21 | and potential mitigation measures |
| 22 | already exists." |
| 23 | |
| 24 | The Panel's determination of whether this |
| 25 | Project has significant environmental effects will |

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inform its public-interest decision. It would also ensure that future discussion about whether the Project is justified in the circumstances under Section 52 of CEAA (2012). That discussion should take place in the full awareness of the likely environmental effects of the Project as currently proposed. If mitigation measures are not yet feasible, this is key information that must be brought to the attention of First Nations, of the public, and of the government.

And I'm going to turn now to a few other proposed mitigation measures in this process.

So Shell has proposed that First Nations must negotiate mitigations with it in order to get their concerns addressed. It's ACFN's experience that the commitments and agreements with Shell in relation to previous oil sands mines, and which this Panel relied on as mitigation, haven't actually worked to mitigate the impacts. That's why ACFN has filed breach of contract litigation regarding their previous agreements with Shell.

There are few, if any, mitigation measures that previous Panels have relied on to address

First Nations concerns regarding impacts to land use rights and culture, because often those have

1 been hived off into agreements that are not before 2 you and that you're not able to assess. Monitoring and follow-up is required to determine whether 3 mitigation for traditional use actually works. 4 5 In Dr. Candler's review of the EIA, the only other mitigations proposed by Shell that were 6 7 specific to Aboriginal use and knowledge were: Compensation for directly affected trapline 8 9 holders, which, again, demonstrates a certain amount of confusion between traditional use and the 10 11 commercial rights associated with an RFMA; 12 Continued consultation with key Aboriginal 13 groups; 14 Access to traplines; 15 Employee contractor education; And reclamation. 16 17 And in ACFN's submission, those aren't 18 sufficient. That doesn't address the level of 19 concerns or the nature of the concerns that ACFN 20 has raised in this process. 21 Shell has been unable to point this Panel to 22 other mitigations it has proposed for the Project 23 regarding its impacts on ACFN traditional use, 24 knowledge and rights, besides the diversion of the 2.5 Muskeg River through a channel rather than through

1 a pipe. 2 But as Mr. Bolton noted on November 6th, the 3 Muskeg River Management Framework is still in 4 place. 5 And as we heard from Ms. Gorrie, there's 6 nothing else in place right now to guide 7 decision-making in the Muskeg River watershed. 8 The Interim Management Framework included an 9 objective that there be no diversion of the mainstem of the Muskeg River. And as this Panel is 10 11 likely aware, that Interim Framework was put in 12 place in response to past Joint Review Panel 13 recommendations and strong calls for a backstop as 14 an effort to manage cumulative environmental 15 effects and to protect the integrity of the river. The aim of the Interim Framework was to reduce the 16 17 impacts of resource development in the Muskeg River 18 watershed to acceptable levels of change. 19 what they were considering when they recommended no 20 more diversions, no diversions of the mainstem of 21 the Muskeg River. Planning and management 22 decisions were to be evaluated within the context 23 of the Muskeg River as a key component of the 24 Athabasca River aquatic system. 2.5 And my point here is that a lot of thought

1 has already gone into determining that no 2 diversions of the Muskeg River should take place. 3 And that goal was set explicitly in view of current and future industrial development. 4 The Interim 5 Framework was already an explicit attempt to 6 balance development with environmental needs. 7 So my point is that work has been done. 8 response to this Joint Review Panel's calls for efforts to manage cumulative impacts, Alberta 9 determined that a goal for this watershed was no 10 11 diversion of the mainstream of the Muskeg River. 12 But if this Panel does require further social 13 and environmental reasons to impose a condition on 14 the Project that the river not be diverted, or to 15 sterilize the ore underneath the river, here are 16 some reasons for your consideration: 17 The river has cultural and spiritual 18 significance to the Athabasca Chipewyan who have 19 used and occupied the Muskeg River Basin for 20 millennia. ACFN members continue to use the 21 river; 22 The Muskeg River provides fish habitat for 23 migrant and resident populations; 24 Traditional knowledge says that the river keeps the surrounding muskeg system alive, it's the 2.5

1 lifeblood of the living breathing entity that is 2 the muskeg, and that muskeg supports the animals 3 that are relied on by ACFN for the exercise of its 4 rights; 5 The Muskeg River provides a regionally 6 important wildlife corridor without which wildlife 7 will not have a way to move through the Muskeg River watershed. It allows for genetic 8 9 connectivity. And as noted by Mr. L'Hommecourt, migratory animals won't have the luxury of a mine 10 11 escort to get through the pits to their habitat; 12 The Muskeg River is, as acknowledged by the 13 Interim Framework, a key component of the Athabasca 14 River aquatic ecosystem. And ACFN has submitted 15 extensive evidence regarding their use of the 16 Athabasca River and how stresses on that system are 17 already impeding their ability to exercise their 18 rights. 19 Again, ACFN opposes the Jackpine Mine 20 Expansion Application, but should it be approved 21 over ACFN's objection, ACFN strongly urges this 22 Panel to approve it on condition that the Muskeg 23 River be left in a natural state and not be 24 diverted. As discussed earlier, I believe Mr. Murphy 2.5

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discussed this last night, another of Shell's primary proposed mitigations is a compensation lake. But as has come out in the evidence, no net loss planning is not being done with the Treaty Rights of First Nations in mind. It's not being done with the Treaty Rights as a primary objective. And further, No Net Loss Planning does not have a track record as an effective mitigation across Canada, and, as Mr. Makowecki indicated, it's too early to say whether it's going to be effective in the oil sands.

Another specific mitigation issue that I wish to raise is that of the effectiveness of Shell's mitigations for waterfowl and processed-water and tailings-pond interactions. Mr. Martindale was put forward as Shell's primary witness regarding Shell's mitigations for waterfowl, but he was unaware of a major incident involving the deaths of 16 birds in May 2007. He did correct his testimony the day after being questioned but it's somewhat concerning that the person responsible for implementing the mitigation system would have been unaware of such a major incident.

Mr. Martindale also testified that Shell participates in the Regional Bird Monitoring

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Program, the RAPP, and that Shell conducts
extensive mortality searches. Mr. Martindale told
you that Shell spends in the order of thousands of
person-hours per year. However, the 2011 RAPP
report indicates that, in fact, Shell spends less
than 200 hours per year on mortality searches, and
when it does search, it recovers more dead birds
per hour of searching than do any of the other
participating operators in the program.

And you heard from ACFN avian expert, Sarah Hechtenthal, that her review of the data associated with the 2011 RAPP report showed that, in fact, Shell spent only 160.4 hours of dedicated mortality searches at six of their industrial waterbodies in 2011.

Given the significant contradiction between Mr. Martindale's evidence and the RAPP report, it's our submission that the Panel should exercise great caution in relying on Mr. Martindale's testimony regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of Shell's programs to mitigate Project impacts on waterfowl.

And finally, I note that because in terms of mitigation, because there hasn't yet been an adequate identification of the impacts on ACFN,

1 culturally important wildlife species, and other 2 resources, it's not possible yet to design 3 appropriate mitigations or accommodations that fully address the extent of ACFN's concerns. 4 5 And it has to be remembered that this Project 6 is being proposed, you know, in absence of specific 7 targeted Crown efforts to manage and mitigate the impacts of industrial development on ACFN's Treaty 8 9 Rights. And this kind of inaction does not actually absolve the Crown of its duties to ACFN. 10 11 As held by the Federal Court in Adam v. 12 Canada, when ACFN took Canada to court to actually 13 force the production of a woodland caribou recovery 14 strategy, Crown conduct can involve decisions to 15 simply not do anything. 16 So, in conclusion, ACFN has demonstrated 17 through evidence, that if approved, the Jackpine 18 Mine Expansion will have significant direct and 19 adverse impacts on its traditional use, culture and 20 rights. 21 ACFN has further demonstrated that there are

ACFN has further demonstrated that there are significant cumulative impacts on its traditional use, culture and rights, and these impacts are not being managed.

ACFN opposes approval of the Project and

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respectfully submits that the Project is not in the public interest and should not be approved.

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In the alternative, should the Panel find over ACFN's objective that the Project is in the public interest, and finds that it will not result in significant adverse environmental effects, in light of ACFN's position that no further impacts to ACFN are acceptable at this juncture, ACFN requests that any approval or recommendation that the Project proceed be made conditional upon completion or implementation of the matters listed under the heading "disposition" in our October 1st submission. And I'm just going to highlight a few of those for you here today.

So, first, prior to the issuance of any further decisions on oil sands projects in ACFN's traditional lands by the ERCB, by this Joint Review Panel, or by a subsequent Joint Review Panel, ACFN strongly requests the completion and implementation of a Traditional Land and Resource Use Management plan, the TRUMP.

ACFN requests that any further permits issued adhere to the thresholds and limits identified in the TRUMP in subsequent regulatory processes.

ACFN requests adoption and implementation of

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ACFN's recommendations, including the maintenance of an Aboriginal Base Flow in the Athabasca River, so those recommendations are contained in review of the Phase 2 Framework Committee Recommendations:

Synthesis Report that is part of the evidence filed in this proceeding.

The Athabasca River must be protected for the continued exercise of Treaty Rights.

ACFN further seeks regulatory reform whereby First Nations in the region play a co-management role in decision making on proposed industrial development projects where regulatory and legislative mechanisms relating to land and water use have a rights-based focus, and consistent with Section 35 rights.

Regional planning regulations and related legislation must acknowledge that the ability of Aboriginal peoples to exercise traditional uses of the land may be linked to specific lands and territories and the resources thereon which require conservation to maintain the ability of Aboriginal peoples to exercise traditional uses.

ACFN submits that there must be immediate protection for the Ronald Lake bison herd from non-First Nations hunting and from any disturbance

1 of the herd's habitat throughout their range. 2 ACFN requests that this Panel recommend the 3 establishment of an independent panel to evaluate consultation in the Oil Sands Region. Such a panel 4 or commission should be comprised of experts that 5 are independent of industry and government and that 6 7 have expertise with and sensitivity to First 8 Nations cultures and unique issues regarding health 9 and wellness, socio-economics and culture. First Nations in the region should be 10 11 directly involved in the appointment process and 12 drafting of the Terms of Reference and should have 13 representation on the commission. 14 The commission should spend time and hold 15 hearings in the communities of impacted First 16 Nations and should have a wide-ranging mandate to 17 make findings and recommendations. Finally, participant funding should be 18 19 allocated in this process to ensure First Nations 20 have the capacity to participate meaningfully. 21 ACFN also has some following project-specific 22 requirements, some requests for project-specific 23 requirements. 24 And I would adopt the submissions of 2.5 Ms. Gorrie that, to the extent that the Panel finds

1 itself able to do so, that any recommendations it's 2 considering be made conditions, because as we've 3 seen, often panel recommendations don't bear fruit. 4 So ACFN requests that permits, 5 authorizations, construction and operations, be 6 deferred on the Jackpine Mine Expansion until such 7 time as a traditional land and resource use plan 8 has been completed and binding thresholds and 9 measures set that will allow regulators to condition permits and authorizations in a manner 10 11 which protects and prioritizes Treaty Rights. 12 ACFN requests that the ore beneath the Muskeg 13 River and in an appropriate setback be sterilized and that the Muskeg River be left to flow in its 14 15 natural state and that full protection for this 16 river be put in place. 17 ACFN requests that prior to the commencement 18 of construction, the Applicant must post a 19 reclamation bond of a size and character that will 20 ensure Project lands will be progressively and 21 effectively reclaimed to a standard and in a 22 timeframe consistent with the exercise of ACFN's 23 Treaty Rights. 24 And I understand that there's a Mine 2.5 Liability Management Program in place right now,

| 1 | | but it's also my understanding that that program |
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| 2 | | does not explicitly consider the need to reclaim to |
| 3 | | a standard consistent with the exercise of Treaty |
| 4 | | Rights. So that's the difference we're asking for |
| 5 | | here. |
| 6 | | Another Project-specific requirement that |
| 7 | | ACFN requests is funding for and the conduct of |
| 8 | | community-based comprehensive baseline country-food |
| 9 | | harvesting and consumption study, including a |
| 10 | | dedicated study of risk perception and its impacts |
| 11 | | on country-food harvesting among ACFN members. |
| 12 | | ACFN requests the funding for and completion |
| 13 | | of a sociocultural assessment as proposed by ACFN |
| 14 | | to Shell. |
| 15 | | We further request the creation of a |
| 16 | | socio-economic monitoring program to assess the |
| 17 | | effectiveness of socio-economic effect mitigation |
| 18 | | measures implemented by any of Shell, the |
| 19 | | Government of Canada, and the Government of |
| 20 | | Alberta. |
| 21 | | And that concludes my submissions. Thank |
| 22 | | you. |
| 23 | THE C | HAIRMAN: Thank you. We have no |
| 24 | | questions. Thank you very much. |
| 25 | MS. B | IEM: Thank you. |
| | | |

| 1 | There 10.10 Well take |
|----|---|
| | THE CHAIRMAN: I have 10:18. We'll take |
| 2 | 20 minutes. |
| 3 | |
| 4 | (The morning adjournment) |
| 5 | |
| 6 | THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Murphy. |
| 7 | MR. MURPHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. |
| 8 | Over the break, Chief Adam requested if he could |
| 9 | make a brief closing statement on behalf of ACFN. |
| 10 | I've spoken to my friend, Mr. Denstedt, and he said |
| 11 | he has no objection so long as there's no new |
| 12 | evidence that Chief Adam will say. |
| 13 | THE CHAIRMAN: So it's in the nature of |
| 14 | argument? |
| 15 | MR. MURPHY: It is. |
| 16 | THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. |
| 17 | MR. MURPHY: Thank you. |
| 18 | |
| 19 | FINAL ARGUMENT OF CHIEF ADAM OF THE ATHABASCA CHIPEWYAN |
| 20 | FIRST NATION: |
| 21 | CHIEF ADAM: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. |
| 22 | You know, in the last three weeks, three and |
| 23 | a half weeks, you've heard arguments in regards to |
| 24 | ACFN's position in regards to the Jackpine Mine |
| 25 | Expansion. You've heard testimony from our Elders, |
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you've heard testimony from our community members in regards to the concerns that ACFN has of further development. One thing that we mentioned in my statement was the fact that clearly note that the position that ACFN takes is the fact that we do not oppose development. I've stated it many times to Ministers, to industry, to the press. The one thing that we oppose is the fact about how the regulatory system is in breach of conducting findings in regards to moving forward.

We hear new studies coming out constantly and it is very alarming for ACFN members. We have no recourse in regards to address these findings in any form. When we address them to government agencies, to industry, it seems like we go full circle and it comes right back to us with no conclusion.

On health studies for the community, doctors have been silenced, you know, in regards to what's been going on in the community. We feel that when credible people who have concerns raise issues in regards to general public and ACFN, there's always a recourse that something happens to them. We know the instance in regards to what Dr. O'Connor went through a few years back. We hear the reports

constantly coming out in regards to the scientists

of Canada that have been muzzled, you know. And we

have very, very much concerns in regards to those

issues.

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We need to find a way to balance the development that is going on in the region of Fort McMurray and north. And we feel that at this point in time, history will be made in regards to further development if strong recommendations were put before government agencies, and industry. We know for a fact that the concerns are real. I hear them constantly from the community level. I hear them constantly from general public in regards to where I go.

We've echoed the fact that we need to put in place a co-management structure where First Nations will participate in regards to moving forward. Any objection in regards to that faith will have a continuous effect in regards to the First Nation coming before the Panel on any more new projects coming up.

We take into consideration that both Canada and the Alberta Governments are not taking the issues at hand for both Canadians and Albertans and Aboriginal people alike. Where, in my mind and

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others, is the Government of Canada on their position? Where has the Government of Alberta, in their mind, addressed the issues in regards to what's going on?

We speak on behalf of the Nation. have collective rights in regards to what we're doing based on Treaty and under the Constitution of Section 35. We argue our rights and we argue the fact that there's something wrong. And if the Canadian Government and the Provincial Government cannot argue for the citizens alike, well, then, ACFN takes that position to argue on their behalf as well, that there is something wrong in this system. We need to understand the complexity of the whole surrounding. You've heard in their submission, that, yeah, they go above the levels that are required within LARP. You've heard the submissions from Shell's lawyer in that regards. So I cautious, you know, caution you in regards to moving forward. And I just hope that one day that justice will be served on behalf of the First Nation and for the people that are affected by the development in this region.

I just clearly state the fact that ACFN was grateful enough to come before the Panel and that

| 1 | you've taken the time to listen to our concerns. |
|----|---|
| 2 | So on behalf of the Athabasca Chipewyan First |
| 3 | Nation, the Elders, the members at large, and for |
| 4 | the youth and for the children that are unborn for |
| 5 | generations to come, that you take into |
| 6 | consideration that our evidence of greatly concern |
| 7 | of the fact about what is going on and the need to |
| 8 | fix this whole problem, and then, only then, we |
| 9 | will be satisfied in moving along in further |
| 10 | development on our traditional territories. |
| 11 | Thank you, Mr. Chairman. |
| 12 | THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Chief Adam. |
| 13 | Mr. Mallon. Oh, Ms. Johnston, are you going |
| 14 | ahead? |
| 15 | MS. ANNA JOHNSTON: Good morning, Panel, |
| 16 | Mr. Chair. |
| 17 | THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning. |
| 18 | MS. ANNA JOHNSTON: Before I begin, I would also |
| 19 | like to ask if Mr. Malcolm can give a few closing |
| 20 | remarks at the end of my submissions. I've asked |
| 21 | counsel for Shell and they've said that they are |
| 22 | okay with that. |
| 23 | THE CHAIRMAN: That's fine. |
| 24 | |
| 25 | FINAL ARGUMENT OF JOHN MALCOLM, THE NON-STATUS FORT |

| 1 | MCMURRAY/FORT MCKAY FIRST NATION AND THE CLEARWATER |
|----|--|
| 2 | RIVER PAUL CREE BAND #175 A, B, AND C, BY MS. ANNA |
| 3 | JOHNSTON: |
| 4 | MS. ANNA JOHNSTON: The Non-Status Fort |
| 5 | McMurray/Fort McKay First Nation, which for the |
| 6 | sake of my tongue I will refer to as the |
| 7 | "Non-Status First Nation" and the Clearwater River |
| 8 | Band number 175 A, B, and C, which I will refer to |
| 9 | as the "Clearwater River Band," are Aboriginal |
| 10 | groups with rights recognized by and protected |
| 11 | under Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act</i> . As such, |
| 12 | they are groups to which consultation and |
| 13 | accommodation are owed with respect to the |
| 14 | Application that is before the Board today. |
| 15 | These groups' rights remain unrecognized by |
| 16 | Canada and Alberta. As a result, they have been |
| 17 | marginalized and disenfranchised under the |
| 18 | environmental assessment process established to |
| 19 | review commercial oil sands projects such as the |
| 20 | Application for the Jackpine Mine Expansion Project |
| 21 | under review in this hearing. |
| 22 | As set out in the evidence, and as I will |
| 23 | discuss at greater length, members of both groups |
| 24 | trace their roots to the Project area and the |
| 25 | greater Athabasca Oil Sands Region. |

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As I will also discuss, commercial oil sands activities in their traditional territories have significantly interfered with the groups' ability to exercise their Section 35 rights. They have faced increasing difficulty in accessing their traditional lands throughout the region and in carrying on their traditional hunting, gathering, spiritual and cultural practices that are protected under Treaty 8.

Because of these concerns, the Non-Status

First Nation and Clearwater River Band are asking

this Panel to recommend that the Application not be

approved until they are adequately consulted on

their rights with respect to the Project and until

their concerns regarding how the Project will

impact them are fully addressed.

I will describe these concerns in more detail. But first, I would like to discuss the groups themselves. I will explain how both the Non-Status First Nation and the Clearwater River Band hold rights under Section 35 of the Constitution Act and, accordingly, how they are owed consultation by the Crown before it makes any decisions in relation to the Project.

I will briefly describe their concerns

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regarding the social and environmental impacts of this Project. However, in the interests of time, and because the groups lacked capacity funding to submit expert evidence to the Panel on specific social and environmental concerns related to the Project, I will not set out their concerns regarding those impacts in detail. Instead, I would like to adopt the concerns raised by the Oil Sands Environmental Coalition with regards to environmental impacts in their submissions and argument.

The Non-Status First Nation is a collective of approximately 600 unregistered Indians. Its members are the descendants of the original Cree and Chipewyan peoples who lived in and around the Athabasca Region, including the Project area, since time immemorial.

While they trace their lineage to members of the Fort McMurray and Fort McKay First Nations, members of the Non-Status First Nation consider themselves to be a politically distinct Aboriginal group, holding meetings and governing themselves as members of a collective.

They lost their status under the ${\it Indian \ Act}$ when a female ancestor married a non-Aboriginal

1 man. John Malcolm is that Nation's Interim Chief.

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The Clearwater River Band is a band of registered Indians. Its members are the descendants of a Cree-speaking group that has also lived, hunted and travelled throughout the Wood Buffalo region since time immemorial.

Members of both groups have hunted, fished, gathered and conducted other traditional activities protected under Section 35 and Treaty 8 from prior to its execution through to the present-day.

Members of both groups are the descendants of signatories to Treaty 8 and of individuals whose names appeared on the Fort McMurray Fort McKay Band pay list for Treaty 8.

The Clearwater River Band was one of the five bands that appeared on the Fort McMurray Fort McKay band pay list, which was the pay list for this region. It originally consisted of five bands, one of which was the Clearwater River Band. They are the descendants of Paul Cree, for whom the Clearwater River Band Reserve No.175 was set aside. While the Clearwater River Band was assimilated into the Fort McMurray Band by Indian Affairs, it was done without the consultation or consent of Clearwater River Band members or leaders.

Its members consider themselves to be
distinct from the Fort McMurray Band and they
function as a distinct band, holding meetings and
governing themselves as members of a collective.

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John Malcolm is its manager and its chief is Mary Ann Powder.

My colleagues have done an admirable job of setting out the case law on Section 35 rights and the duty to consult. Of particular relevance to the Non-Status First Nation and Clearwater River Band are the submissions made by Ms. Bishop yesterday regarding the Crown's duty to consult when it contemplates conduct that might adversely impact potential Aboriginal or Treaty Rights.

will merely note them and focus my submissions on the specific case law that applies to my clients.

But I would like to emphasize the Supreme Court of Canada's recognition that the duty to consult stems from the honour of the Crown, and due to its unique relationship with Aboriginal peoples, the Crown must respect potential unproven rights.

As the Court held in **Taku River**, the Crown's efforts to consult and accommodate Aboriginal groups whose potential or established Aboriginal or

| 1 | Treaty Rights may be adversely affected should be |
|----|---|
| 2 | consistent with the overarching objectives of |
| 3 | reconciliation. |
| 4 | Courts have also held that the interpretation |
| 5 | of Treaty Rights "should be fair and liberal". The |
| 6 | Government of Canada's Consultation Policy |
| 7 | acknowledges these principles. It states that: |
| 8 | |
| 9 | "The duty to consult and, |
| 10 | where appropriate, accommodate, is |
| 11 | part of a process of fair dealing |
| 12 | and reconciliation that begins with |
| 13 | the assertion of sovereignty by the |
| 14 | Crown and continues beyond formal |
| 15 | claims resolution through to the |
| 16 | application and implementation of |
| 17 | treaties." |
| 18 | |
| 19 | As set out by the Supreme Court of Canada in |
| 20 | Haida, Taku River, and Mikisew Cree, three elements |
| 21 | must be present for a duty to consult to exist. |
| 22 | They are: |
| 23 | |
| 24 | i. a Crown conduct, |
| 25 | ii. a potential adverse impact, and |
| | |

| 1 | iii. potential or established Aboriginal or |
|----|---|
| 2 | Treaty rights recognized and affirmed under |
| 3 | section 35(1) that might be adversely |
| 4 | affected. |
| 5 | |
| 6 | In the case of the Non-Status First Nation and |
| 7 | Clearwater River band, these three elements do |
| 8 | exist. |
| 9 | The courts have already confirmed that both |
| 10 | non-status Indians and non-status Bands may hold |
| 11 | Treaty Rights. For this Panel to recognize the |
| 12 | Non-Status First Nation and the Clearwater River |
| 13 | Band as groups capable of holding Section 30 rights |
| 14 | would not be precedent setting, it would only be |
| 15 | following the jurisprudence. |
| 16 | Section 35 of the Constitution Act provides |
| 17 | that: |
| 18 | |
| 19 | "(1) The existing aboriginal |
| 20 | and treaty rights of the aboriginal |
| 21 | peoples of Canada are hereby |
| 22 | recognized and affirmed." |
| 23 | |
| 24 | And that: |
| 25 | |

| 1 | "(2) In this Act, |
|----|--|
| 2 | 'aboriginal peoples of Canada' |
| 3 | includes the Indian, Inuit and |
| 4 | Métis peoples of Canada." |
| 5 | |
| 6 | In applying a fair and liberal interpretation |
| 7 | to Treaty Rights, courts have interpreted |
| 8 | Aboriginal peoples of Canada as including |
| 9 | non-status Indians and accordingly have extended |
| 10 | Treaty-based rights to non-status Indians who could |
| 11 | prove their ancestral connection to the community |
| 12 | of Treaty signatories. |
| 13 | In the Queen v. Trotchi , the Court held that |
| 14 | a Treaty Rights claimant need only establish: |
| 15 | |
| 16 | "- a 'sufficient and |
| 17 | substantial' ancestral connection |
| 18 | to a historical community that |
| 19 | exercised the rights in question, |
| 20 | and |
| 21 | - a real relationship to a |
| 22 | presently recognized aboriginal |
| 23 | community that exercises treaty |
| 24 | rights." |
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In the **Queen v. Chevrier**, the Ontario

District Court held that a man of mixed Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal blood who is not registered under the **Indian Act** but who traced his decent from a member of a tribe that was a signatory to an historical Treaty had inherited the right to hunt granted to his ancestors under that Treaty.

The Court held that it did not need to determine whether the claimant was an Indian within the meaning of the *Constitution* as he claimed a birthright that was granted by the Crown. It also held that the Province could not negate those Treaty Rights even though the present holder of that right may not be a Status Indian.

Similarly, in the *Queen v. Fowler*, the New Brunswick Court found that a claimant who could prove a substantial connection with a signatory to a Treaty could avail himself of the rights enshrined in that Treaty without regard to his status under the *Indian Act*. In that case, too, a man who is not a registered Indian but who traced his lineage back to a First Nations group that was covered by the Treaty was recognized as holding Section 35 rights.

Now, the Alberta Provincial Court in the

| 1 | Queen v. Ferguson set out a test for when |
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| 2 | non-status Indians can claim Section 35 rights. |
| 3 | Under the <i>Ferguson</i> test, non-status Indians can |
| 4 | claim Section 35 rights if they are a person of |
| 5 | Indian blood who is reputed to belong to an |
| 6 | irregular band or who follows the Indian mode of |
| 7 | life. And "irregular band" is defined as: |
| 8 | |
| 9 | " any tribe, band or body of |
| 10 | persons of Indian blood who own no |
| 11 | interest in any reserve or lands of |
| 12 | which the legal title is vested in |
| 13 | the Crown, who possess no common |
| 14 | fund managed by the Government of |
| 15 | Canada, and who have not had any |
| 16 | treaty relations with the Crown." |
| 17 | |
| 18 | In the Queen v. Marshall, Queen v. Bernard, |
| 19 | the Supreme Court held that to establish a right, |
| 20 | claimants must establish a connection with a |
| 21 | pre-sovereignty group upon whose practices they |
| 22 | rely to assert a right. |
| 23 | Both the Non-Status First Nation and the |
| 24 | Clearwater Band meet these requirements. Both are |
| 25 | groups with distinct collective identities that are |

1 comprised of descendants of people who have lived 2 in and around the Project area and greater 3 Athabasca region since time immemorial. Both are descendants of signatories of Treaty 8 with 4 5 connections to the Fort McKay and Fort McMurray 6 First Nations. Members of both groups continue to 7 hunt, fish and otherwise carry on their traditional 8 activities protected under Treaty 8 in Shell's lease site and the surrounding area. Neither 9 currently possesses an interest in reserve lands. 10 11 And both groups have a representative entity, 12 a chief, and in the case of the Clearwater Band, a 13 manager, who may serve as consultation partners. Thus members of both the Non-Status First 14 15 Nation and the Clearwater River Band are Aboriginal 16 peoples of Canada as contemplated by Section 35 and 17 who's Aboriginal and Treaty Rights are thus confirmed under Section 35(1). 18 19 Canada's Consultation Policy confirms this 20 interpretation. Under that policy, an Aboriginal 21 group is defined as including a community of First 22 Nations people that holds or may hold Aboriginal 23 and Treaty Rights under Section 35. 24 And "First Nation" is defined in that policy 2.5 as referring to the Indian peoples in Canada, both

1 status and non-status.

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Now, in the Joint Review Panel report for the Kearl Oil Sands Project, the Joint Panel concluded that membership by individuals in the Clearwater Band and the Wood Buffalo First Nation and other bands precluded those groups from being recognized as distinct entities with Treaty or Aboriginal Rights. This conclusion, however, is contrary to the common law on the rights of non-status Indians and unregistered bands.

The courts have held that *Indian Act* bands are not the only collectives capable of claiming

Section 35 rights. Rather, unregistered bands have also been recognized as capable of holding those rights. And the Courts have also recognized valid Aboriginal claims as belonging to unregistered bands whose members are also the members of registered bands.

In Ontario v. Bear Island Foundation, the Ontario High Court found that members of a registered band who also claim to belong to an unregistered band were entitled to Section 35 rights through that unregistered band that were separate from those that were held by the registered band.

1 In the same way individuals belonging to the Clearwater River Band and the Non-Status First 2 3 Nations, to the extent that those individuals 4 belonged to other bands, that does not preclude 5 those groups from recognition as distinct 6 communities capable of claiming their rights under 7 Treaty 8. 8 Now, regarding their rights under Treaty 8, 9 the Non-Status First Nation and Clearwater River Bands' submissions on the interpretation and 10 11 application of that Treaty is set out in 12 submissions dated December 16th, 2011, which is on 13 the record, and I will not repeat them here. 14 Instead, I will move on to how the Project 15 will infringe the rights of the groups and then 16 their recommendations with respect to this 17 Application. Many of the impacts that this Project will 18 19 have on the Section 35 rights of the Non-Status 20 First Nation & Clearwater River Band are also set 21 out in that December 16th, 2011 submission. 22 would just like to discuss a few additional impacts 23 before turning to the issue of consultation. 24 The failure to reach a resolution of the 2.5 outstanding claims of the Non-Status First Nation &

Clearwater River Band has deprived their members of access to an adequate land base on which to sustain their traditional ways of life, to pass on their traditions to future generations, to meet their economic needs, and to live with dignity among their peers.

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Hunting, fishing, trapping and harvesting are not only important economic and food-source activities, they are also culturally integral to both groups. Thus, the preservation of fish, birds and wildlife habitat is crucial to the sustainability and wellbeing of the bands.

As we heard from Ms. Cardinal, Ms. Malcolm, and Mr. Malcolm, members of the Non-Status First
Nation and the Clearwater River Band are facing increasing difficulties in accessing their traditional lands and resources due to the increase in industrial activities in their traditional territories. Berries and other plant resources, which are eaten, help prevent disease, have become less plentiful and increasingly difficult to access due to industrial activities in the region. Where they may still be accessed, they are often altered in taste and form.

Animals that the groups' ancestors formerly

trapped such as mink, muskrats, weasels and foxes,

have also become scarce. As we heard from

Ms. Cardinal, some wildlife species have declined

so significantly and become so difficult to trap

that members of the group feel that there is no

sense in even trying to live like that anymore.

2.5

Caribou, which ancestors of members of the Non-Status First Nation & Clearwater River Band once relied, have become so affected by oil sands development in the region that it is now a listed species under the *Species at Risk Act*.

Even where members of the groups attempt to harvest these traditional resources, they are reluctant to do so because of interference by industrial activities that criss-cross their traditional lands, and because of concerns that those resources have become so contaminated by pollution, that to harvest and consume them is believed to be a serious health risk.

Some hunters avoid areas where human activity has increased, such as around the Project area, also due to fears over altercations with industry staff and security.

With its anticipated impacts on fish and wildlife species, aquatic and terrestrial habitat,

1 plant and diamond willow fungus harvesting sites 2 and air and water quality, the Project threatens to cut them off even further from their lands and 3 resources, from their ability to engage in 5 traditional activities and to participate as equal 6 and empowered members of society.

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In brief, this Project will destroy caribou habitat and further reduce the numbers of that already at risk species. It will raze stands of diamond willow on which grows a fungus that the members of the group use for important cultural and medicinal purposes. It will destroy important food fish and the habitat of those fish without commitment to ensuring their recovery or replacement. It will further pollute an already compromised watershed. And it will prevent members of the Non-Status First Nation and the Clearwater River Band from freely accessing their lands, from practising their traditional activities, and from ensuring that the customs that are integral to their identity are passed on to their future generations.

What's more, the resource management practices and beliefs of the Non-Status First Nation and the Clearwater River Band prevent its members from harvesting threatened species which

further prevents them from exercising their rights

to hunt, fish, trap and gather.

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As many species have been caused to be threatened by oil sands development, members of the Non-Status First Nation & Clearwater River Band have been forced to bear the burden of the careless environmental management by industry and the Crown through the sacrifice of their ability to practice their traditional activities.

In addition to environmental impacts, important cultural practices of the Non-Status

First Nation & Clearwater River Band have also been impeded by oil sands activities. Members of the group, as we've heard, have lost their traditional swimming waters due to pollution caused by industry, and, as a result, are unable to pass on important skills and customs to their children.

On the Jackpine Mine Expansion lease site, it's a site of significance to the Clearwater River Band called Creeburn Lake which is at risk of being destroyed if this Project proceeds.

There is also evidence that quarries of pipestone, a sacred stone for the Non-Status First Nation & Clearwater River Band, exist near the

Project area and which may be at risk from Project construction and operations.

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As a result of these and other impacts, the Project will interfere with and result in a loss of the traditions and values that are integral to the distinctive culture of the Non-Status First Nation and the Clearwater River Band.

To add insult to injury, as members of the groups have watched their traditional lands and resources be taken by the government and handed to industrial giants, their claims to consultation, accommodation, and compensation for their losses go ignored.

They remain invisible and unheard, unable to either participate in or be compensated in any way from the activities that threaten to take their lands, their resources, their health, and their culture. As other Aboriginal groups in the region sign agreements with industrial actors, as they receive funding to undertake traditional land use and cultural studies, and as they are consulted with on projects that will impact their shared territories, the Non-Status First Nation & Clearwater River Band have been steadfastly rejected from the consultation process and from any

sharing in benefits following from use of their lands.

2.5

With each project approval, the groups have become more marginalized and more disenfranchised.

Because of the persistent refusal by the Crown or industry to recognize their rights, members of the Non-Status First Nation & Clearwater River Band have suffered disproportionately as a result of this development in their traditional territories.

As described in the Supplemental Social Economic and Cultural Effects Submission for Shell submitted by ACFN, the social determinants of health include, among other things, employment and working conditions, income and social status, social support networks, social environments, education, and gender.

We've heard much in this proceeding about the adverse, social, cultural, economic and environmental effects that are felt in Fort

McMurray and in outlying communities, including a shortage of affordable housing, increasing homelessness, reduced access to medical care, an increase in elicit drug use, and salaries that are not commensurate with the high cost of living.

1 This has certainly been the case for members of the Non-Status First Nation & Clearwater River 2 3 Band who have largely been excluded from general social benefits such as employment in oil sands 4 5 development. 6 Members of the Non-Status First Nation & 7 Clearwater River Band have also observed their health decline since the advent of industrial oil 8 9 activity in the Athabasca region. While there are many qualified trades people 10 11 among the groups who are actively seeking work, 12 they face a disproportionately high rate of 13 unemployment as compared to the non-Aboriginal 14 population. 15 Housing prices have especially affected the 16 Aboriginal population and, in particular, the 17 elderly among that population who are unable to 18 afford rent or own in Fort McMurray or the 19 surrounding areas. 20 The high cost of living has rendered many 21 Aboriginal people, including members of these 22 groups, homeless or at imminent risk of becoming 23 homeless. It's pushed many others out of Fort 24 McMurray and into smaller more remote communities. 2.5 Accordingly, their members are scattered, requiring

1 them to risk their safety and lose much time 2 travelling on those dangerous roads to stay 3 connected. In 1980, as we heard from Mr. Malcolm, Elders 4 of the Non-Status First Nation were forcibly 5 6 evicted from a settlement of the Snye in order to 7 build housing for employees of Syncrude. And then in 2006, Mr. Malcolm was told he 8 9 would not be able to set up a work camp to help the homeless because, due to his band's name, he did 10 11 not have rights under Treaty 8. 12 These groups are the marginalized of the 13 marginalized, much like the caribou in the Jackpine Mine lease site, they remain unrecognized and 14 15 invisible. 16 Since the signing of Treaty 8, the Non-Status 17 First Nation & Clearwater River Band have had their lands and resources systematically taken up. To 18 19 date, however, they have not been engaged in an 20 effective dialogue with respect of their rights by 21 Crown or industry, or that taking up. 22 As I have explained, both are groups that 23 hold rights under Treaty 8 to which consultation is 24 owed. 2.5 However, neither group has had capacity to

1 effectively assert their rights and engage in 2 consultation. The problem is cyclical. In order 3 to participate effectively in environmental processes, and to have their concerns considered, 4 members of the Non-Status First Nation & Clearwater 5 6 River Band require capacity funding. But as 7 neither group has had their rights recognized, neither has been provided with funding to undertake 8 9 the necessary traditional use studies or studies of potential impacts of the Project on their rights 10 11 and so their concerns remain unaddressed, and as 12 their concerns remain unaddressed, they are denied 13 consultation opportunities. 14 In oral argument, my friend Mr. Denstedt 15 submitted that in 2008 Shell supplied funding to 16 the Wood Buffalo Elders Society to undertake a 17 study related to their traditional land use. With respect, that funding has no bearing on 18 19 the matter of consultation with the Non-Status 20 First Nation or the Clearwater River Band. It has 21 no bearing on Shell's efforts to engage in 22 consultation or the discharge of the Crown's duty 23 to consult. 24 The Wood Buffalo Elders Society is neither

the Non-Status First Nation nor the Clearwater

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River Band. It was at one time a registered society, but it no longer exists.

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As the Courts have held, to be owed consultation obligations by the Crown, an Aboriginal group must have a representative entity that can serve as a consultation partner for the Crown. The Wood Buffalo Elders Society was not a representative entity recognizable as such by law.

In the Environmental Assessment proceeding of the Muskeg River Mine Expansion project, the Joint Panel for that project determined that the Wood Buffalo Elders Society did not qualify as an Aboriginal group capable of holding Aboriginal or Treaty Rights giving rise to a duty of consultation. The proponent in that application, Albian Sands Energy Incorporated, is a company created by the Athabasca Oil Sands Project of which Shell is a majority shareholder. In effect, what Shell is asking the Panel to find here is that, while in a previous application by it, the Elders Society could not constitute a representative entity able to serve as a consultation partner for the Crown, Shell could engage in consultation with it for the purposes of discharging consultation obligations with respect to this Application.

With respect, that finding would be an absurdity.

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Thus, in our submission, any funding provided to the Wood Buffalo Elders Society does not constitute consultation with either the Non-Status First Nation or the Clearwater River Band, and accordingly, does not discharge the consultation obligation owed to either group.

In fact, while in January 2011, Mr. Malcolm submitted a formal request for consultation to Shell on behalf of the groups he represents, the extent of Shell's consultation has been to provide information to Mr. Malcolm regarding application materials. As this Panel has noted, Mr. Malcolm and his groups have been fighting to have their voices heard in environmental assessments of oil sands projects for over a decade. To date, they have not been successful.

While Shell alleges that Mr. Malcolm's frequent participation makes him an expert at such proceedings, his systematic failure to achieve recognition of the rights of his groups or the impacts to their lands and resources and traditional activities by oil sands activities tells a different story.

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These groups have faced obstacles in their attempts to participate in the limited information sharing that has been provided by Shell. The technical language of environmental assessment can be difficult for even highly trained and experienced experts to understand, hence the three weeks of discussion we underwent in this proceeding to try and clarify a handful of issues.

While Shell's Aboriginal consultant may smirk at the notion, it is little wonder that Mr. Malcolm claims that the technical jargon of science and law has made it difficult to understand the regulatory processes of environmental assessment.

The conclusion that the groups have drawn from these years of being ignored by government and industry is that they are meaningless.

This situation is not unique to the

Non-Status First Nation or the Clearwater River

Band. As described in the Amnesty International
report submitted by Ms. Anna Zalek, there are an
estimated 526 claims concerning historic Treaties
that are currently being assessed or under
negotiation in Canada, and another 77 cases that
are before the courts. Surely this is not in the
public interest to ignore them.

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As we heard from Ms. Celina Malcolm and Ms. Anna Zalik, the mechanisms used to negotiate and resolve land and resource disputes dramatically increase costs for Aboriginal participants. It erodes their rights and it fosters a race to the bottom as groups suspect that if they do not enter into agreements, they will be left with nothing.

Distinguishing between Aboriginal groups that share claims to the land and resources for the purposes of consultation, entering into agreements with select groups and refusing to disclose the terms of those agreements, has created divisions between groups who once shared these lands and resources. This, too, cannot be in the public interest.

As I mentioned, Shell has refused to adequately address the impacts that this Project will have on the resources, lands and rights of the Non-Status First Nation & Clearwater River Band. Furthermore, it has not adequately supported its conclusions with regard to potential impacts to such important factors as species at risk, air and water quality, and human and social health.

As became clear in the numerous competing expert reports and rounds of cross examination

challenging each other's subject matter experts,

there's much uncertainty regarding the data,

methodologies and conclusions that Shell relies on

in its Application materials.

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To name just one example. As described by various witnesses and admitted to in Shell's own wildlife studies, caribou have been seen in and around the Project area and are reported to have formerly occurred there more frequently. The residual net impact from the Project on caribou habitat in the LSA has been assessed as high, and impacts to caribou in the RSA during construction and operations is assessed as moderate.

Despite these findings, Shell has refused to offer adequate mitigation measures or offsets for harm to caribou.

In our submission, this is unacceptable. "Virtually absent" does not mean "absent."

Similarly, while Shell claims that it is committed to ensuring that end pit lakes will, with time, contain fish, it has not committed to ensuring that they will contain the same species of fish as originally appear there. In fact, as Shell attested to, these lakes will not contain the same species of fish. In the view of the Non-Status

1 First Nation and the Clearwater River Band, all 2 species of fish are not the same. It is not 3 adequate compensation or mitigation for Shell to replace their traditional food sources with 4 5 alternative ones. Had they been consulted about 6 this matter, they would have explained this to Shell. 7 In our submission, there is insufficient 8 9 evidence to proceed with the Project that will likely impact species that are at risk and that are 10 11 of significant importance to Aboriginal groups. 12 And this Panel cannot conclude, in our submission, 13 that the Project will be in the public interest 14 when there are so many outstanding issues of 15 concern and so many gaps in the data regarding 16 issues of such importance to so many directly 17 affected groups and individuals. Regarding the degree of consultation that is 18 19 owed to the groups, rather than setting them out 20 here, again, I'll turn the Panel's attention to the 21 submissions dated December 16th, 2011, that the 22 group submitted in this proceeding. 23 And I will give my conclusions and 24 recommendations. First, it's worth noting again that this 2.5

Panel should look at the spirit of the duty to consult as set out by the courts.

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In Haida, the Supreme Court of Canada held that the Crown acting honourably cannot cavalierly run roughshod over Aboriginal interests where claims affecting those interests are being seriously pursued in the process of Treaty negotiation and proof. It must respect these potential but yet unproven interests. To unilaterally exploit a claimed resource during the process of approving and resolving the Aboriginal claim to that resource may be to deprive the Aboriginal claimants of some or all of the benefit of the resource. This is not honourable.

In environmental assessments, consultation is intended to ensure the traditional activities and access to resources is not significantly impacted. And where such impact occurs, traditional users are compensated. This duty extends to non-status groups.

However, the Non-Status First Nation and Clearwater River Band members have fallen through the regulatory cracks. If, as Shell submits, environmental assessment is a planning tool, then its application constitutes bad planning. This

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issue at its core is a matter of perspective. It's about values and competing interests. It's about the meaning of significance. And the meaning of public interest. And it's also about patience.

This Panel has before it the daunting task of weighing the evidence and conclusions of Shell on the one hand against those of intervening parties on the other and ascertaining what exactly is in the public's interest with regards to Shell's Application.

Shell has provided no evidence that a delay in approving its Application would cause it harm beyond the ability to begin profiting from resources for which it holds property rights.

Conversely, the Panel has received much evidence on the harm that allowing this Project to proceed will likely have on the many stakeholders whose rights and interests have been represented in this Application.

In our submission, it would be unjust, inequitable and contrary to the public interest to permit this Project to proceed when its adverse impacts will further marginalize and disenfranchise the already disadvantaged groups of the Non-Status First Nation and the Clearwater River Indian Band.

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Taken from a national perspective that places the footprint of industrial development on the backdrop of Canada's vast land base, and which has as its ethos economic growth as the most important consideration in a public interest analysis, it's tempting to see the benefits of this Project as outweighing the relatively insignificant concerns regarding the rights, health and wellbeing of members of the Non-Status First Nation & Clearwater River Band. But taken from the perspective of members of those groups who have for generations seen their lands fragmented, polluted, and taken up by the Crown without their consent or control, and from the perspective of Canadians, who value democracy, rule of law, social justice, substantive equality, and public participation in regulatory matters that will have unmitigable and irreversible impacts on which they have a direct interest, the scales tip. This Project is more than just a road through It's a freeway connected to a highway grid that has so severely impacted the human and physical environments around it as to make them

virtually unrecognizable to its original

inhabitants.

For these reasons, in our submissions, the
Project should not proceed until the concerns of
the Non-Status First Nation, the Clearwater River
Band, and the public are addressed.

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Therefore, the Non-Status First Nation and the Clearwater River Band would like to make the following requests:

First, that the Joint Review Panel recommend that the Crown recognize the Section 35 rights of the Non-Status First Nation and the Clearwater River Band and the potential infringement on those rights by the Project should it be approved.

Second, that the Joint Review Panel recommend that the Project is not in the public interest and cannot be authorized unless and until the Crown has fully discharged its duties to consult and accommodate the Non-Status First Nation and the Clearwater River Band with respect to potential effects on its Treaty and Aboriginal Rights.

Third, that the Joint Review Panel recommend that the consultation process owed to the Non-Status First Nation and the Clearwater River Band include, but not be limited to, consideration of the potential impacts of the Project on their Section 35 rights, to consultation prior to

1 finalizing any resources management frameworks or 2 plans with regards to oil sands activities or to 3 environmental management in the Project area or the greater Athabasca region in general. 4 5 The provision of resources to the Non-Status 6 First Nation and the Clearwater River Band to 7 document the nature and scope of their Aboriginal 8 and Treaty Rights, including traditional land use 9 studies, Traditional Ecological Knowledge studies, and cultural studies. 10 11 Provision of capacity funding to both groups 12 in order to undertake studies that identify any 13 potential additional adverse impacts that may be caused by the Project, including the cumulative 14 15 impacts which have not yet been identified. 16 And capacity funding to partner with local 17 organizations, governments and industry to address 18 those impacts. 19 And in addition to the above, a request that 20 this Panel recommend that no approvals or 21 authorizations be issued in relation to this 22 Project until Shell: 23 Engage in a cultural sensitivity workshop 24 with the Non-Status First Nation and the Clearwater 2.5 River Band;

| 1 | Until the Non-Status First Nation & |
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| 2 | Clearwater River Band are satisfied that any sites |
| 3 | of historical or cultural significance to the |
| 4 | groups have been adequately identified and |
| 5 | protected; |
| 6 | Until members of those groups be permitted to |
| 7 | harvest diamond-willow fungus that occurs in the |
| 8 | Project area before any activities occur there that |
| 9 | may disturb or harm that resource; |
| 10 | And that any other resources of cultural |
| 11 | environmental health and social importance to the |
| 12 | Non-Status First Nation & Clearwater River Band be |
| 13 | adequately protected; |
| 14 | And finally, that both groups receive |
| 15 | compensation for any losses or harm to those |
| 16 | resources that might occur. |
| 17 | And finally, I would like to recommend that |
| 18 | the conditions requested by the Oil Sands |
| 19 | Environmental Coalition regarding the environmental |
| 20 | protections and measures that they have set out are |
| 21 | met. |
| 22 | And with that, I would like to invite |
| 23 | Mr. Malcolm up here to make a few closing remarks |
| 24 | on behalf of the groups. |
| 25 | THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. |

1 MS. ANNA JOHNSTON: And also to thank the Panel 2 for hearing our submissions on this. 3 FINAL ARGUMENT BY MR. MALCOLM: 4 5 MR. MALCOLM: Good morning, Mr. Chairman 6 and respected Panel. I'm here to thank you for 7 allowing me to present my final argument and hopefully I'll be able to do that without any 8 9 concerns from Shell. 10 I would like to start with, Mr. Broadhurst 11 made a comment earlier in the proceedings at the 12 start and he said that traditional knowledge and 13 traditional users' words were basically solid and he would listen to them. I would like to believe 14 15 that, but from what I've seen throughout this 16 process, that contradicts what he says. In 17 Exhibit No. 001-001E, Volume 5.740, there's a 18 comment from a trapper in the region of McKay. 19 said that, 20 years ago, there was lots of wildlife 20 here, which included the caribou. Now Shell says 21 that they don't exist. 22 I would like to comment about the wildlife 23 and migratory fly-ways. When I was young, clouds 24 of, clouds of birds would, waterfowl and wildlife 2.5 would fly over Fort McMurray, and now today there's

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hardly any. And part of it is due to the war zone set up by the tailings ponds. It's constant explosions going off and it's really having detrimental effect on the wildlife, not only the migratory fowl, but the wildlife themselves. And more studies need to be done on the noise and how it affects the wildlife in the area. I feel like they are more concentrated on making more noise than they are effectively deterring the birds from landing.

I would like to talk about the caribou that's been hammered thoroughly throughout this process.

And the comments I heard was the Audet Lake caribou herd and the Steepbank caribou herd are amalgamated with the Richardson herd. They also failed to mention that there's a Caroline herd that's also part of the Richardson herd. And down south where I live in Anzac, there's three different other caribou herds: The Egg-Pony, the Algar, and the Leismer herds, all part of another branch. It's kind of like the Métis Nation with their communities and the Locals: I feel that the local communities are the local herds, the Steepbank herd and the Audet caribou herd are directly impacted by this process. And it should not only be the

1 requirements of the Federal Government to help restore the herds, it should also be the 2 3 requirements of Shell. I would recommend that they do studies on the 4 5 freshwater clams in the Athabasca River. I've 6 requested this several times throughout the 7 hearings. I've yet to see that being done. there's any clams left, maybe the next study will 8 9 be, well, there's no clams left so we don't have to 10 study them as well. 11 I would also like to see what is the critical 12 water temperature for the fish habitat during 13 different seasons. I did not get that through the 14 EIA or through this process. 15 I would like to see the outcrops along the 16 riverbanks on Shell's leases identified and provide 17 that information to CEMA and include it in their 18 EIAs. 19 I would also like to see the wildlife 20 corridors being maintained, not only to sustain the 21 wildlife but also sustain the natural resources 22 that are there. From my understanding, in 100 23 years from now there's going to be no oil left, so 24 where does the word "sustain" in Alberta Sustainable Environment fulfill that? 2.5

| 1 | Shell has billions of barrels in their |
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| 2 | leases, surely they can set aside some oil for the |
| 3 | future. |
| 4 | And I'd like to talk about thresholds. |
| 5 | Thresholds, according to the experts, is when a |
| 6 | change in the population is affected. Well, our |
| 7 | threshold for our groups have been severely |
| 8 | impacted to where we're almost extirpated. |
| 9 | So in conclusion, we will continue to |
| 10 | dialogue with Shell in hopes of what we feel is a |
| 11 | meaningful process will come out. Until then, we |
| 12 | object to this Project's approval. |
| 13 | And I'd like to thank you for your time. |
| 14 | Thank you. |
| 15 | THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Malcolm. |
| 16 | Mr. Mallon. |
| 17 | |
| 18 | FINAL ARGUMENT OF THE MIKISEW CREE FIRST NATION, |
| 19 | BY MR. MALLON: |
| 20 | MR. MALLON: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, |
| 21 | Members of the Panel. I have the pleasure again to |
| 22 | appear before you on behalf of the Mikisew Cree |
| 23 | First Nation. |
| 24 | The Mikisew Cree have participated to a |
| 25 | greater or lesser degree in every oil sands open |

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mine regulatory review since 2002. They have done so in an attempt to elucidate to the tribunals and to the Provincial and Federal Governments what was at stake for the Mikisew and to attempt to convince tribunals and governments to regulate the development of the region in a careful and caring manner which respects the rights of First Nations and the laws of nature.

And so here we are again.

This time around, some things are different.

The pressure on Mikisew's Treaty Rights and culture from cumulative effects of development in Mikisew's traditional lands have increased.

Some things are the same. The Mikisew is concerned that the Governments of Alberta and Canada are not meaningfully consulting Mikisew about the cumulative effects that are adversely impacting Mikisew's rights and culture and that this failure to meaningfully consult Mikisew means that government is not managing the cumulative effects on Treaty Rights in a credible or effective way.

The Mikisew have agreed to work with Shell directly on project-specific issues, therefore we do not object to this Project.

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As stated in our submission, our concerns for your attention are the cumulative effects associated with the overall development of the region. We are concerned about the cumulative impacts of oil sands development on the environment and on our rights and culture.

Now, we've noted that you can make recommendations, that you have, Joint Review Panels have in the past, and we've also noted that both governments have stated that they listen to what you say. Canada has said in this hearing that it will inform itself for its consultation efforts from your decision. Alberta regretfully chooses to no longer participate in these hearings, but we can only hope that they, too, will perform their obligations in light of the information that is gleaned from this process.

I should tell you, I have been recently hunting for speakers for my stereo system. And it occurred to me last night when I was on Google looking at that, that these Joint Review Panels are much like loud speakers in that the recommendations that you make seem to be well heard by governments. And so we submit that that's a very important part of your decision-making process.

1 The Government of Canada shares Mikisew's concerns about cumulative effects of oil sands 2 3 development on our traditional lands. They believe 4 that through diligence on the part of operators, and through a number of regional initiatives, the 5 6 cumulative effects can be successfully managed. 7 We're not so sure. However, we do know that unless 8 regulators and governments are fully informed as to 9 the cumulative effect of oil sands developments on both the environment and First Nation's rights, 10 11 such effects cannot be managed. 12 We also know that unless affected First 13 Nations are involved in monitoring and management in a meaningful way, the odds of long-term success 14 15 are not good. 16 The Aboriginals of the area have more at 17 stake than anybody else. They have more knowledge about the area than anyone else. Yet they are 18 19 frustrated by government's failure to heed their 20 advice and to work with them constructively. 21 Lip service is paid to the "C" word, to 22 consultation, but Mikisew see Canada and Alberta as 23 working hard to avoid as opposed to observe their Treaty obligations. 24 The Mikisew wish to provide the Joint Review 2.5

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Panel a number of recommendations that we hope the Panel sees fit to pass on. With one exception, these recommendations are contained in our original submission. Some are new to these hearings, but most will have a familiar ring. All of them are in respect of cumulative effects and regional concerns.

And I should say that having gone through them again over the last few days, we've noted that there appears to be some repetition among them.

There's 19 original. We're going to add one more today. Probably could have pared them down to 13 or 14, but I'm going to go through the original group in any event.

So the first recommendation is that Canada and Alberta jointly fund Mikisew to develop a Traditional Land and Resource Use Management Plan. From the development of the plan, that Alberta and Canada take the necessary steps to implement that plan, including adhering to the thresholds, limits and criteria identified in the plan in subsequent regulatory processes conducted by and decisions of the ERCB or future Joint Review Panels.

That's the joint resource use plan that was referred to in evidence as the TLRUMP. Frankly, I

| 1 | prefer the ACFN's acronym. Nevertheless. |
|----|--|
| 2 | You'll recall in my discussions with DFO the |
| 3 | following points were made: |
| 4 | |
| 5 | (a) DFO measures impacts to the |
| 6 | environment as does Environment |
| 7 | Canada, and not impacts to Treaty |
| 8 | Rights. |
| 9 | (b) The assessments of rights and |
| 10 | impacts on those rights is a |
| 11 | complicated matter. |
| 12 | (c) Having a tool which provides |
| 13 | the knowledge of the rights and |
| 14 | allows some measurement of impacts |
| 15 | would be useful for those |
| 16 | departments whose mandates it is to |
| 17 | honour Treaty Rights; and |
| 18 | (d) A traditional land resource |
| 19 | use and management plan as such a |
| 20 | tool. |
| 21 | |
| 22 | Now, somewhere in the bowels of government |
| 23 | this initiative got stopped. We ask that the Joint |
| 24 | Review Panel recommend to Canada and Alberta that |
| 25 | it get restarted. |

| 1 | The second recommendation is that monitoring |
|----|---|
| 2 | be conducted by the Federal Government through a |
| 3 | program overseen by a committee of independent |
| 4 | experts and Aboriginal representatives, including |
| 5 | the Mikisew. This should include at a minimum: |
| 6 | |
| 7 | (a) That Canada and Alberta work |
| 8 | with Mikisew to develop and fund a |
| 9 | community-controlled health |
| 10 | assessment of water and terrestrial |
| 11 | resources, including wildlife and |
| 12 | monitoring; |
| 13 | (b) Implementation of an |
| 14 | independent and scientifically |
| 15 | rigorous monitoring program for the |
| 16 | delta in consultation with local |
| 17 | First Nations to address the |
| 18 | effects of current and reasonably |
| 19 | foreseeable development on the |
| 20 | Delta; and |
| 21 | (c) That Mikisew be meaningfully |
| 22 | included in the development and |
| 23 | implementation of the Joint |
| 24 | Canada-Alberta Monitoring Program, |
| 25 | and that no further projects after |
| | |

1 this one be approved until that 2 monitoring program is operational 3 and had at least five years to 4 gather and assess data, including 5 traditional knowledge. 6 7 The recent publication of findings by Kirk 8 and others is notice to all that the impacts of the 9 oil sands developments are more widespread than have been previously predicted. In light of those 10 11 results, it's even more important that First 12 Nations who have traditional ties to this area be 13 intimately involved in the assessment and monitoring. We've made it clear to Canada and 14 15 Alberta that the Mikisew and other First Nations 16 affected by cumulative effects must be included in 17 the development and implementation of this proposed world-class monitoring program. But to date, we 18 19 have seen little indication that the program will 20 consider the conditions required to exercise our 21 Treaty Rights without a panel such as this one 22 recommending it. 23 The third recommendation is that through 24 consultation, Aboriginal peoples, Canada and 2.5 Alberta take the necessary steps to regionalize the

2.5

regulation of certain aspects of oil sands such as reclamation, tailings reduction and water use, giving equal weight to traditional knowledge and western science, and having regard to the protection of Section 35 rights now and into the future.

This is obviously a very general recommendation. But we note that most of the regional programs are not geared to observance of Treaty Rights. For instance, Phase I of the IFN for the Athabasca did not consider the transportation needs of First Nations. And Mikisew is concerned that Phase II is similarly being developed without meaningful consultation and without appropriate consideration of Mikisew's rights and culture.

The fourth recommendation is that Alberta work with Aboriginal peoples to jointly develop and finalize a wetland policy and reclamation standards that includes compensation for destroyed or altered wetlands, particularly bogs and fens. You've heard that peatlands cannot be reclaimed. What will replace them will provide less biodiversity, the land will be poorer, and we submit the loss must be recognized in some way.

| 1 | Five, specifically with respect to |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 2 | waterbodies and waterways: |
| 3 | |
| 4 | (a) That the Athabasca and |
| 5 | Firebag Rivers be designated as |
| 6 | heritage rivers. |
| 7 | (b) That Alberta and Canada |
| 8 | establish a comprehensive and |
| 9 | transparent monitoring program for |
| 10 | water flows and water quality for |
| 11 | the Lower Athabasca River basin, |
| 12 | including monitoring of tailings |
| 13 | reclamation and tailings seepage, |
| 14 | that is overseen by a |
| 15 | government-funded committee of |
| 16 | independent experts and Aboriginal |
| 17 | representatives, including the |
| 18 | Mikisew. |
| 19 | (c) That Alberta and Canada |
| 20 | establish precautionary Aboriginal |
| 21 | Base Flow for the Athabasca River |
| 22 | at 1600 cubic metres per second and |
| 23 | a precautionary Aboriginal extreme |
| 24 | flow at a level of 400 cubic metres |
| 25 | per second during the months that |
| | |

| 1 | the river is used for travel. |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 2 | (d) that Alberta and Canada |
| 3 | immediately implement a |
| 4 | precautionary Base Flow of the |
| 5 | Athabasca River of 100 cubic metres |
| 6 | per second below which no |
| 7 | withdrawals would be allowed. |
| 8 | (e) That governments work with |
| 9 | Aboriginal peoples to develop a |
| 10 | process for altering water permits |
| 11 | to existing mines so as to lower |
| 12 | and cap the peak water withdrawal |
| 13 | that will be needed by the oil |
| 14 | sands industry from the Lower |
| 15 | Athabasca River. |
| 16 | (f) That Canada and Alberta |
| 17 | include tributaries in their |
| 18 | calculations of in-stream flow |
| 19 | needs as they finalize the Lower |
| 20 | Athabasca Management Framework in |
| 21 | Phase 2; and |
| 22 | (g) That Alberta and Canada adopt |
| 23 | and implement all recommendations |
| 24 | including those listed above as set |
| 25 | out in the review of Phase 2 |
| | |

1 Framework Committee Recommendations 2 Synthesis Report that was produced on behalf of the Mikisew and 3 Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation. 4 5 And that's appended in our 6 exhibits. 8 Water and waterbodies are absolutely critical 9 to all aspects of Treaty Rights and our culture. 10 When there are sufficient water levels, we can 11 access harvesting locations and spiritual sites, 12 but when water levels are low, we cannot access our 13 harvesting areas and navigation becomes dangerous. Clean water sustains our harvesters while out 14 15 on the land, but when there are concerns about 16 water quality, our harvesters must haul water with 17 them, which increases the time, difficulty and 18 expense of harvesting. 19 Joint Review Panels in the past have been 20 instrumental in persuading Canada and Alberta to 21 develop Base Flow guidelines. While we do not 22 expect this Panel to dictate the specifics of those 23 quidelines, we ask the Panel to remind Canada and 24 Alberta of their obligations to First Nations in 2.5 the development of those guidelines.

1 The sixth recommendation is that Canada 2 actively assume a stronger federal role in 3 protecting freshwater in the oil sands through monitoring the release of toxic substances and the 4 5 impacts of such substances on fisheries through a 6 stronger enforcement presence. And this needs no 7 further explanation. 8 Seven. That Canada and Alberta expand the 9 testing parameters of drinking water at Fort Chipewyan to include PAHs and toxic metals using 10 11 methodology capable of measuring at thresholds 12 relative to human health. 13 Mr. Chairman, the health concerns of Fort Chipewyan are a matter of public record. We know 14 15 from recent studies that the impacts of the mines 16 and upgraders is greater than previously thought. 17 This recommendation is just the application of 18 commonsense and good judgment. 19 Eight. That Wood Buffalo National Park be 20 included in any impact study in respect of oil 21 sands activity. 22 And in respect of this one, we would state 23 that as development continues in the Oil Sands 24 Region, downstream and other cumulative effects 2.5 negatively impact the environment and traditional

1 resources of Wood Buffalo National Park. 2 development also negatively impacts our ability to 3 exercise our Treaty Rights in the Wood Buffalo National Park. 4 5 Governments and Proponents must meaningfully 6 consult with us about the full scale of the 7 cumulative effects which include studying and understanding how the direct and indirect and 8 9 cumulative effects of development are affecting the Wood Buffalo National Park. 10 11 The ninth recommendation is that Alberta work 12 with Mikisew and Lower Athabasca First Nations to 13 develop a Lower Athabasca Regional Plan, a LARP, 14 that appropriately addresses First Nation concerns 15 and that uses a rights-based approach to land-use 16 planning, including: 17 The results of a Mikisew-led 18 (a) 19 traditional land resource 20 management plan be incorporated 21 into the amended LARP. 22 That Canada and Alberta (b) 23 acknowledge the First Nations' 24 exercise of Treaty Rights as a 2.5 priority in land use in their

| 1 | traditional territories and cause |
|----|---|
| 2 | that priority to be reflected in |
| 3 | land use and resource development |
| 4 | policies, such as LARP, and all |
| 5 | Crown decision making; and |
| 6 | (c) The establishment of First |
| 7 | Nation specific land-use |
| 8 | conservation areas with viable |
| 9 | corridors that are managed jointly |
| 10 | with First Nations and Alberta. |
| 11 | |
| 12 | Our view is that LARP in its current form |
| 13 | fails to protect Mikisew's traditional territories |
| 14 | and the sustained exercise of Mikisew's Treaty |
| 15 | Rights and culture. |
| 16 | In our view, the Crown has not honoured its |
| 17 | obligations to the Mikisew by this initiative and |
| 18 | it must be revised. It should be revised following |
| 19 | meaningful consultation with Mikisew and other |
| 20 | First Nations and following a Traditional Land |
| 21 | Resource Use Management Plan. |
| 22 | If there's to be a land use planning |
| 23 | mechanism in the Oil Sands Region, that's the only |
| 24 | way that you'll be able to have, we will be able to |
| 25 | have a land use planning mechanism in the oil sands |

that can effectively and credibly manage cumulative
effects.

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Ten. That resources be provided to First

Nations to conduct a regional cumulative effects

assessment which includes comprehensive traditional

land use and traditional ecological knowledge with

the aim of developing a traditional resource use

plan. That plan should be a key focus in other

policies such as LARP. Again, this is a repeat of

the first and ninth recommendations. Or a

synthesis of them.

Eleven. That Canada and Alberta utilize a terrestrial No Net Loss standard when considering disturbance approvals, giving equal weight to traditional knowledge and western science.

The Mikisew have repeatedly requested that

Alberta and Canada work with them to identify the

qualitative and quantitative conditions required to

sustain the exercise of Mikisew's Treaty rights as

cumulative effects of development continue to

dramatically increase.

Mikisew have also expressed concern at the continued and rapid loss of areas in their traditional lands that are or can be used for the exercise of those rights. The key here is that

when considering loss, the Crown must recognize
loss not only to the environment, but to those
Treaty Rights.

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Twelve. That Canada and/or Alberta establish pre-disturbance baseline information, the range of natural variation for wildlife populations and the conditions required to support Mikisew's rights and culture before disturbance of any further industrial activity. In part, this would be accomplished through the Traditional Land and Resource Use Management Plan and meaningful consultation to incorporate this information into the development of effective cumulative effects management measures before regulators and or the Crown consider any future industrial activities beyond Shell's proposed Jackpine and Pierre River Projects.

Thirteen. That Canada and Alberta work with Mikisew to identify and protect key species affected by cumulative effects such as bison, caribou and moose. In this regard, Canada must revise the recovery plans for the wood bison and woodland buffalo identifying critical habitat which must be protected under the *Species at Risk Act*.

We note that recent studies show that habitat loss

is much greater than predicted. This
recommendation, we believe, is one that is
critical.

2.5

Fourteen. That Canada conduct with Mikisew a traditional food study to examine the impact of oil sands contaminants on traditional foods such as fish, moose, caribou, small game, bird eggs and berries in the region. Special attention should be drawn to the location of traditional foods in relation to the oil sands mine development. Again, this could be incorporated into a TLRUMP.

Fifteen. That Alberta finalize the oil sands mine liabilities management program with input from Mikisew and other First Nations. We're certain the Panel is aware that the mine securities program is in need of reform.

Sixteen. That Alberta and Canada conduct a comprehensive baseline study for Fort Chipewyan residents as recommended in the 2003 EUB Decision Report. In addition, a study of contaminant intake and body burden of members of Fort Chipewyan should be undertaken. Had Canada put a representative from Health Canada on the Panel, we would have asked them why this recommendation still has not been carried out after 10 years.

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Seventeen. That Canada develop a comprehensive sustainable employment strategy with Mikisew to address employment and training issues in the region. And we should say that while some operators have undertaken initiatives such as fly-in/fly-out transportation between shifts, more must be done in order that the persons most impacted by oil sands development be put in a position to reap some benefit from the oil sands development.

Eighteen. That Canada and Alberta ensure the Mikisew has adequate capacity for consultation on all resource development activities that may impact their traditional lands. The resources of First Nations in the area are stretched to the limit trying to deal with resource development activities on their traditional lands. While all acknowledge that consultation and accommodation are necessary, these objectives cannot be achieved in the absence of First Nation capacity. In the Taku River case, one of the factors that the Supreme Court of Canada considered when determining if consultation had been meaningful was the provision of funding to the First Nation to gather information and participate in consultation. This is a principle that cannot

1 be overstated.

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Nineteen. That Canada and Alberta resource additional First Nations directed analysis related to health, diet, practice of Treaty and Aboriginal Rights, and avoidance patterns related to contaminants.

Again, some of the previous recommendations incorporated, are incorporated into this one, however, we seek to examine the cumulative impacts of oil sands, again, so that this information can be used effectively and credibly to manage cumulative effects.

The 20th recommendation is a new one and it was the subject of some of my discussions in respect of CEMA with the Federal panel. And the recommendation is that CEMA's annual planned and budgeted programs recommended by its Management Board be fully funded. Previous tribunals have put great reliance on CEMA to deliver programs and recommendations to Canada and Alberta. Canada agrees that what is proposed by CEMA's Management Board are all important programs. Yet the evidence before you is that CEMA has been underfunded to the tune of two to three million dollars annually. Somebody is not stepping up to the plate.

1 With the money being generated by oil sands 2 developments for the entire country, to say nothing 3 of foreign shareholders, and with what is at stake for First Nations, this is inexcusable. 4 to be relied upon, its programs must be fully 5 6 funded. We ask this Joint Review Panel to put the 7 heat on Canada and on Alberta and on industry to 8 rectify this situation. 9 Mr. Chairman, Members of the Panel, we have no choice but to hope that Canada and Alberta 10 11 manage the cumulative effects in a way that 12 protects the environment and our rights. 13 recommendations that I've provided to you are our 14 earnest attempt to provide a partial roadmap to the 15 Crowns as to how to possibly meet their 16 obligations. Simple delegation to oil sands 17 operators will not suffice. We submit that it's in the public interest that Canada's and Alberta's 18 19 Treaty 8 obligations be honoured. 20

To the extent that you can reinforce this message and be our loud speakers to Canada and Alberta, we thank you.

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Those are my submissions. I should say I neglected to point out that we've previously provided to the court reporter the citations that I

| 1 | d | id not bore you with | in my discussions this |
|----|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 | m | orning, and we'd ask | that those be incorporated |
| 3 | i | nto the record. | |
| 4 | THE CHA | IRMAN: | Thanks, Mr. Mallon. |
| 5 | MR. MAL | LON: | Thank you, sir. And if I |
| 6 | d | on't get the opportu | nity, thank you again for |
| 7 | a | llowing us to be here | e and participate. Thank you. |
| 8 | THE CHA | IRMAN: | You're welcome. |
| 9 | М | r. Murphy. | |
| 10 | MR. MUR | PHY: | Mr. Chairman, before we take |
| 11 | a | lunch break, I wonde | er if I could speak to one |
| 12 | h | ousekeeping matter. | |
| 13 | | | |
| 14 | HOUSEKE | EPING MATTER SPOKEN | TO BY MR. MURPHY: |
| 15 | MR. MUR | PHY: | A short while ago I |
| 16 | С | irculated by e-mail a | a copy of ACFN's written |
| 17 | S | ubmissions and Mr. Pe | erkins suggested I speak to |
| 18 | t | ne Panel about this. | You might recall when I got |
| 19 | u | p yesterday to start | oral submissions I did say |
| 20 | t | nat we are intending | on circulating a copy of our |
| 21 | W | ritten submissions. | What we did was, in our oral |
| 22 | S | ubmissions, we trunca | ated those somewhat in the |
| 23 | S | ense that you might : | recall I said I was starting |
| 24 | a | t paragraph 9 of the | written submissions and you |
| 25 | m | ay recall Ms. Biem, | this morning, saying that she |

| 1 | | was skipping over a wh | ole section on, you know, |
|----|-------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 | | explaining the case la | w. And we tried to truncate |
| 3 | | the written submission | s in the interests of time, |
| 4 | | but also because some | of our colleagues, frankly, |
| 5 | | had already addressed | some of the matters, for |
| 6 | | example Ms. Gorrie had | addressed some of the |
| 7 | | Environmental Assessme | nt case law. |
| 8 | | And so I don't t | hink I explained that clearly |
| 9 | | enough. And I guess I | 'm requesting that our |
| 10 | | written submissions be | considered as supplemental |
| 11 | | to our oral submission | s and if there's any conflict |
| 12 | | between the two that t | he oral submissions be relied |
| 13 | | upon. | |
| 14 | THE (| CHAIRMAN: | Does any party have any |
| 15 | | comment about that? M | r. Denstedt? |
| 16 | | | |
| 17 | COMM | ENTS BY MR. DENSTEDT: | |
| 18 | MR. I | DENSTEDT: | In fact, I do, sir. I |
| 19 | | haven't had a chance t | o look at the written |
| 20 | | submissions, obviously | we've been here today |
| 21 | | working, but when we s | tart by saying, putting |
| 22 | | context around this, 1 | ast Friday, Mr. Chairman, the |
| 23 | | Panel | |
| 24 | THE (| CHAIRMAN: | Sorry, sir, let's try again. |
| 25 | MR. I | DENSTEDT: | Last Friday, the Panel |
| | | | |

determined that argument for this proceeding would
be oral argument. And pursuant to Section 46 of
the Rules of Practice, the argument will be as
directed, must be as directed by the Board. There
are no exceptions. It's either written argument or
it's oral argument.

It shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone. For the 23 years I've practised in front of this Panel, oral argument has in fact been oral argument. The only purpose that you provide your notes to the court reporter for is for ease of reference and citations. And guite frankly, I'm astounded that I'm hearing about this at this late date. Shell's rights would be severely prejudiced by allowing a written submission to go in at this late stage in the process without an opportunity to take the time that generally goes into written submission processes of sometimes days or weeks in between those submissions. And it should just not be allowed, sir. If my friend wants to include references to transcripts and evidence and citations, he can look at the transcript and do so. So we object to this in the most strenuous way. THE CHAIRMAN: Anything in reply, sir?

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| 1 | REPLY COMMENTS BY MR. MURPHY: |
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| 2 | MR. MURPHY: I should have said that there |
| 3 | aren't any additional substantive matters in the |
| 4 | written form of our submissions. Our oral |
| 5 | submissions follow the written submissions. What's |
| 6 | provided in our written submissions are the |
| 7 | detailed references to the evidence, so, you know, |
| 8 | where we've referred to the transcript evidence and |
| 9 | exhibit numbers. And so it wasn't meant to |
| 10 | surprise anybody or add any additional information |
| 11 | or, I mean, you know, new submissions. I simply |
| 12 | meant to give everybody a copy of what we've done |
| 13 | and what we're relying upon. That's all. |
| 14 | THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. So we'll consider |
| 15 | this over the lunch break. And we'll resume at |
| 16 | 1:15. Thank you. |
| 17 | |
| 18 | (The Luncheon Adjournment) |
| 19 | (12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.) |
| 20 | |
| 21 | THE CHAIRMAN: Could you take your places, |
| 22 | please. |
| 23 | Mr. Purdy, I was just going to address the |
| 24 | matter that Mr. Murphy raised before the lunch |
| 25 | break and I just wondered if there'd been any |

| 1 | | developments over the | noon hour? |
|----|-------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 | MR. M | URPHY: | Thank you, Mr. Chairman. |
| 3 | | I've spoken with my f | riend, Mr. Denstedt, and I |
| 4 | | think we've figured o | ut how to deal with it. What |
| 5 | | I proposed to him | and my main concern is we have |
| 6 | | the evidentiary refer | ences matching what the oral |
| 7 | | submissions were and | just the headings being |
| 8 | | inserted in the right | areas. And so we can work |
| 9 | | with madam transcribe | r to ensure that happens. |
| 10 | | What I've sugge | sted to my friend, and he |
| 11 | | seemed agreeable, is | if it would help madam |
| 12 | | transcriber, she coul | d e-mail at least the draft of |
| 13 | | the oral submission t | o me and copy my friend and at |
| 14 | | least I could point h | er to the references so that |
| 15 | | they are correct. | |
| 16 | MR. D | ENSTEDT: | Thank you, sir. I always |
| 17 | | seem agreeable; in th | is case I actually am |
| 18 | | agreeable. So that's | fine with us. |
| 19 | THE C | HAIRMAN: | Mr. Perkins? |
| 20 | MR. P | ERKINS: | In that case, as I understand |
| 21 | | it, then, Mr. Chairma | n, we would not be filing |
| 22 | | additional informatio | n; that is, the exhibit list |
| 23 | | would not be taking i | n another exhibit for ACFN; |
| 24 | | rather, the material, | however it ends up being, |
| 25 | | will be reflected in | the transcript. I assume |

| 1 | that's the case. |
|----|---|
| 2 | MR. MURPHY: That would be my |
| 3 | understanding. |
| 4 | THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, counsel. |
| 5 | Mr. Purdy? |
| 6 | |
| 7 | FINAL ARGUMENT OF THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOOD |
| 8 | BUFFALO, BY MR. PURDY: |
| 9 | MR. PURDY: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman |
| 10 | and Panel. Thank you for allowing me to make |
| 11 | submissions on behalf of the Regional Municipality. |
| 12 | The council of the Regional Municipality has |
| 13 | a statutory responsibility pursuant to Section 3 of |
| 14 | the Municipal Government Act to provide: |
| 15 | |
| 16 | Number 1. Good government. |
| 17 | Number 2. Services, facilities and |
| 18 | other things that, in the opinion |
| 19 | of council are necessary or |
| 20 | desirable for the Municipality; and |
| 21 | Number 3. To develop and maintain |
| 22 | safe and viable communities. |
| 23 | |
| 24 | It is within the context of Section 3 of the |
| 25 | Municipal Government Act that the Regional |
| | |

| 1 | Municipality has intervened in this hearing. |
|----|---|
| 2 | The Regional Municipality's council seeks to |
| 3 | provide services and facilities that will create |
| 4 | and maintain safe and viable communities within the |
| 5 | Regional Municipality as a complement to oil sands |
| 6 | development. |
| 7 | The Chief Administrative Officer, |
| 8 | Mr. Laubenstein, who appeared at the hearing, said |
| 9 | this: |
| 10 | |
| 11 | "So we're committed to |
| 12 | developing that community. We're |
| 13 | capable of supporting it. We have |
| 14 | the staff now in place that we |
| 15 | believe can do the things |
| 16 | necessary." |
| 17 | |
| 18 | As stated in the Regional Municipality's |
| 19 | brief, the vision for the Municipality is to be a |
| 20 | world-class model of sustainable living in the |
| 21 | North. In terms of the oil sands industry, this |
| 22 | means that the Municipality strives to be a |
| 23 | leading-edge community capable of supporting the |
| 24 | development of a world-class resource. And as |
| 25 | further stated in our brief, the Regional |

1 Municipality does not oppose the Project. 2 The goal of the Regional Municipality in 3 intervening is to report to the Joint Panel on progress made on socio-economic issues and to 4 report on issues that remain challenging and 5 6 troubling to the Regional Municipality's council and administration. 7 Clearly the Project will have socio-economic 8 9 impacts for the Regional Municipality and its residents. On the positive side, the project will 10 11 create wealth for the community by increasing the 12 tax base and providing business and employment 13 opportunities for local businesses and residents. The Project has broader positive benefits for both 14 15 Alberta and Canada as enunciated by Shell in its 16 evidence and presentation. 17 However, the Project will also place strains 18 on the community with increased population growth, 19 increased traffic, and increased reliance on social 20 services. 21 Clearly, the Regional Municipality and its 22 residents are directly impacted and each project 23 adds to these impacts. 24 Shell has supported this proposition in its 2.5 SEIA. Shell stated that oil sands expansion has

| 1 | created pressures for the region. |
|----|--|
| 2 | |
| 3 | "- From the perspective of |
| 4 | the municipality and other service |
| 5 | providers, high economic and |
| 6 | population growth rates, giving |
| 7 | rise to stresses on road, municipal |
| 8 | and social infrastructure." |
| 9 | |
| 10 | Now, with regard to the significance of |
| 11 | cumulative impacts resulting from the Project and |
| 12 | from regional oil sands activities on |
| 13 | socio-economic conditions, there's anticipated to |
| 14 | be a significant growth in population because of |
| 15 | the Project. The Project will require |
| 16 | approximately 3,000 workers at its peak of |
| 17 | construction and 750 operational workers while the |
| 18 | mine is in operation. |
| 19 | Cumulatively, this will lead to rapid |
| 20 | population growth. By 2030, the regional |
| 21 | population is expected to double to exceed 230,000 |
| 22 | with Fort McMurray having a population of |
| 23 | approximately 200,000. |
| 24 | However, the Project will not stretch the |
| 25 | community's resources beyond their capacities to |

| 1 | accommodate the Project and its workers. In fact, |
|----|---|
| 2 | the Regional Municipality has entered into a |
| 3 | Memorandum of Understanding with Shell that has as |
| 4 | its goal the mitigation of impacts such that the |
| 5 | Regional Municipality believes that it can |
| 6 | accommodate the socio-economic impacts of the |
| 7 | project. |
| 8 | Now, I indicated that, by 2030, it's |
| 9 | anticipated that Fort McMurray will have a |
| 10 | population of approximately 200,000 people. The |
| 11 | question that I want to pose is: What will Fort |
| 12 | McMurray in 2030 look like? Will it look like the |
| 13 | model of sustainable living as presented by |
| 14 | Mr. Laubenstein in his presentation? Or will it be |
| 15 | a community that is flown over, with chronic |
| 16 | housing shortages and high housing prices, with |
| 17 | transportation issues, and that struggles to |
| 18 | accommodate oil sands growth? |
| 19 | I believe the answer lies in the issues that |
| 20 | I will now address. |
| 21 | With regard to specific socio-economic |
| 22 | issues, the Regional Municipality believes that the |
| 23 | key issues are: |
| 24 | |
| 25 | - Land release; |

| 1 | - Transportation connectiveness; |
|----|---|
| 2 | - Work camp permitting and operation; and |
| 3 | - Fly-in/fly-out operations. |
| 4 | |
| 5 | Firstly, with respect to land release, the |
| 6 | Regional Municipality needs the Provincial |
| 7 | Government to release Crown land on a timely and |
| 8 | appropriate basis. The Regional Municipality needs |
| 9 | the Province to put in place a coherent, effective |
| 10 | and sensible land release strategy that deals with |
| 11 | servicing, access, and valuation issues. |
| 12 | As Mr. Laubenstein indicated in his evidence, |
| 13 | the Regional Municipality requires the Province to |
| 14 | implement an integrated transportation strategy, |
| 15 | without which, proper land release is not possible. |
| 16 | Mr. Laubenstein spoke not only about the need |
| 17 | for the release of land, but also anticipated |
| 18 | impacts on the market. He expressed the view that, |
| 19 | with more land available, the market would correct |
| 20 | over time and there would not be a crash. Put |
| 21 | simply, an effective land release policy is at the |
| 22 | heart of a more sustainable housing picture in Fort |
| 23 | McMurray. |
| 24 | On the issue of long-term supply, Mr. Gordon, |
| 25 | the Regional Municipality's housing expert, gave |
| | |

| 1 | this evidence. And I quote this: |
|----|--|
| 2 | |
| 3 | "So what's required is a |
| 4 | long-term supply of accessible land |
| 5 | with major infrastructure |
| 6 | installed, and by that I mean |
| 7 | mainly transportation, thereby |
| 8 | creating a functioning free |
| 9 | marketplace which will stabilize |
| 10 | land supply and prevent land |
| 11 | shortages and price escalation, in |
| 12 | brackets, speculation, in the |
| 13 | future. |
| 14 | The Municipality is doing |
| 15 | what it can to prevent a shortage |
| 16 | of land, but continued support and |
| 17 | assistance is required from the |
| 18 | Government of Alberta to create a |
| 19 | balanced real estate market in Fort |
| 20 | McMurray." |
| 21 | |
| 22 | For the Regional Municipality to properly |
| 23 | grow and implement its Municipal Development Plan, |
| 24 | the Municipality requires a long-term supply of |
| 25 | land like almost all other cities have the luxury |

| 1 | of. Mr. Laubenstein explained it this way, and I |
|----|--|
| 2 | quote him: |
| 3 | |
| 4 | "Virtually every city that |
| 5 | I've ever managed, and it's a few |
| 6 | of them, has a 5-to-20 year supply |
| 7 | of land available in the hands of |
| 8 | the private sector so they can |
| 9 | manage their own destiny. The |
| 10 | number here is zero." |
| 11 | |
| 12 | On the issue of land release, I think it's |
| 13 | clear from the evidence that we presented that the |
| 14 | Regional Municipality is frustrated with the |
| 15 | Province's approach. While an MoU was signed that |
| 16 | should have created a long-term supply, there |
| 17 | hasn't been that anticipated move forward to get |
| 18 | this accomplished. There has been a lack of |
| 19 | co-ordination between AESRD and Alberta |
| 20 | Transportation. When land is released, it needs to |
| 21 | be accessible. I will say more about access later |
| 22 | on in my presentation. |
| 23 | I now want to turn and talk briefly about |
| 24 | land valuation. |
| 25 | The Regional Municipality's brief discloses |
| | |

that the communities of Fort McMurray, Anzac, and Conklin are identified as the urban centres that require a supply of land. All of these communities are surrounded by tracts of Crown land. centres are the hole in the doughnuts. Province holds all the cards on when, how, and at what value the land will be released. The only progress so far in instituting a long-term land supply for Fort McMurray is the Memorandum of Understanding referred to by Mr. Evans in his evidence.

2.5

Now, with respect to land valuation, I want to sum up the problem this way: Currently, there's a circular problem regarding the issue of land valuation. This is the problem. The expansion of the oil sands industry has put tremendous growth pressure on the Regional Municipality. The population increase has created a huge demand for housing. A key component of housing is land. When land is not released, it becomes scarce and, therefore, more expensive. The longer the land is not released, the more scarce it becomes and, in turn, the more valuable it becomes.

The Province then values the land in a vacuum and will not sell or release land until current

| 1 | appraisal values are met. In effect, the |
|----|--|
| 2 | Province's lack of a coherent and functioning Land |
| 3 | Release Strategy has caused or largely contributed |
| 4 | to the largest component of housing costs; that |
| 5 | being land. |
| 6 | Mr. Evans' description of recent events and |
| 7 | the Province's position exemplifies the |
| 8 | circumstance. To quote Mr. Evans: |
| 9 | |
| 10 | "If I may, it's also not just |
| 11 | explaining the situation to them. |
| 12 | The response that we have received |
| 13 | from one department in particular, |
| 14 | several times over the last year, |
| 15 | is [as read]: |
| 16 | |
| 17 | 'That's not our mandate. Our |
| 18 | mandate is to maximize the |
| 19 | return on a public resource, |
| 20 | which in this case is Crown |
| 21 | land, and if a market price |
| 22 | or if an independent |
| 23 | appraiser determines that |
| 24 | this is a fair price for |
| 25 | land" |
| | |

| 1 | ••• |
|----|---|
| 2 | |
| 3 | " 'then that's what the |
| 4 | price is.'" |
| 5 | |
| 6 | Mr. Evans went on to comment that this |
| 7 | creates an incredibly artificially deformed housing |
| 8 | market or land market. |
| 9 | Mr. Evans then said, and I quote him: |
| 10 | |
| 11 | "More than once I've had an |
| 12 | ADM say to me: |
| 13 | |
| 14 | 'We know this is high, but |
| 15 | that's our appraisal. You |
| 16 | have the right to refuse it |
| 17 | if you don't want to buy |
| 18 | it.'" |
| 19 | |
| 20 | And Mr. Laubenstein had this to say in his |
| 21 | analysis with respect to both land cost and |
| 22 | valuation: |
| 23 | |
| 24 | "The land is often put on the |
| 25 | market by the Province without the |
| | |

| 1 | infrastructure identified. It's |
|----|---|
| 2 | put on as raw land and sold as |
| 3 | developed land. And it spirals the |
| 4 | cost up and does not give the very |
| 5 | thing you're looking for which is |
| 6 | the coordinated design and actually |
| 7 | ends up increasing the costs for |
| 8 | all of us because then those |
| 9 | designs are put on after the land |
| 10 | is sold instead of before." |
| 11 | |
| 12 | All of this, I submit, creates uncertainty |
| 13 | for the development community, a chronic shortage |
| 14 | of land, and escalating costs. |
| 15 | I now want to turn and speak for a moment |
| 16 | about transportation and traffic. |
| 17 | On the issue of traffic volumes and driving |
| 18 | conditions, the Regional Municipality wants to |
| 19 | acknowledge the leadership shown by Premier Redford |
| 20 | relating to twinning Highway 63 south of Fort |
| 21 | McMurray. This is welcome news. And the project |
| 22 | is certainly needed for safety and to accommodate |
| 23 | the traffic flow supporting the oil sands industry. |
| 24 | However, this simply gets the people and industry |
| 25 | to Fort McMurray. What happens then? |

| Clearly, from all accounts, the current |
|---|
| transportation network within the Regional |
| Municipality does not have capacity. |
| Notwithstanding CRISP and other programs, traffic |
| and transportation remains a major issue. |
| Mr. Laubenstein gave evidence that CRISP is |
| unfunded and no government department has taken the |
| lead on implementation. Mr. Laubenstein's evidence |
| can be summed up as follows: |
| |
| - Highway 63 north of Fort |
| McMurray is at times beyond its |
| capacity. |
| - The heavy traffic creates |
| congestion and safety issues; and |
| - Highway 63 is the only route |
| through Fort McMurray and this |
| creates a bottleneck. |
| |
| On the issue of transportation, the Regional |
| Municipality is proposing an eastern bypass route. |
| The eastern bypass route is needed to take pressure |
| off Highway 63 through Fort McMurray. The bypass |
| would reduce the construction and oil sands |
| operations traffic on Highway 63 in the Fort |
| |

McMurray Urban Service Area and allow residents to
move more freely around the Urban Service Area with
respect to commutes and for other pursuits.

2.5

The proposed eastern bypass will essentially be a highway that will divert traffic around Fort McMurray to the east, with a bridge over the Clearwater River, and then connect to the west through the Parsons Creek interchange that needs to yet be completed. This was all described in Mr. Laubenstein's evidence to you.

This Project has been discussed but a plan has not been finalized and there's no funding for this critical piece of infrastructure.

The Regional Municipality has proposed to the Province that an alternative funding model should be discussed with industry so this highway can be built. But, currently, there is no initiative for this to take place.

With respect to both land release and transportation, the Regional Municipality asserts that there needs to be a more unified voice from the Province in its co-ordination of both land release and transportation issues.

Mr. Laubenstein is proposing for the Regional Municipality that some type of authority be put in

1 place that would have the Province, the Federal 2 Government, the Regional Municipality, and industry at the table to deal with these issues. 3 Now, I want to return for a minute and talk 4 about the relationship of land release and 5 6 accessibility. 7 The Regional Municipality made it clear in its evidence that bringing land on the market 8 9 without adequate road access does not and will not solve the housing issue. There needs to be a 10 11 co-ordination by the Provincial Government on land 12 release and land access. This was amplified by the 13 Regional Municipality's housing expert, Mr. Gordon, and I quote him: 14 15 16 "I want to talk briefly about 17 residential land. 18 While some progress has been 19 made in convincing the Alberta 20 Government to release more land, 21 there are still significant 22 challenges in making the bulk of 23 that land accessible to enable 24 residential development. And the 2.5 example I'll use is Parson's Creek.

| 1 | While Parson's Creek, you know, |
|----|---|
| 2 | provides an opportunity for a large |
| 3 | development, to date, only 1,000 |
| 4 | units are available. And that's |
| 5 | because the subdivision isn't |
| 6 | accessible by road. So there's |
| 7 | still a lot of challenges." |
| 8 | |
| 9 | I want to turn now and discuss work camps. |
| 10 | Project accommodations or work camps have |
| 11 | proliferated in an atmosphere where there is a huge |
| 12 | demand for housing but little accommodation |
| 13 | available. Developers have resorted to |
| 14 | fly-in/fly-out operations to mitigate the scarcity |
| 15 | of housing. The Regional Municipality asserts that |
| 16 | this is only a short-term solution, and in the long |
| 17 | run, fly-in/fly-out has a negative impact on the |
| 18 | community. Generally, the Regional Municipality |
| 19 | would prefer to have workers live within the |
| 20 | community. And I now quote from the Regional |
| 21 | Municipality's brief: |
| 22 | |
| 23 | "The Municipality encourages |
| 24 | and supports the efforts of |
| 25 | companies that choose to not use a |

| 1 | fly-in/fly-out model for their |
|----|---|
| 2 | operations workers. Encouraging |
| 3 | operations staff to live within the |
| 4 | community is key to the development |
| 5 | of a thriving and sustainable |
| 6 | region that will support the |
| 7 | development of the oil sands |
| 8 | industry. The Municipality accepts |
| 9 | that temporary or construction |
| 10 | labour may, under certain |
| 11 | circumstances, be housed within |
| 12 | project accommodations; however, |
| 13 | the Municipality is eager to work |
| 14 | with the Province and the oil sands |
| 15 | industry to develop strategies to |
| 16 | encourage permanent, operations |
| 17 | staff to take permanent residency |
| 18 | in the region." |
| 19 | |
| 20 | At this point, and at this time, the Regional |
| 21 | Municipality accepts that Shell's construction |
| 22 | workers may well need to live in work camps, but it |
| 23 | encourages and supports operational workers living |
| 24 | in the community close to the project. |
| 25 | While the overall short-term and long-term |
| | |

| 1 | impacts of fly-in/fly-out operations are not well |
|----|---|
| 2 | understood, as indicated by the Regional |
| 3 | Municipality's evidence, the Regional |
| 4 | Municipality's housing and socio-economic experts |
| 5 | who gave evidence at the hearing were both of the |
| 6 | opinion that fly-in/fly-out models had negative |
| 7 | impacts for the host community. |
| 8 | Firstly, Mr. Gordon gave this evidence |
| 9 | regarding work camp growth: |
| 10 | |
| 11 | "From 2002 to 2005, Fort |
| 12 | McMurray captured 92 percent of the |
| 13 | population growth and the work |
| 14 | camps captured about 8 percent." |
| 15 | |
| 16 | "From 2005 to 2012, Fort |
| 17 | McMurray captured only 29 percent |
| 18 | of the growth, 70 percent of the |
| 19 | growth was in work camps." |
| 20 | |
| 21 | His conclusions from these trends of workers |
| 22 | not locating in the community and therefore not |
| 23 | having their families relocate with them is that it |
| 24 | creates the following: |
| 25 | |

| 1 | - a population imbalance in the |
|----|---|
| 2 | community with an oversupply of |
| 3 | single males; |
| 4 | - it reduces potential |
| 5 | population growth because |
| 6 | population grows with a single |
| 7 | worker versus a worker and his or |
| 8 | her family; and |
| 9 | - it reduces the availability |
| 10 | of workers for other sectors of the |
| 11 | economy, such as retail. |
| 12 | Mr. Gordon indicated that, in his opinion, |
| 13 | all of this will make it very difficult to build an |
| 14 | inclusive and sustainable community in Fort |
| 15 | McMurray. |
| 16 | Mr. Howery, the Regional Municipality's |
| 17 | socio-economic expert had this to say, and I quote |
| 18 | him (as read): |
| 19 | |
| 20 | "Firstly, it was estimated |
| 21 | that in 2001, the population of |
| 22 | work camps was 25 percent of the |
| 23 | total population. By 2012, the |
| 24 | work camp population comprised |
| 25 | 40 percent of the population. |
| | |

| 1 | Secondly, this increase is |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 2 | significant, because with growth, |
| 3 | generally you expect the population |
| 4 | will grow through families and not |
| 5 | single workers. The effect is lost |
| 6 | to the community." |
| 7 | |
| 8 | Mr. Howery went on to say: |
| 9 | |
| 10 | "It's something that |
| 11 | typically you take for granted |
| 12 | that, as a population of a |
| 13 | community grows, that its residents |
| 14 | are comprised of families. And |
| 15 | those families provide a variety of |
| 16 | things to the community that, as I |
| 17 | say, often are taken for granted. |
| 18 | In particular, the family provides |
| 19 | a support base for the family and |
| 20 | for the workers in those families |
| 21 | within that family unit. And that |
| 22 | support base is comprised of a |
| 23 | whole bunch of things which enable |
| 24 | people to thrive and enjoy their |
| 25 | work and non-work life." |
| | |

| 1 | |
|----|--|
| 2 | Mr. Howery was also of the opinion that the |
| 3 | community is deprived of those family workers to |
| 4 | provide a labour force for other local businesses |
| 5 | and that the community was also deprived of |
| 6 | non-paid work activities and volunteer activities. |
| 7 | And this is what Mr. Howery had to say about that: |
| 8 | |
| 9 | " there's another |
| 10 | component to having the complete |
| 11 | family available within a community |
| 12 | is that oftentimes the family also |
| 13 | supports non-paid work activities |
| 14 | and volunteer activities which are |
| 15 | also important to the social fabric |
| 16 | of the community, including schools |
| 17 | and other social support |
| 18 | organizations which are available |
| 19 | in the community to help the |
| 20 | residents of that community." |
| 21 | |
| 22 | He also indicated that having the family in |
| 23 | the community enhances the economic retail base of |
| 24 | the community. |

Therefore, clearly there's evidence before

| 1 | the Panel that there are significant negative |
|----|---|
| 2 | impacts to a fly-in/fly-out model being used by |
| 3 | developers of the oil sands. |
| 4 | Now, Shell actually supports the Regional |
| 5 | Municipality's view of operational workers living |
| 6 | in the community, and you probably will recall the |
| 7 | evidence that Mr. Broadhurst gave. And there was |
| 8 | just one exchange that I wanted to point out to |
| 9 | you, and that comes from a question that |
| 10 | Mr. Perkins asked and that Mr. Broadhurst responded |
| 11 | to in this way: |
| 12 | |
| 13 | "Our focus has always been |
| 14 | and, in fact, it is with all of our |
| 15 | operations in Canada, to look to |
| 16 | have our operating workforce reside |
| 17 | close to the operating location. |
| 18 | That, we think, is the best for the |
| 19 | community." |
| 20 | |
| 21 | I now want to turn and talk about the |
| 22 | operational and permitting challenges of work |
| 23 | camps. |
| 24 | The Regional Municipality illustrated the |
| 25 | following challenge with respect to work camps. |
| | |

1 While there is a municipal requirement that work 2 camps be permitted by the Regional Municipality, 3 many developers do not seek to comply with municipal regulations for work camps. In 2012 4 5 alone, the Regional Municipality found 28 existing 6 camps that were not permitted. 7 Mr. Evans of the Regional Municipality's 8 witness panel believed that part of the problem 9 stems from a lack of cooperation with AESRD. And 10 he had this to say: 11 12 "The leases are issued. 13 a miscellaneous land lease is 14 issued by formerly SRD, now AESRD. 15 And one of the provisions in the 16 leasing process says, more or less, 17 meeting the requirements of this 18 lease should not be construed as 19 meeting any other requirement such 20 as municipal, DFO, what have you. 21 But when the lease is issued, 22 nobody at the Province follows up 23 to make sure that the proponent has 24 gone to any other agencies. And if 2.5 the Province doesn't share the

| 1 | leases with us, we don't know that |
|----|---|
| 2 | anybody's established a camp. So |
| 3 | there have been instances where |
| 4 | operators have received a lease |
| 5 | from the Province and they've |
| 6 | assumed, deliberately or |
| 7 | accidentally, that that was |
| 8 | sufficient and gone on to build |
| 9 | their operation without obtaining a |
| 10 | development permit from the |
| 11 | Municipality." |
| 12 | |
| 13 | Again, from the evidence, this has resulted |
| 14 | in 2012 finding out that there was 28 unpermitted |
| 15 | camps. |
| 16 | Basically on this issue, the Regional |
| 17 | Municipality is concerned with the lack of |
| 18 | communication from AESRD to the Regional |
| 19 | Municipality that a lease has been issued and that |
| 20 | AESRD does not require the developer to show proof |
| 21 | that it has obtained a municipal development permit |
| 22 | to construct and operate the camp. Clearly this |
| 23 | creates safety issues because the Regional |
| 24 | Municipality needs to know where populations are |
| 25 | located for such things as fire suppression and |

| 1 | emergency response. |
|----|--|
| 2 | Mr. Laubenstein had this to say when he |
| 3 | reported on the issue, and I quote him: |
| 4 | |
| 5 | "And you may not recall, but |
| 6 | I think I mentioned earlier on, |
| 7 | this is all, once again, part of |
| 8 | the transportation network. These |
| 9 | camps are approved in isolation, |
| 10 | without input from us originally, |
| 11 | they are all over the place, they |
| 12 | are not coordinated, the |
| 13 | transportation to and from them |
| 14 | isn't there, the quality of life |
| 15 | issues that could be made available |
| 16 | to the camp, people that live in |
| 17 | the camps, aren't there because |
| 18 | they are not clustered. |
| 19 | So those are some of the things that are |
| 20 | addressed in CRISP as a need to |
| 21 | deal with these things, but there's |
| 22 | really nobody doing it." |
| 23 | |
| 24 | In conclusion, regarding the permitting and |
| 25 | operation of camps, the Regional Municipality is |

concerned about safety, emergency access, and unnecessary impacts on the environment.

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With regard to permitting, the issue could be better managed by AESRD alerting the Municipality to any applications for camp accommodations, AESRD requiring a condition that the applicant obtain a development permit from the Regional Municipality and provide proof of that, and that AESRD require monitoring and reporting of camps with yearly reporting on worker spaces that are available in the camp, and for the reporting period, the number of workers per month that resided in the camp.

The Regional Municipality supports the recommendations of CRISP and the goal of its own MDP, both of which support a centralized camp approach through the development of multicamp nodes. This will lessen safety, transportation, and environmental impacts.

On the issue of fly-in/fly-out operations, the Regional Municipality presented evidence in its brief and through Mr. Laubenstein's evidence at the hearing that operational expenditures will soon outpace construction expenditures. The Regional Municipality asserts that now is the time for regulators and industry to promote, encourage and

support workers living in the community where they
work.

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Now, I want to turn and speak briefly about the SEIA process. Since approximately 2000, the Regional Municipality has undergone transformative changes largely because of oil sands development. However, in the Regional Municipality's opinion, research concerning project-specific and cumulative socio-economic impacts is lacking. AESRD has indicated that it is not adequately resourced to review the information provided. In the Regional Municipality's view, this creates an ineffective and inefficient assessment of socio-economic issues facing the region. The Regional Municipality would like to see a more coordinated approach, which includes both senior levels of government, the Regional Municipality, and industry so that socio-economic impacts can be identified, mitigated and monitored.

Prior Review Panels have indicated that they understood the challenges facing the Regional Municipality. The Regional Municipality believes that it is once again the time for the Joint Review Panel to take the lead and provide further comment on this issue.

1 Now, in conclusion, I just want to go through 2 some summarizing points with respect to my 3 presentation and also with respect to 4 recommendations that the Regional Municipality would like the Joint Review Panel to make. 5 Firstly, the Regional Municipality and its 6 7 residents are directly impacted by the Project specifically and by oil sands development generally 8 9 on a cumulative basis. Number 2. The Regional Municipality does not 10 11 oppose Shell's application of Expansion of its 12 Jackpine Mine as it relates to socio-economic 13 issues that impact the Regional Municipality and 14 its residents. 15 Number 3. The Regional Municipality leaves 16 issues of air quality, water quality, land use, and 17 Aboriginal and Treaty Rights to those parties that are statutorily and otherwise responsible for these 18 19 issues. 20 Number 4. The Regional Municipality remains 21 concerned about the manner in which socio-economic 22 reviews are conducted and recommends that the Joint 23 Review Panel recommend to the Provincial Government 24 that the Regional Municipality be consulted earlier

in the process so that, number one, there is more

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2.5

collaboration amongst the Province, the Regional
Municipality and industry on project-specific and
cumulative impacts, and number two, there is more
clarity on the socio-economic assessment mandate of
the Joint Review Panel. Clearly, further work
needs to be done having regard to the unprecedented
impacts on the region and what is yet to come.

Number 5. The Regional Municipality is concerned and frustrated with the lack of a coordinated provincial approach to land release in the region. The Regional Municipality requests that the Joint Review Panel strongly urge the Government of Alberta to implement and execute a coherent land release policy having regard to the unique issues in the Wood Buffalo region. This policy should include servicing, access, and valuation of land that reflects these unique issues.

Number 6. The Regional Municipality is concerned about the dramatic increase and proliferation of work camp population and the process of fly-in/fly-out operations and requests that the Joint Review Panel recommend to the Province of Alberta that its Ministries work more closely with the Regional Municipality to report

1 work camp applications, require proof of municipal 2 permitting, and recommend to Alberta and Canada to 3 identify, assess, and monitor the impacts of fly-in/fly-out workforce models on host 4 5 communities. 6 The Regional Municipality specifically 7 requests that the Joint Review Panel find on the 8 evidence presented in this hearing that 9 fly-in/fly-out operations have a negative impact on the region. 10 11 Number 7. The Joint Review Panel recommend 12 to Canada that it participate in funding of 13 transportation projects of regional significance, priorized by the Alberta Oil Sands Area 14 15 Transportation Coordination Committee. There are tremendous benefits that flow to Canada from the 16 17 development of the oil sands and there's very 18 little evidence of funding for infrastructure back 19 from the Federal Government. 20 Number 8. The Regional Municipality requests 21 that the Joint Review Panel recommend to the 22 Government of Alberta that it fund CRISP so that 23 critical infrastructure can be built on a timely 24 basis. And finally, number 9, the Regional 2.5

| 1 | | Municipality a | sks the Joint Review Panel to make it |
|----|-------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2 | | a condition of | its approval that Shell comply with |
| 3 | | all municipal | regulations that are not inconsistent |
| 4 | | with the Joint | Review Panel's approval of the |
| 5 | | Project. | |
| 6 | | Thank yo | u very much. |
| 7 | THE C | HAIRMAN: | Thank you, sir. |
| 8 | | Mr. Lamb | recht? |
| 9 | MR. L | AMBRECHT: | Sir, I have a number of |
| 10 | | submissions th | at I intend to make. Having regard |
| 11 | | to the suggest | ion from the Panel earlier that we |
| 12 | | should perhaps | take more frequent breaks, what I |
| 13 | | would propose | to do is to deal with two of the |
| 14 | | issues that I | need to deal with and then suggest |
| 15 | | that we take a | break at that point. That's a |
| 16 | | natural point | in the submissions. And I will then |
| 17 | | turn to the th | ird issue which takes up the bulk of |
| 18 | | the time in my | submissions here. |
| 19 | THE C | HAIRMAN: | Sir, how long do you think |
| 20 | | you'd be in to | tal? |
| 21 | MR. L | AMBRECHT: | About an hour I now think. |
| 22 | | It was a littl | e more than what I'd initially |
| 23 | | estimated, but | I need to be responsive to some of |
| 24 | | the things tha | t were said here. |
| 25 | THE C | HAIRMAN: | What we could do is take a |

| 1 | break now for about 15 minutes and then you |
|----|--|
| 2 | wouldn't have to break up your flow. |
| 3 | MR. LAMBRECHT: That will work for me |
| 4 | perfectly. And what I would suggest in that period |
| 5 | of time is that I intend to make reference to one |
| 6 | exhibit. I will refer to other exhibits in the |
| 7 | course of my submissions, but it might be helpful |
| 8 | if the Panel staff and other counsel had 005-021 |
| 9 | available when we return. These are the |
| 10 | submissions of the Attorney General in response to |
| 11 | the Notices of Constitutional Question filed with |
| 12 | the Joint Review Panel. I'll be making some |
| 13 | reference to some of the factual materials there |
| 14 | during the course of my submissions. |
| 15 | THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks, sir. |
| 16 | So I have 1:50 p.m. We'll take 15 minutes. |
| 17 | MR. LAMBRECHT: Thank you, sir. |
| 18 | |
| 19 | (The Afternoon Adjournment) |
| 20 | |
| 21 | THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Lambrecht, would you like |
| 22 | to proceed? |
| 23 | MR. LAMBRECHT: Thank you, sir. |
| 24 | |
| 25 | FINAL ARGUMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA, BY |

1 MR. LAMBRECHT:

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2 MR. LAMBRECHT: My name is Kirk Lambrecht. 3 represent the Attorney General of Canada in this proceeding. The Attorney General has two functions 4 5 in this respect: First, we represent Transport 6 Canada, Natural Resources Canada, the Department of Fisheries, and Environment Canada, who had 7 8 presented scientific or expert information or 9 knowledge which may assist the Panel both in their report on October 1st in the evidence which their 10 11 panel gave and in the various aspects in which they 12 have participated in the EPEA process leading to 13 the appointment of this Panel; in particular, in 14 the SIRs in that process.

I have submissions on three issues that are set out in the final argument issues list provided by counsel for the Panel: 4.d., Air Emissions, which is very brief; 5.c., Wildlife, which is very brief; and 7, Aboriginal Groups and Issues, which is the most extensive of the submissions that I will be making to the Panel this afternoon.

Time is limited and it is not possible to address all the recommendations outlined in the evidence of Transport Canada, Natural Resources

Canada, Environment Canada, and the Department of

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Fisheries and Oceans filed on October 1st. So I
would like to thank the Panel and the staff for
their consideration of those and the consideration
of the evidence that the Federal Government
witnesses gave during cross-examination and through
undertakings.

At this point, I would note that there are seven undertakings outstanding. I have advised my clients of the importance of providing undertakings before the close of argument and I continue to advise them of the importance of providing undertakings as soon as possible.

So with respect to issue of 4.d., Asphaltenes in Co-Generation, Environment Canada would like to note that evidence within the departmental submission dated on October 1st did not contain specific concerns related to the use of asphaltene for co-generation. This was a direct result of communications between Environment Canada and the JRP in a letter dated December 6th, 2011, and Shell's response dated January 18th, 2012, indicating that Shell was not currently seeking approval of Asphaltene Energy Recovery, or AER, as a part of the Jackpine Mine Expansion Project.

Should the Project proceed and should Shell

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reconsider that position, and the proposed use of asphaltene for co-generation in future, Environment Canada would like to note that there has not been an adequate assessment of the impact of the burning of asphaltenes for co-generation and, therefore, that it would like to participate in the additional information-gathering and assessment that should be required in that respect.

With respect to issue 5.c., Wildlife,
Environment Canada's operational framework for the
use of conservation allowances provides guidance on
important design elements that may be used when
allowances are considered. An important
consideration that allowances are in addition to
existing legislation regulations, programs, land
use plans and funding, and are intended to provide
an overall net benefit following land disturbance,
ultimately, how conservation allowances and
conservation areas may be viewed by Alberta under
LARP or integrated into LARP is unknown as the
biodiversity framework and landscape management
plan of LARP have not yet been developed and will
not be completed until the end of 2013.

Although the final intent of the Province of Alberta is not known, page 45 of LARP does

recognize the potential role of conservation

offsets in landscape planning. This is referenced

outside the consideration of conservation areas as

defined within LARP.

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Now, with respect to issue number 7,

Aboriginal Groups and Individuals, I would like to
spend some time on what I understand to be the
functions of the Panel regarding Aboriginal Rights
and Interests.

The theme of this submission, I think, is going to be that the Panel has a potential role as a catalyst in policy development via its recommendations. And so the functions of the Panel in this regard are set out in clause 6.2 of the Joint Review Panel Agreement. And these require the Panel to make findings of effects of the Project on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, and I would assume in this that "effects" includes environmental effects as now defined in Section 5(1)(c) of CEAA, 2012, and also requires the Panel to make recommendations respecting the manner in which the Project may adversely affect the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights asserted by the participants.

I note, to begin, that many of the Aboriginal

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parties and the other parties involved have been very supportive of the Panel process. Ms. Bishop, in her submissions, described it as a very rewarding process. Chief Adam thanked the Panel, as I understood him, or as I heard him, for taking the time to listen to the ACFN concerns. And Mr. Mallon indicated that governments listen to Panel recommendations, or at least have done so in the past.

So in the larger picture of the function of this Tribunal within the Project development process, it may be helpful to look at the chart at page 86 of the submissions that I filed in response to the Notices of Question of Constitutional Law that are at Exhibit 005-021. This, in effect, summarizes in a satellite-level picture how a project development for major projects like the Shell Jackpine Mine Expansion go through stages of development and that there are different procedural requirements appropriate to different problems at different stages of the project development process.

So in general, in general terms, in my submission, the jurisprudence establishes that Treaty and Aboriginal Rights fall within the

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existing frameworks of Canadian law. And that framework in Canadian law has long recognized that the legislative branch of government may create specialist tribunals, and, indeed, the Energy Resources Conservation Board is a good example of one of the long-standing tribunals in Canadian history, dating back to a very early time in the history of Alberta and the management of resources under Alberta's jurisdiction.

For controversial projects, it is, indeed, reasonable for the Crown to integrate its

Aboriginal consultation with existing tribunal process. In other words, it is reasonable for the Crown to rely on quasi-judicial tribunals recognized as operating independently of the executive branch of government to fulfill the functions described in Section 6.2 of the Terms of Reference of this Panel; that is, to make findings of effects of the Project on Treaty and Aboriginal Rights and to make recommendations respecting the manner in which the Project may adversely affect Aboriginal and Treaty Rights asserted by the participants.

This is consistent with the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in **Haida**, where, at

| 1 | paragraph 51, the Court said that: |
|----|---|
| 2 | |
| 3 | "It is open to governments to |
| 4 | set up regulatory schemes to |
| 5 | address the procedural requirements |
| 6 | appropriate to different problems |
| 7 | at different stages" |
| 8 | |
| 9 | Of the project development process. So the |
| 10 | key here is to recognize that major projects like |
| 11 | the Shell Jackpine Mine Expansion move through |
| 12 | stages. I have attempted to present these in |
| 13 | paragraph 86 of the exhibit that I've referred you |
| 14 | to as Planning, Approval and Development. And if |
| 15 | you accept that overarching analysis, then where we |
| 16 | are now is in the planning stage of the Project, |
| 17 | asking the tribunal to determine what are the |
| 18 | effects of the Project on Aboriginal and Treaty |
| 19 | Rights. This is the findings aspect of the Panel's |
| 20 | jurisdiction. And then the question arises: "What |
| 21 | should be done about such effects?" |
| 22 | Now, here, I am going to focus my submissions |
| 23 | on the Project-specific effects, briefly, but also |
| 24 | some of the cumulative effects. |
| 25 | You will see in both the Terms of Reference |

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issued by Alberta Environment for the Environmental Impact Assessment, which is prepared under EPEA, and in the Terms of Reference for this Panel, so both of these Terms of Reference, the one for the Environmental Impact Assessment and the one for the Panel, that a Cumulative Effects Environmental Assessment is done. And this is where the Aboriginal concerns intersect with the functions of the Panel.

In my submission, the responsibility for answering the question "What should be done about such effects?" is distributed. It does not rest solely upon the Crown. First, and you heard Mr. Denstedt make some submissions to you about this earlier on, it falls to Shell to discharge the consultation obligations that fall upon it under the EIA Terms of Reference and to do what it can do to address Aboriginal concerns. Mr. Denstedt outlined some of these things, but they are, for example, since we are at the planning stage of the Project, it is possible to make relatively cost-effective changes in the design of the Project to address or attempt to address Aboriginal concerns. The illustration of this that Shell advances is the position it has taken with respect

1 to the diversion of the Muskeg River.

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Shell is also in a position to attempt to structure the economic benefits of the Project in such a way that it can engage in the process of give-and-take with Aboriginal groups who can, therefore, benefit from the economic activity around them without in any way limiting their desire to pursue traditional lifestyles pursuant to Treaty or asserted Aboriginal Rights.

So Shell has some capacity to address

Project-specific concerns and it also has some
capacity to address cumulative concerns. And you
heard the vice-president of heavy oil operations
testify that Shell's willing to do its part in
participating with stakeholder groups of different
kinds and regional initiatives of different kinds
to address cumulative effects.

After Shell comes this Panel. This Panel has the ability to make conditions of its approval.

And the capacity of these to address Aboriginal concerns is outlined in some evidence which I have set out at paragraph number 89 of the exhibit that I've taken you to. And this is a document dated September 30th, 2011 where this JRP clarified the Panel's mandate respecting Aboriginal rights and

| 1 | interests and Aboriginal consultation obligations. |
|----|--|
| 2 | It indicates here, and I'm going to refer you |
| 3 | to the indented passage in paragraph 89 and read |
| 4 | sentences from it, beginning with this one: |
| 5 | |
| 6 | "The Panel's mandate in |
| 7 | relation to aboriginal rights and |
| 8 | interests is set out in Article 6 |
| 9 | of the Joint Review Panel |
| 10 | agreement. The Panel has a clear |
| 11 | mandate to receive information |
| 12 | about perceived impacts on |
| 13 | aboriginal rights, including treaty |
| 14 | rights, and the effects the project |
| 15 | may have on those rights. The |
| 16 | Panel is also required to document |
| 17 | in its final report all such |
| 18 | information provided by |
| 19 | participants. This clearly |
| 20 | indicates that the Panel has a |
| 21 | mandate to hear and report on the |
| 22 | concerns described by the ACFN and |
| 23 | MCFN in your letter, to the extent |
| 24 | those relate to the project and the |
| 25 | environmental assessment to be |
| | |

| 1 | undertaken by the panel." |
|----|---|
| 2 | |
| 3 | And then going on at the passage at the |
| 4 | bottom of page 34 of the submissions and the top of |
| 5 | page 35: |
| 6 | |
| 7 | "The Panel is not the Crown |
| 8 | and does not have a consultation |
| 9 | obligation arising out of the duty |
| 10 | of the Crown, as described in the |
| 11 | Haida and Mikisew decisions. The |
| 12 | common law has established that the |
| 13 | regulatory process is well-suited |
| 14 | to address issues that are site or |
| 15 | project-specific" |
| 16 | |
| 17 | And that is the passage that I want to |
| 18 | emphasize here in underscoring the role of the |
| 19 | Panel in addressing some Aboriginal concerns. |
| 20 | So I go on in the quotation: |
| 21 | |
| 22 | " but it is not intended |
| 23 | or designed to address larger |
| 24 | issues of the overall impact of |
| 25 | development, on a regional basis, |

| 1 | on rights exercised throughout the |
|----|---|
| 2 | region. Such regional concerns may |
| 3 | be raised by parties in the course |
| 4 | of the proceeding and the |
| 5 | information so provided reported by |
| 6 | the Panel, but the Panel cannot |
| 7 | give any advance assurance that it |
| 8 | will make decisions based on what |
| 9 | it hears about those concerns. The |
| 10 | Panel's hearing process may, |
| 11 | however, assist the Crown to meet |
| 12 | its consultation obligations to |
| 13 | First Nations." |
| 14 | |
| 15 | Now, the evidence that has been placed before |
| 16 | you in terms of what at least is the intent of the |
| 17 | Crown after the Panel makes its report with its |
| 18 | findings and recommendations is set out on the |
| 19 | Federal side in Appendix 3 of these written |
| 20 | submissions, and on the Provincial side, at |
| 21 | paragraph 80 of the written submissions. |
| 22 | Let me restate this. |
| 23 | The Crown has a capacity to consult and |
| 24 | accommodate after the Joint Review Panel report and |
| 25 | before making any additional decisions which are |
| | |

1 essential preconditions to the final investment 2 decisions by Shell and its joint venture partners. 3 How that capacity may be exercised should be informed by the Panel report and its 4 recommendations. And here, I restate the theme 5 that there is a potential here for the Panel to act 6 7 as a catalyst for policy evolution via its 8 recommendations. 9 Now, I would like to take a moment to address 10 a submission made by Ms. Biem on behalf of the ACFN 11 during her submissions when she indicated with 12 respect to the evidence of the Department of 13 Fisheries and Oceans particularly that nobody 14 considered the Treaty Rights. With the greatest of 15 respect, this is honestly mistaken. The transcript 16 at page 3558, line 20, to 3559, line 10, which is a 17 question from Mr. Perkins to Mr. Makowecki, indicates that Mr. Makowecki did, indeed, consider 18 19 Treaty Rights. Similar, the same effect is 20 transcript passage 3658, line 4, to 3659, line 17, 21 which was a question from Panel Member Cooke to 22 Mr. Makowecki. 23 The ACFN in the course of their evidence have 24 filed an entire binder containing the complete 25 record of correspondence between various

| 1 | departmental officials and the ACFN on the issues |
|----|---|
| 2 | of Aboriginal consultation. That's Exhibit 006-013 |
| 3 | and its appendices. And an examination of that |
| 4 | will indicate that Mr. Makowecki and DFO that |
| 5 | DFO officials participated in that. The DFO |
| 6 | written evidence of October 1st also makes this |
| 7 | clear. |
| 8 | So I'm merely going to refer here to certain |
| 9 | parts of the DFO evidence that is filed on the |
| 10 | record. The bottom of page 8 of that document, |
| 11 | under the heading "Traditional Use of Lands and |
| 12 | Resources", it shows on the face of it that the |
| 13 | Department of Fisheries and Oceans considered |
| 14 | Treaty Rights and Métis rights in the course of the |
| 15 | preparation of their evidence. |
| 16 | Recommendations 2 and 3 include |
| 17 | recommendations respecting the incorporation of |
| 18 | components of cultural significance and traditional |
| 19 | uses of land and resources. So does recommendation |
| 20 | number 9. |
| 21 | And with respect to fish, Aboriginal |
| 22 | fisheries particularly, paragraph 22 contains the |
| 23 | following statement: |
| 24 | |
| 25 | "Assessing the influence of |

| 1 | oil sands development on the status |
|----|--|
| 2 | of commercial, recreational and |
| 3 | Aboriginal fisheries and the fish |
| 4 | and fish habitat that support them |
| 5 | is challenging. The review of the |
| 6 | monitoring information to date |
| 7 | indicates that there is limited |
| 8 | spatial coverage within the fish |
| 9 | population dataset, a lack of |
| 10 | reference areas and sites, a |
| 11 | limited number of years of |
| 12 | information gathered and the |
| 13 | complication of alterations to the |
| 14 | sampling design between years. |
| 15 | These factors make it difficult to |
| 16 | establish the level of natural |
| 17 | variability of fish populations at |
| 18 | the regional level." |
| 19 | |
| 20 | So I turn to the main theme of my submissions |
| 21 | here. Far from it being the case that no one is |
| 22 | considering Aboriginal or Treaty Rights. The truth |
| 23 | of the matter is is that everybody here is |
| 24 | considering Treaty and asserted Aboriginal Rights. |
| 25 | The submissions of Mr. Denstedt outline what Shell |
| | |

did in that respect. And I heard him to say that, at least with respect to Métis rights, that they assumed that such rights existed; a point that I will come to later when I indicate that the Panel process is not a process of proof of rights but one of avoidance of impacts on actual or asserted rights.

The Panel's Terms of Reference require it to consider Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, and that is the case with respect to both the Terms of Reference for the EIA and the Terms of Reference for this Panel.

And the evidentiary submissions of Canada show that they considered Aboriginal Rights. I have taken you to some of the evidence with respect to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. I would like to take you to the conclusion of the evidence of Transport Canada at page 15 of its submissions where it says -- oh, I'm sorry, I'm going to come to that in due course. What I wanted to take you to is the submissions of Transport Canada filed on October 1st at page 7 of the document itself, quoting, under the heading "Potential Cumulative Effects on Navigation:

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| 1 | "Transport Canada |
|----|---|
| 2 | acknowledges that navigability of |
| 3 | the Athabasca River is important to |
| 4 | traditional use activities and |
| 5 | general recreational use. |
| 6 | Transport Canada understands that |
| 7 | Aboriginal groups are concerned |
| 8 | with water withdrawals from the |
| 9 | Athabasca River and the potential |
| 10 | impacts on navigation, including |
| 11 | during low flow open water periods |
| 12 | in the lower Athabasca River and |
| 13 | the Peace Athabasca Delta. Taking |
| 14 | into consideration concerns |
| 15 | expressed, and based upon a review |
| 16 | of the information provided by |
| 17 | Shell in the environmental |
| 18 | assessment review process including |
| 19 | the updated cumulative effects |
| 20 | assessment, Transport Canada is of |
| 21 | the opinion that impacts to |
| 22 | navigation on the Athabasca River |
| 23 | would be negligible." |
| 24 | |
| 25 | So all of the parties, without exception, |
| | |

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have taken care to try to bring the best science
that they could to this Panel, and this Panel has
heard that, with respect to all of parties,
recognizing that the positions of the parties and,
in some cases, the positions of the scientists do
not necessarily correspond with one another. This
is normal in the course of panel proceedings of
this type. And in that sense, what I mean is that
it is natural in our tribunal process and in the
presentation of scientific opinion that opinions
may vary. And that is why the legislative branches
of government have conferred upon this Panel a
fact-finding and advisory function.

And so I am not here to make submissions to you about what recommendations you should make or how you should exercise the difficult job that falls to you of making findings and making recommendations. But I am here to observe that many of the submissions — I wish to direct some submissions to what I see as a rather challenging issue that has arisen in this proceeding. And it is this: That many of the Aboriginal submissions seek recommendations, which are often broad, and which may be said, at least in some cases, to be only remotely related to Project-specific effects.

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In a more plain-language way, I think it is fair to say that at this stage in the development of oil sands in this region of Alberta, everyone recognizes that concerns have the capacity to transcend project-specific planning process. The Aboriginal recommendations that I have heard have root in two different sources: One is cumulative effects, of what is often described as the development case scenario, or just generally cumulative effects of what exists today and what may exist in future, together with issues respecting Crown Consultation and accommodation issues generally.

And so, for example, to illustrate some of this, the ACFN and the MCFN, if I may refer to them by those acronyms because those acronyms appear frequently in the filed evidence, request a TRUMP, Treaty Resource Use Management Plan, an acronym which clearly has a double entendre; firstly, it is not only proposed as a valuable planning document for a panel like this and other decision-makers, but it is also intended as a pre-condition to any development within the traditional lands of those First Nations.

The Métis, as I understand their submission,

| 1 | seek inclusion of Métis in Alberta's Aboriginal |
|----|---|
| 2 | Consultation Policy. |
| 3 | The Fort McKay filed Exhibit 009-011, which |
| 4 | included a number of recommendations, and there's |
| 5 | two that I'd like to refer to; I just need a moment |
| 6 | to locate that document. Yes, the first of these |
| 7 | is the third bullet under paragraph 22 (a), and it |
| 8 | asks that the Panel recommend to Alberta and |
| 9 | Canada: |
| 10 | |
| 11 | "A commitment and process by |
| 12 | Alberta and Canada to consult and |
| 13 | accommodate Fort McKay with respect |
| 14 | to the impacts of regional |
| 15 | development on its aboriginal and |
| 16 | treaty rights." |
| 17 | |
| 18 | And the opening words of paragraph 23 are |
| 19 | similar: |
| 20 | |
| 21 | "Fort McKay also requests |
| 22 | that the Panel recommend to Canada |
| 23 | and Alberta that they appoint |
| 24 | negotiators with the necessary |
| 25 | mandate to negotiate accommodation |
| | |

| 1 | measures with Fort McKay" |
|----|--|
| 2 | |
| 3 | Mr. Mallon, on behalf of the MCFN, made it |
| 4 | clear that the MCFN concerns were cumulative |
| 5 | effects with respect to overall development in the |
| 6 | region and that the MCFN did not oppose the |
| 7 | development of this particular project. |
| 8 | Mr. Malcolm, for his part, sought recognition |
| 9 | of rights and Section 35 rights, including a |
| 10 | consultation process with capacity funding. |
| 11 | So if we go back to some of the basic |
| 12 | questions: "What are the effects of the Project |
| 13 | and what can be done about these effects?" |
| 14 | The effects are clearly, some of them, |
| 15 | Project-specific, and I'm going to leave those to |
| 16 | the jurisdiction of the Panel and its staff. |
| 17 | There's tremendous expertise here to deal with |
| 18 | Project-specific effects. The Panel has a mandate |
| 19 | with respect to hearing Aboriginal concerns and |
| 20 | reporting on these. And through this mandate have |
| 21 | come a flood of recommendations, some of which I |
| 22 | just listed for you. And the question is, well, |
| 23 | what to do with these? Clearly, the ability of |
| 24 | Shell to address some of these issues has been |
| 25 | exhausted or it's simply beyond Shell's capacity. |

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In addition, this Panel is limited by the mandate conferred upon it by the legislative branch of government. And that mandate does not extend to some -- except in the respect of making the recommendations and the reporting of what it has heard -- does not extend to compelling the Crowns to take these steps that are requested.

So what should we do with these?

My submission to you is that the Panel should report these matters and, in that respect, what I have found from participating in this Panel process over the last month, but especially in the last three weeks when the parties bring evidence and that evidence is tested by way of cross-examination, that you, Panel Members, are in an absolutely unique place because of your role in the Project development process at this early time and because of the mandate that has been conferred upon you.

No one in this country is better placed than you, at this time, to articulate and to some extent to prioritize according to the views that you see fit what may need to be done to reconcile the intrusion of industrial development into a boreal landscape that, prior to that time, had supported

1 Aboriginal use from time immemorial.

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And in addition to the reporting that you're obliged to do by the Terms of Reference, I encourage you to have the courage to do what the Regional Municipality urged you to do in its submissions: Which is to take the lead. Or which the Mikisew Cree urged upon you in its submissions: Which is to put the heat on the governments.

I prefer the Regional Municipality expression of that, but I recognize that there are many challenges that governments face. So, for example, to go back to the point about the growing maturity of oil sands development and our appreciation of that in this region, no one really disputes that oil sands development will have cumulative effects within this region. I heard Shell acknowledge that in its evidence and in its submissions of counsel. I'm hearing that from the Regional Municipality. I doubt that any of the Aboriginal groups would disagree with that observation. And you will find that expression in the evidence of the Government of Canada.

So, for example, at page 15 of the submission filed on October 1st by Environment Canada, you will find the following paragraph:

| 1 | |
|----|--|
| 2 | "EC shares concerns with the |
| 3 | Aboriginal groups regarding the |
| 4 | potential cumulative environmental |
| 5 | effects on air quality, greenhouse |
| 6 | gases, water quality, and wildlife, |
| 7 | including biodiversity, resulting |
| 8 | from oil sands development in |
| 9 | northern Alberta. Individual |
| 10 | project reviews may not fully |
| 11 | account for the broad range of |
| 12 | cumulative regional impacts given |
| 13 | their project-scale focus. The |
| 14 | need to address cumulative effects |
| 15 | on a regional scale requires the |
| 16 | cooperation and collaboration of |
| 17 | all orders of government, |
| 18 | proponents, stakeholders and |
| 19 | Aboriginal groups to coordinate |
| 20 | actions to minimize and mitigate |
| 21 | risks, monitor effects, and to |
| 22 | manage consequences related to |
| 23 | development." |
| 24 | |
| 25 | And so you can see that there has been |

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progress here. Many of the counsel before you are outstanding counsel. Well, I think they are all outstanding, but I've been struck by the fact that, really, you have before you some of the counsel that have been here almost from -- that have participated in so many regulatory hearings involving oil sands mines, that there's a tremendous richness of depth.

Mr. Perkins, I heard him say he has done nine of these. I'm not sure if that relates to oil sands specifically. Ms. Buss has been here from the beginning. The Mikisew Cree have been here from the beginning and I think represented by Mr. Mallon for many, many years. And we go on down the line. Mr. Denstedt saying he's had 23 years of experience of practice in front of this Panel. And I know, Mr. Dilay, that you have been involved in some of the other panels involving oil sands particularly.

So we all know that the tools that are used to manage cumulative effects have certainly evolved. As I see it, one of the primary catalysts to policy evolution were prior recommendations from this Panel; noting that each case, in the absence of some broader framework of thresholds, against

1 which the Panel could measure individual project 2 contributions within a regional framework, the 3 absence of such a thing weighed more heavily in the public interest with each passing case. 4 I'm sorry that I did not take the time to find the exact 5 articulation of that language, but the "weighs more 6 7 heavily" phrase is found in a number of the reports 8 from the early reports of this century, of these 9 Joint Review Panels, from prior oil sands mines in the early part of the century. 10 11 Now, the response, as I understand it, is 12 that the Government of Alberta introduced the 13 Alberta Land Stewardship Act and made the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan, or LARP, the highest 14 15 priority under that Act. And LARP is now beginning to be rolled out. 16 17 In addition, the Government of Canada is 18 trying to work jointly with Alberta in the joint 19 Canada-Alberta Monitoring Plan. That found 20 expression -- that found support in the report of 21 the Auditor General of Canada in October 2011, 22 Chapter 2 at paragraph 2.4.2, where the Auditor 23 General said: 24 2.5 "We are encouraged by the

1 government's commitments in response to the work of the Oil 2 3 Sands Advisory Panel. We will monitor the government's progress 4 5 in putting into effect monitoring 6 systems in keeping with the 7 principles set out by the Panel." 8 9 So everyone recognizes that there is a need to better manage cumulative effects in this region. 10 11 This Panel has recognized that in the past. And, 12 indeed, you've heard from some of the participants 13 about some of the frustrations in that regard; the 14 interim nature of the Muskeg River Water Management 15 Framework, the lack of apparent completion of the 16 Phase 2 Water Management Framework for the 17 Athabasca River, et cetera. 18 What I'm here to submit to you is that, 19 having regard to the many challenges that the Crown 20 faces, the report that you will prepare will not 21 only be informative but may have an actual 22 catalytic effect on policy development. 23 encourage you to consider the potential of your 24 capacity in this regard. 2.5 I was intrigued in listening to the evidence

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of the Regional Municipality which described how challenging it was in working with the Province on such a simple matter as finding out whether a miscellaneous lease was issued. So the Municipality has to come here to ask you to recommend to the Alberta Government that it please tell the Municipality that it has issued a work camp lease or general lease on which there'll be a work camp.

I don't mean this to be critical. I mean this to be a sober observation that what some describe as the unlimited capacity of the Crown is really not unlimited. The Crown has capacity to attempt to address Aboriginal concerns and to accommodate them where necessary, but there are many, many challenges in meeting that.

Amongst these, I would point out, that we are now operating in a period of fiscal restraint arising from the economic crash in 2008. And while we were sitting, both the governments of Alberta and Canada noted that international conditions are such that the fiscal restraint period will carry on for a longer period of time than had been budgeted for just even last year.

Now, this has implications for many of the

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requests that the First Nations put in front of the Panel, or indeed that the Regional Municipality puts in front of the Panel. But amongst them, amongst the issues that I heard today were capacity funding, the funding for what is described as the TRUMP, and the funding for various accommodations requested of the government.

To this I would add human resource constraint. It is often said as an almost automatic response that the government has unlimited resources, but the government acts through personnel and those personnel or human resources are precious and limited and, particularly, under stress in periods of time of fiscal restraint.

So if you are so inclined to take the lead on prioritizing some of what you see that governments can do to accommodate and address Aboriginal concerns before they make further decisions in the Project development process, or, if you prefer, if you are inclined to put the heat on governments in this respect, I invite you to do so. Because, as I've said at the beginning, the Crown has the capacity after the Panel report, and before it takes any further decisions in respect of this

1 Project, to do some consultation and accommodation, 2 but there are many challenges in that respect. 3 how the Crown may exercise that capacity should be informed by this Panel report. 4 5 And so if you should choose to prioritize 6 some of the recommendations that you're obliged to 7 report, and add the commentary that is within your privilege because of the unique position that the 8 9 Panel has not only in respect of this Project but in prior projects, sitting at the middle of the oil 10 11 sands development and being the primary tribunal in 12 the planning process for oil sands development, I 13 would invite you to do so. 14 Whether you do so is up to you. How the 15 Crown responds is beyond my capacity to predict. 16 But I think we have here an important institution 17 of democratic government that Aboriginal groups 18 have described as very rewarding and which they 19 hope the government will listen to. 20 So, sir, Panel Members, subject to any 21 questions you have, those are my submissions. 22 THE CHAIRMAN: We have no questions, sir. 23 Thank you very much. 24 MR. LAMBRECHT: Thank you very much. We'll take about 15 minutes 2.5 THE CHAIRMAN:

| 1 | | and turn to your repl | y, Mr. Denstedt. |
|----|-------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 | MR. D | DENSTEDT: | Fifteen minutes is fine, sir. |
| 3 | THE C | CHAIRMAN: | Thank you. |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | (BR | IEF BREAK) |
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| 7 | THE C | CHAIRMAN: | Mr. Denstedt, Shell's reply? |
| 8 | MR. D | ENSTEDT: | Mr. Chairman, Panel, thank |
| 9 | | you. | |
| 10 | | | |
| 11 | REPLY | SUBMISSIONS OF SHELL | CANADA, BY MR. DENSTEDT: |
| 12 | MR. D | ENSTEDT: | Reply is always a little |
| 13 | | ragged based on putti | ng things together, so don't |
| 14 | | expect much flow from | this. We're just trying to |
| 15 | | hit the issues we wan | t to remark on. Where we |
| 16 | | haven't responded to | somebody, we believe it's |
| 17 | | clear on the record w | hat the issues are and what |
| 18 | | our position and thei | r position are, so I'm going |
| 19 | | to try and resist the | temptation to go back to my |
| 20 | | very, very lengthy fi | nal argument and stick with |
| 21 | | what's new. | |
| 22 | | So let me start | with the Métis Nation and, |
| 23 | | first of all, deal wi | th some of the legal issues |
| 24 | | that my friend, Ms. B | ishop, raised. And quite |
| 25 | | frankly, I wasn't sur | e what her point was in |

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respect of *R. v. Powley*. That is a case that is used to determine whether in fact or not the Métis group has rights. As we've said all along, Shell has assumed that the Métis have the rights that they assert, and they consulted on that basis.

Which brings me to Ms. Bishop's references to Haida where she indicated that in that case there were asserted rights which created the obligation to consult. And, again, Shell agrees with that. It does have that obligation and it did fulfill that obligation in respect of the procedural aspects of consultation.

Where we disagree is where Ms. Bishop says

Shell did not consult. And I would simply refer to

Panel to the record and, in particular, the

Traditional Land Use Studies that Shell provided

funding for for the Métis Locals 125, 1935, and 63.

My friend also said that the Mark of the

Métis book which was filed as part of the evidence
here shows in those maps that are in that book that
traditional uses were being exercised in the LSA.

I'd urge the Panel to take a close look at those
maps and take a close look at Mr. Fortna's
testimony. And I'd suggest to you that, first of
all, the Métis Nation doesn't seem to know where

the Project footprint is. And those maps do not demonstrate uses in the Local Study Area.

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And she also said yesterday, "Remember Johnny Grant and that Shell didn't speak to him." And, again, we find ourselves in agreement with

Ms. Bishop: "Remember Mr. Grant." And take a look at his will-say statement. His trapline is located 30 miles north of the Project on the Margeurite River. And that would not qualify him for consultation under Directive 56 even, let alone under this process. So I'd say take a look at that.

So Shell consulted with the Métis Locals and the Métis Nation and the Region 1. They provided material funding. And they also provided funding for what the Locals wanted. My friend seemed to suggest that Shell was only interested in funding things like golf tournaments and Christmas parties. But Shell provided funding based on what those Métis Locals wanted. We've only heard what the Métis Locals wanted in respect of traditional land use and other issues from Mr. Fortna and Ms. Bishop. When the Métis Locals asked for funding for those studies, they got that funding.

So let me turn now to Fort McMurray 468. And

1 first of all, my friend suggested to you: Well, 2 this is a multi-billion dollar project, there's 3 lots of money to go around here. And the funding that Fort McMurray needs to participate in this 5 process is lost in the rounding.

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And he seemed to indicate, what I heard, was that it really doesn't matter whether a group asserts rights; if the project is big enough, it doesn't matter whether the rights are affected, you should provide them some funding and some money and have them participate in the process and not look at what those potential impacts are. And he went on to say that that's the low watermark of consultation.

Well, quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, I'd suggest that you can determine what is the low watermark of this process based on some of those comments. Consultation has nothing to do with a capital cost of a project. Whether it's \$50 billion or \$500,000, consultation relates to potential impact on a right being asserted.

And one thing my friend did get right; Shell is a blue chip company. They are also a blue chip company that takes a very principled approach to consultation. They take it seriously.

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provided opportunities to Fort McMurray 468 to participate in the process. They've been meeting with them since 2007. They've been working with them to understand what their traditional land uses are since that time. 468 has been provided with numerous opportunities to participate in this process and demonstrate how their rights might be impacted in order to work more closely with Shell.

The facts of the matter are, is that they showed minimal use in the Project area. And they did receive project information. And Shell did cooperate and work with them. And it was on that basis that Shell and 468 proceeded with their relationship.

And he also indicated that Shell has a problem on the record. And I, with great respect, disagree with that. Shell has no problem on the record. Its consultation record with 468 is deep and complete and comprehensive based on the potential impacts on the rights that that group has asserted.

I might also add that, when I listened to Mr. Jeerakathil speak, there seemed to be, and I'm not saying I'm intimately familiar with the record, but there seemed to me to be a fair bit of

information that was not evidence before the Panel.

I don't think anything turns on it, but I think the

Panel should be cautious in looking at those

submissions and make sure that the information that

he provided is in fact evidence.

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His clients could have attended the proceeding. It was in Fort McMurray for three weeks. It didn't seem to take a lot of capacity to participate in the process for a day and bring their concerns before the Panel. They did receive \$77,000 in funding from the CEAA Agency. I'm not sure why they didn't at least show up and provide that evidence. Nonetheless, it's not Mr. Jeerakathil's job to provide the evidence to the Panel.

He also criticized the definitions of the RSA, the LSA, ecological content, and the significance determinations, but he didn't explain or provide any evidence why Shell's position was incorrect.

And finally, he dealt with three Joint Review Panel reports, and I'm just going to touch on them briefly because, quite frankly, again, the facts of those reports bear no relationship to what's before the Panel.

1 In respect of the Kemess Mine, that was a 2 gold mining project that had a very short life, 3 predicted for 11 years, and there was some doubt whether, in fact, that mine would last that long. 4 On the other side of the ledger, the tailings 5 6 clean-up from that project was going to last 7 thousands of years. Thousands. It bears no 8 relationship to this Project. 9 And the Whites Point Quarry, that involved a basal quarry in Nova Scotia which was to be sited 10

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And the Whites Point Quarry, that involved a basal quarry in Nova Scotia which was to be sited adjacent to an existing fishing village that had received UNESCO and UN Heritage awards for its sustainability and it was found to be incompatible with that village. Again, no relationship to the facts before you.

In respect of Prosperity Mine, that involved the decimation of an entire lake that that panel found to be critical to the Aboriginal users in the area, without compensation. Again, no relationship to the facts before you.

So let me move on to OSEC. And let me start with this morning's presentation by Ms. Gorrie.

And just a few things in her comments which I'd like to take the time to fix up.

First of all, she indicated that there would

be tailings in the end pit lakes. As we know,
that's not correct.

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She said that the consultants for Shell assumed that all mine fleets would be TIER-IV compliant in the modelling. Again, that's incorrect. The consultants assumed that every other mine operator would have TIER-II compliant mine fleets, not TIER-IV. Only Shell was assumed to be TIER-IV in the far future.

And, finally, again I don't think this was on the record anywhere, but she indicated that someone had said that the RAMP consultants were the same as Shell's consultants. That's just flat wrong. They are not.

And I won't again go into any more details in respect of our comments with Dr. Schindler, other than to say that the Summary by the editors of the Journal of Limnology, Aherne and Shaw, I think provides a useful summary to the Panel in pulling together what the basis or what the conclusions of those six reports were. It's not put forward as a scientific study, but it's put forward for what it is, which is a summary of the six scientific studies that were in that journal. And I think it's useful and I think the Board should have a

look at it.

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And in respect of some of the other comments that were put forward by my friend in contradiction to what Shell's position was by Dr. Schindler, I would simply recommend the Board take a look at the submissions he filed on Monday and satisfy themselves.

And in respect of the air emissions, my friend suggested that the Millennium Station shows that we are at or near the limit of NO_{x} emissions. What she didn't tell you, and you can go check the WBEA document on the record, is that at that station, the emissions level has actually been declining for the last three years; that in the face of increasing production. And that was reported without explanation.

And in respect of the emissions from the mine fleet, my friend said, well, the issues of mercury and PAHs and the transport of those into the ecosystem are relevant to Shell even without an upgrader. And, again, I refer you to the cross-examination or the questioning that we had with Environment Canada where they agreed that, in fact, the emissions from the mine fleet would fall very close to the source and the Shell evidence was

indicated that those emissions would likely be
within the fenceline of the Project.

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And while we continue to hear the comments and the assertions in respect of mercury emissions and acid deposition and PAHs in relation to this Project, I just remind the Panel -- I'm not going to quote a scientist here, but I will quote a higher authority, my mother, who said, "Saying something is so doesn't make it so."

And, finally, I'd simply say that in respect of the greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, my friend said that Shell's position was that it should be taken in the global context and that's wrong because that diminimizes the impact. Shell never said that at all. What we said: There's a context you should look at, because this is a global issue. But in respect of this Project, Shell's position was they will comply with what the Federal and Provincial governments require on greenhouse gas emissions, because it is a global issue that must be addressed through regulation at the Provincial and Federal level. And, finally, we provided a list to you of the Project-specific things that Shell is doing in respect of climate change.

And my friend also raised the issue of the selection of the RSA and LSA, and others did as well, so I'll try and deal with it all at once here.

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In respect of the LSA, this is the same approach that has been taken at four Joint Review Panels before this: For the Jackpine Mine, for CNRL's Horizon Project, for Suncor's Voyager Project, and for the Muskeg River Mine Expansion. This is not a new approach to addressing environmental effects and it's quite appropriate in the circumstances. And we said this before; it doesn't make any sense to me, as a kid growing up on the farm, to suggest that you'd look at the footprint and decide the significance of an impact based on the footprint of a project. The potential impacts of that project should be considered in a much larger context and determine whether, in fact, the environment is being impacted.

But don't believe it when they say Shell didn't look at the impacts in the Local Study Area. Just take a look at the documents. Don't believe me either. Go back and read the EIA, sir. Have a look at the EIA. The information's all there.

And that brings me to the selection of the

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RSA. And, again, I'd recommend the Panel go back to the evidence and have a look at Volume 5, Section 7.2.4. And, there, it's described pretty clearly that the Regional Study Area is based on the ecological factors that are needed to encompass existing effects and understand what the real effects of the Project are. Again, it's the same RSA that's been used and determined as part of the approval process for the four projects I noted before. Environment Canada agreed that the RSA was appropriate in these circumstances. And, by the way, this RSA has been in the Application and in the public domain since 2007; for five years.

My friend also talked about thresholds and she suggested that what Shell is telling you,
Panel, is that, as a matter of thresholds, Shell's relying on an ecological threshold, and their assessment depends on the threshold that says if it befalls below that, it's catastrophic. Well, that's not what Shell is saying. Shell put that information in front of the Panel to provide context in respect of the speed limit that was being suggested by Mr. Dyer. That's the only purpose that was used for. Shell has not used that as the test for whether there's a significant

impact. What Shell has said is what you should do
is look at the facts and look at the analysis in
determining effects and not just simply look at a
number that is chosen arbitrarily.

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My friend also raised the issue of SARA and that Shell's proposal is not compliant with SARA.

Again, we would submit that that's incorrect.

Section 79 of the Species at Risk Act provides that proponents in an environmental assessment process must identify adverse effects on species and their critical habitat and the proponent must provide measures on ways to avoid or lessen the effects and then monitoring proposals for those effects.

That's exactly what Shell has done in these circumstances. And the information provided is compliant with the Species at Risk Act.

My friend also suggested, I think she suggested that my position was ludicrous, but I may have heard it wrong, but I'll take it as that, in respect of cumulative effects. And I simply refer the Panel on this issue when I suggested cumulative effects assessment of the PDC in particular, that's for use for providing recommendations to governments and regulators on how to manage these cumulative effects. That's what the purpose of

| 1 | that was for. And the OPS on cumulative effects, |
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| 2 | which is the operating policy statement for CEAA, |
| 3 | agrees with that. And here's what they say, and I |
| 4 | quote: |
| 5 | |
| 6 | "Information concerning the |
| 7 | cumulative environmental effects of |
| 8 | the project under assessment |
| 9 | combined with hypothetical projects |
| 10 | may contribute to future |
| 11 | environmental planning; however, it |
| 12 | should not be the determining |
| 13 | factor in the environmental |
| 14 | assessment decision under the Act." |
| 15 | |
| 16 | Again, I suggest to you that the PDC case |
| 17 | fits those circumstances perfectly and the PDC case |
| 18 | should not be used as a determining factor in this |
| 19 | case. |
| 20 | And, finally, my friend raised a case, or a |
| 21 | decision before this Panel, Decision 94-8, which |
| 22 | was the Whaleback decision. And she may have not |
| 23 | known this, but on a snowy winter night back in |
| 24 | 1993, Mr. O'Farrell, from my former firm, and I |
| 25 | drove up to the Whaleback. We were the first |

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counsel contacted by that group of interveners to assist them in opposing Amoco's project. subsequently conflicted out, but I can tell you the basis of their concerns and the primary issues were twofold: One was the lack of consultation around the Emergency Response Plan and the need for that in respect of the critical sour gas well that was being proposed; and, secondly, that the Whaleback itself at that moment was a candidate for the Special Places 2000 program by Alberta Environment. Neither of those situations fit the facts in this case, sir. So that brings me to the ACFN. And I've got a few comments on there, but not too many, so we should be done in a reasonably expeditious time. So first, let me respond to my friend's question or confusion about why I put in front of the Panel some information around the consultation process. And let me put everyone's mind at ease. I'm not suggesting that the Panel should provide a decision on the adequacy of consultation. ship has sailed and the decisions have been made.

But I did think it would be useful for the Panel to

have that information in front of them to

understand the types of information and the

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relative importance of the information that they might collect up and summarize and put in front of the governments as part of their panel report pursuant to the terms of the agreement. And I thought that would be a useful discussion.

So my friend also suggested that the Taku case did not stand for the proposition that these processes and these panels can be used to fulfill or part of the consultation and in furtherance of the consultation process. I disagree with that. But, again, don't believe me; have a look at the case and decide for yourselves. I'm content with that approach. What she didn't mention, though, is that the Brokenhead Ojibway case was a case that related to the National Energy Board's role in fulfilling the consultation process, which is a process very similar to the process that we're in today.

And she also raised a case out of British Columbia where she talked about the length of the consultation record and the details around the information and that doesn't necessarily mean that the consultation was meaningful. And in response to that, I say that there's a case out of Newfoundland called the NunatuKavuut Community

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Council, which is a Métis group, which challenged the Nalcore Energy proposal for the Lower Churchill Falls Project where the logs that were provided there demonstrated the sufficiency of consultation and the Court found that in that process, consultation was fulsome and generous. I don't think anything turns on that case or on Ms. Biem's case. I think it's fact specific. And the information that the Panel should summarize is what's in front of it in this proceeding and not worry about either of those cases.

So just a few things again and in no particular order. My friend made some comments about hydrology and the lack of reliance that the Panel should place on Shell's assessment of water quantity and quality in their climate change conclusions as being unscientific and having implied bias. Well, I'd again invite the Panel to have a look at the evidence. It's not unscientific at all. There is no implied bias. The model has been verified by real life data from the Muskeg River. And we've provided that information to the Panel on October 15th.

In respect of consultation, my friend says

Shell never responded to the concerns of their

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client. And with great respect, I disagree. Shell did respond to their client. Shell's been in consultation with their client for 15 years. understand their issues well. They understand their concerns well. They responded to the issues that were being provided to them and the concerns that were being raised with them. And they would suggest in their responses, and there are more than 300 of them that were on the record, with here's how we've designed the project to address that concern, or here's the mitigation that we're using to address that issue, or we're participating in a regional initiative and that takes care of your concern in that place. The fact you don't agree with the response or you don't like a response does not mean that the Proponent has not made an attempt to respond. And in this case, I'd suggest, again, have a look at the record and make your own determination on that. People can disagree. And a good example of

that is the Phase 2 Framework. The Athabasca
Chipewyan First Nation has clearly demonstrated in
this proceeding and previously that they have a
concern with water levels and water quantity.
Shell's response was that it was going to be

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participating in the initiative around the Phase 2

Framework and that it was going to work through

that process to address that concern. That is in

fact a response. The ACFN may not be happy with

that response, but that is an appropriate response.

And it's up to the Panel, then, to sort out this on

the record and determine what that potential impact

might be.

My friend also suggested that Shell has usurped the role of the Provincial and Federal Government in deciding who to consult with. Again, I would suggest that is not correct. Shell filed its Consultation Plan with the Provincial Government in 2007. It was approved by the government and they provided additional Aboriginal groups that Shell was required to consult with. That was updated and approved again by the Provincial Government in 2010. And the Federal Government has also reviewed those plans and found that they were appropriate.

And, finally, on respect of consultation, my friend said that Shell seems to indicate that an agreement is required with them in order to arrive at any mitigation. Shell has never said that anywhere in the record and does not require an

agreement. It takes two parties to get an

agreement. We all know that. And Shell has never

said it needs an agreement in order to provide

mitigation.

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She also raised the issue about a breach of contract, that a lawsuit has been filed by the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation against Shell.

Again, I can tell you this, that Shell has filed a Statement of Defence in response to that breach of contract claim and they are going to defend it vigorously. So I think in that response, the Panel can take away that there's a dispute as to whether, in fact, Shell has lived up to its commitments or not.

If I could turn to some of my friend's comments on the LARP and she used that in relation to some of the evidence that Ms. Larcombe had provided. Again, in respect of the LARP, it has identified a number of conservation areas. And that can be found at Exhibit 001-070S. And I'd specifically refer the Panel to Adobe page 88 which lists the various conservation areas that have been identified. And it includes Richardson Wildland Park. And we heard the ACFN witnesses say in response to a question I believe it was from the

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Panel about what would be useful to them. And one of the witnesses said, "Well, some land in the Richardson Backcountry would be good." Well, the Richardson Wildland Park is 265,000 hectares in size. And according to the LARP, oil sands and petroleum and natural gas and surface minerals are not permitted there. And I'm not sure whether Dr. Larcombe had this or not, but in August of this year, the Department of Energy issued Information Letter 2012-30 which said that the government is going to be cancelling the oil sands and PNG leases in those conservation areas, which is not what was suggested by my friend.

And, finally, on some of the basic issues I'm running through here is, in respect of mitigation, my friend characterized Shell's mitigation as being a vague hope of success. With respect, again, I disagree. And I think I can refer the Panel to the evidence on this; that Shell has a concrete and comprehensive package of evidence in front of this Panel on the potential effects of the Project, on the mitigation that they proposed, and how that mitigation will be implemented. There's a high level of certainty in respect of those predictions. And it's based on analysis and review and modelling

1 and verification of modelling.

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The follow-up monitoring and the adaptive management programs that are planned by Shell are to demonstrate that those predictions are accurate, and to the extent they are not accurate, then to implement the adaptive management program. So I find myself in agreement with my friend that the Pembina case is useful in this situation because it said where there is sufficient information to proceed, adaptive management is a perfectly acceptable condition.

In respect of co-management, we heard that a couple times in the recommendations and also from Chief Adam. I simply have this to say: I think a recommendation to suggest that there be comanagement of the resources in the province of Alberta goes far beyond the mandate of the Panel because it would result in a fundamental change in the legal structure of how resources are managed in this province and I suggest that it is not a recommendation that would be available to the Panel within the framework of the Joint Agreement.

In respect of wildlife corridors, we heard from a number of parties that the corridors will not be available. And with respect, again, the

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record is clear on this, that this Project will not bisect or dead-end any wildlife corridors along the Muskeg River. Wildlife will be able to continue to use those corridors into the future and the monitoring has shown that wildlife are using those corridors currently. Further, there's ongoing monitoring of those corridors under CONRAD through the Wildlife Habitat Effectiveness and Corridor Monitoring Program. So there's a high level of confidence that these corridors not only are being used but will be used.

We also heard that access was an issue. And Fort McKay provided information on trails and access that Shell reviewed as part of that Fort McKay specific assessment and integrated that into their EIA and they incorporated that into their update. The complaint that access was cut off is not accurate. There will be continued and ongoing access, first of all, around both the eastern and northern sides of the Project. And as we heard from the Shell witnesses, there's additional access provided through contact with the company to get access across the mine site as well; an activity and action that Ms. Tourangeau is well used to exercising and participating in. So I would

suggest that access is not the issue that my friends would suggest it is.

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My last kind of environmental issue I wanted to deal with is in respect of bison. And we heard that bison are important. And Shell understands that and respects that. But the facts are, and I'd refer you to Exhibit 001-116, that where the compensation lake is proposed is not an area of rare habitat type. Extensive winter range exists for bison, for the Ronald Lake bison herd. And as we heard from a number of parties, that bison in north-eastern Alberta are not habitat limited, so it's not an issue of habitat of why there's a dwindling bison population. And also we heard that bison are only available to ACFN members from the Ronald Lake bison herd. Again, look at Exhibit 001-116, which demonstrates in the evidence that the bison herd at Wood Buffalo National Park, which has increased by two or threefold in the last 10 years, are now starting to migrate outside of that park as well. So you should consider that in your deliberations.

Finally, I come to the conclusion of my remarks, and I'd turn to my friend, Mr. Murphy's comments yesterday when he talked about the **Badger**

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case and the Indian Claims Commission consideration of Bennet Dam. And I think his words were, from the ICC report, that a project can't destroy or fundamentally alter the ability of an Aboriginal group's right to exercise their Treaty Rights. And I think that focuses the Panel on their task ahead. And, first of all, I'd say, "Is this Project going to destroy or fundamentally alter the exercise of ACFN's rights?" And the answer to that is no. But that means that the Panel's obligation here is to understand, assess what the real impact is of this Project on the exercise of the ACFN's rights. So that's the real issue in front of the Panel. And so I'd say that focuses kind of the context of what you need to consider.

And when I say that, in the deliberations, what the Panel should look at, they need to put that into context. And the context in front of the Panel at this proceeding is that the ACFN have a vast territory. That's one of the things that is germane to your deliberations. They need to understand what is the use that the ACFN exercise in the Local Study Area and how extensive is that use. That's a consideration. What are the mitigation plans that Shell's providing? What are

the opportunities for exercise of those rights
elsewhere? What are the impacts and benefits to
all parties in the process, and not in the process,
the Province of Alberta, and the people of Alberta
and the people of Canada? You have to look at all

those things and put this in context.

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And my friend, Ms. Biem, seemed to indicate that Shell said if you impact individuals, that does not affect the ACFN. Well, I don't think that reflects what Shell said. And if she took that from my comments, then it's my fault. Because what Shell did say was that the Panel needs to look at the impact on the collective rights. And that assuming that has a significant impact on an individual does not necessarily translate to a significant impact on the collective rights. for that I'd refer the Panel, again, to the Mackenzie Gas Project's determinations. And that panel was a member of seven panels. They spent two years travelling around the North trying to understand the impacts of the Mackenzie Gas Project on a multitude of Aboriginal groups. Four of the seven members of that panel were Aboriginal members.

| 1 | provide the quote that I provided to you in final |
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| 2 | argument, just to focus this. And here's what they |
| 3 | said: |
| 4 | |
| 5 | "There may well be impacts on |
| 6 | regions or communities that would |
| 7 | be significant. To those regions |
| 8 | or communities but which the Panel, |
| 9 | in its collective judgment, has |
| 10 | concluded are not significant in |
| 11 | the context of its overall Mandate. |
| 12 | There may well be impacts on |
| 13 | individuals that, from an |
| 14 | individual perspective, would be |
| 15 | significant but which, again, the |
| 16 | Panel might conclude would not be |
| 17 | significant in the broader |
| 18 | context." |
| 19 | |
| 20 | And I'll leave that with you, Panel, to make |
| 21 | sure that, when you're conducting your |
| 22 | deliberations, that you put the issues in front of |
| 23 | you in the broader context to understand what, in |
| 24 | fact, is the significance of a particular impact. |
| 25 | Mr. Chairman, that concludes my submissions. |

| 1 | I'd urge the Panel to find that the Project is in |
|--|---|
| 2 | the public interest. |
| 3 | In closing, I would like to thank the counsel |
| 4 | and parties who participated in this process for |
| 5 | their civil and collegial approach to the process. |
| 6 | I thank the Panel staff, and Mr. Perkins will pass |
| 7 | it on to those who have left, and to Mr. Gill, and |
| 8 | my sincere apologies and thanks to Ms. Nielsen who |
| 9 | is ever the star of the show. Thank you very much. |
| 10 | THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. |
| 11 | Mr. Perkins, is there anything left to hear? |
| 12 | |
| 13 | HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS SPOKEN TO: |
| | |
| 14 | MR. PERKINS: There's two matters that I |
| 14 15 | MR. PERKINS: There's two matters that I would like to address, sir, just before we wind |
| | |
| 15 | would like to address, sir, just before we wind |
| 15 16 | would like to address, sir, just before we wind things up. |
| 15 16 17 | would like to address, sir, just before we wind things up. With respect to a discussion yesterday with |
| 15 16 17 18 | would like to address, sir, just before we wind things up. With respect to a discussion yesterday with respect to a request by the Fort McMurray First |
| 15 16 17 18 | <pre>would like to address, sir, just before we wind things up. With respect to a discussion yesterday with respect to a request by the Fort McMurray First Nation, Mr. Jeerakathil, and I had asked you if you</pre> |
| 15 16 17 18 19 | would like to address, sir, just before we wind things up. With respect to a discussion yesterday with respect to a request by the Fort McMurray First Nation, Mr. Jeerakathil, and I had asked you if you would take under advisement his request to redact |
| 15 16 17 18 19 20 | would like to address, sir, just before we wind things up. With respect to a discussion yesterday with respect to a request by the Fort McMurray First Nation, Mr. Jeerakathil, and I had asked you if you would take under advisement his request to redact from the web the internet version of the Registry |
| 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 | would like to address, sir, just before we wind things up. With respect to a discussion yesterday with respect to a request by the Fort McMurray First Nation, Mr. Jeerakathil, and I had asked you if you would take under advisement his request to redact from the web the internet version of the Registry two maps, so to follow that up, sir, I can advise |

| 1 | outside of the Panel, the Panel's authority for the |
|----|---|
| 2 | time being, so I ask that you let that work through |
| 3 | between Mr. Jeerakathil and Mr. Birchall and |
| 4 | whatever other organization he's suggested this go |
| 5 | through. If that's acceptable to you, sir? |
| 6 | THE CHAIRMAN: That's fine. Thank you. |
| 7 | MR. PERKINS: And finally, sir, I thought I |
| 8 | just might reiterate that, as Mr. Lambrecht has |
| 9 | indicated, there are some outstanding undertaking |
| 10 | responses, and we assume those will be coming in |
| 11 | soon, but given that there are rights that start to |
| 12 | run against the clock when this proceeding is |
| 13 | closed, I would offer up to you, sir, that when the |
| 14 | Panel indicates that the record is closed, the |
| 15 | Secretariat will send a letter out to parties |
| 16 | indicating when that happened or that that has |
| 17 | happened and what date that occurred on so that |
| 18 | that might assist the participants in whatever they |
| 19 | think is important in relation to that date. |
| 20 | THE CHAIRMAN: That's helpful, sir. Thank |
| 21 | you. |
| 22 | MR. PERKINS: And that is all I had, sir. |
| 23 | Thank you. |
| 24 | THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. |
| 25 | |

1 CLOSING COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN: 2 THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and Gentlemen, I won't 3 keep you. People need to travel and some places are feeling the brunt of winter, so you'll need to 4 check the roads and check your flights. 5 6 I, too, would like to thank all of the 7 participants for their very professional approach 8 in the proceeding. We had mishaps along the way, 9 but there were very few of them and we found a way to work through them with your cooperation. 10 11 I want to thank my colleagues on the Panel, 12 the Members of the Panel Secretariat, and the 13 people behind the scenes for all of their hard work 14 so far. 15 I, too, would like to thank Ms. Nielsen and 16 her colleagues, our reporter, and Mr. Van Mechelen 17 who supplies the sound system and operates it so 18 capably. 19 The record is very extensive, in the tens of 20 thousands of pages, and the transcript is thousands 21 of pages. Clearly, the effort required to deal 22 with such an extensive file will be significant. 23 We'll do our best to make our decisions and 24 recommendations in a reasonable time. 2.5 As Mr. Perkins has pointed out, there are

| 1 | some undertakings that remain and we'll look |
|----|--|
| 2 | forward to having those completed in due course. |
| 3 | Have a safe trip home and happy holidays that |
| 4 | are just around the corner. |
| 5 | The hearing is closed. |
| 6 | |
| 7 | (The Hearing Closed at 3:40 p.m.) |
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| 2 | REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION |
| 3 | |
| 4 | I, Nancy Nielsen, RCR, RPR, CSR(A), Official |
| 5 | Realtime Reporter in the Provinces of British Columbia |
| 6 | and Alberta, Canada, do hereby certify: |
| 7 | |
| 8 | That the proceedings were taken down by me in |
| 9 | shorthand at the time and place herein set forth and |
| 10 | thereafter transcribed, and the same is a true and |
| 11 | correct and complete transcript of said proceedings to |
| 12 | the best of my skill and ability. |
| 13 | |
| 14 | IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed |
| 15 | my name this 23rd day of November, 2012. |
| 16 | |
| 17 | |
| 18 | |
| 19 | |
| 20 | Nancy Nielsen, RCR, RPR, CSR(A) |
| 21 | Official Realtime Reporter |
| 22 | |
| 23 | |
| 24 | |
| 25 | |
| | |

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